

## CITY CORPORATION

## ELECTIONS 2015

Mosquito  
main public  
nuisance in  
north Dhaka

Annisul Huq reveals in survey; pledges to solve problems gradually  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mosquito menace is a major cause of public nuisance in Dhaka north, Awami League-backed candidate Annisul Huq revealed yesterday after his survey of 77,000 residents and promised to solve the problems gradually which figured in the study.

Among the problems identified, mosquito tops the list with 68.3pc respondents complaining about it, followed by undeveloped roads by 44pc, house rents by 37.5pc, drainage system by 30pc, drug addiction by 27.2pc, environmental pollution by 25.4pc, unemployment by 25.2pc, waterlogging by 25.2pc, waste management by 23pc, drinking water supply by 22pc, and sanitation by 19pc.

Among the respondents, 89.5pc belong to the age group of 20-50 years, and 69.4pc to the middle income group.

Annisul shared the survey at Spectra Convention Centre, which was conducted in five zones to identify major problems the residents are facing and their expectations from the mayor.

Integrated Research and Consulting (IRC), a research firm, conducted the study.

The mayor aspirant suggested possible solutions in six parts, including regular spraying of insecticides, developing the drainage network, improving waste management, developing roads and the public transport system, encouraging use of bicycles, proper distribution of utilities, setting up modern public toilets, and taking strict stance against corruption, among others.

He said if a mayor was backed by the government, there would be more scopes to contribute to the development of the city, emphasising the point why he should be elected.

He added that after 1990, no movement could manage to overthrow any government, and the incumbent would stay in power for the next three and a half years.



From left, Mahi B Chowdhury, Sayeed Khokon, Annisul Huq, Tabitha Awal, Abdullah Al Kafee, and Zonayed Saki, the six major mayoral candidates in two Dhaka city corporations, join a roundtable, "If I become the mayor", hosted by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office yesterday.

PHOTO:

STAR

Ways to restore  
Dhaka's liveability  
well known

Major mayor aspirants tell  
Prothom Alo discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The problems making Dhaka an unliveable city and the solutions to reverse the situation are both known, several mayoral aspirants told a pre-election discussion yesterday.

Five frontrunners, four from the north and one from the south, joined the discussion, "If I become the mayor", organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office.

"Both problems and solutions are known but the biggest challenge is the ways to solve," said Mahi B Chowdhury, a Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh-backed contender of the north.

If elected, he said, he would first try to ensure civic services like proper waste management, road repairs, and street lighting.

Secondly, he would persuade the central government for solving outstanding problems of mass transportation, waterlogging, and public safety.

His third priority would be to mobilise a social and political crusade against corruption, women repression and sexual harassment of females.

Sayed Khokon, the ruling Awami League-sponsored hopeful in the south, said that though Dhaka was overwhelmed with problems, there were solutions to make it liveable again.

"If voted to be mayor, I will turn the Nagar Bhaban into a centre of civic services and prevent it from becoming a party office," he said. "I will hold a Dhaka dialogue on the first day of my mayorship and dedicate the first year to remove

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Nasir supporters accuse  
Shibir of issuing threats

Mahila Parishad demands women friendly  
Ctg city; Manjur renews call for guarding  
polling centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unidentified activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday allegedly threatened the campaigners of Awami League-backed mayor candidate AZM Nasir Uddin in Chittagong College area of the port city yesterday.

Shuvo Patwari, president of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Chittagong Medical College, who was distributing leaflets with 20-25 people including some women, told The Daily Star that a group of "Shibir" men asked them to leave the place.

"Only Shibir will campaign here," he quoted one of the "Shibir" men as saying. "Then we left the place and informed police," Shuvo said.

Police rushed in but could not identify anyone, said Atik Ahmed Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Chawkbazar Police Station, adding plainclothes cops would guard the area.

No Shibir leader was available for

comments.

Meanwhile, Nasir visited different areas yesterday, promising to end waterlogging and saying he would not take salary from the city corporation, if elected mayor.

On the other hand, BNP-backed candidate M Manjur Alam yesterday renewed his call to the people to guard the polling stations on election day till announcement of results.

"You all will vote... have to guard the polling centres as well. Otherwise the ballot boxes would be taken away," he told the residents of Chaktai.

Calling himself a simple man, Manjur said, "I have no muscle power; the mass people are my hope."

## WOMEN-FRIENDLY CITY

The Chittagong district unit of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday presented a 43-point demand to the candidates for ensuring a safe

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Ctg mayor aspirants  
promise youths  
clean city

Manjur, Nasir skip UNDP dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In the absence of four candidates including the two leading ones, a UNDP-sponsored dialogue between the mayor aspirants of Chittagong City Corporation and the young voters was held yesterday.

Around 200 young participants from universities, colleges and marginalised groups conveyed their expectations, while all eight participating candidates pledged to build a clean city free from corruption, traffic congestion, waterlogging and pollution.

An unclean, polluted city is a barrier for foreign investment, said one aspirant Shafiqul Alam, blaming ineligible mayors and corruption for creation of such a situation.

Jatiya Party-backed aspirant Solaiman Alam Seth said five years was enough for development of a city, and he had plans to form committees comprising youths, civil society members, and resource persons in all 41 wards of the city for planning development interventions.

MA Matin pledged to build bicycle lanes, while Mujibul Haque emphasised preparing a proper plan to turn Chittagong into a green city.

Talking to The Daily Star, both AZM Nasir Uddin, blessed by Awami League, and M Manjur Alam, backed by BNP, regretted, saying they could not attend due to business in campaigns.

A young participant, Rubaiya Tasneem Brishty, president of Chittagong University School of Debate, said they had expected both and their absence frustrated them.

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Nasir, Manjur  
camps file  
complaints  
against each  
other

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The returning officer (RO) in Chittagong city yesterday received a barrage of complaints from three leading mayoral candidates over different sorts of violation of the code of conduct, mostly involving removal of campaign posters.

In response, the RO directed police of respective areas to take prompt action. Sheikh Mohammad

Ishak, convener of Nagarik Committee that supports Awami League-backed AZM Nasir Uddin, filed five complaints, all against the campaigners of Nasir's main challenger and BNP favourite M Manjur Alam.

Two complaints involve tearing of Nasir's posters by Manju's supporters in Bepari Para, CDA Residential Area, and Chhotopool, and in North Kattali (Ward 10) in the dark of night.

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Abbas unveils  
manifesto thru  
wife as he still  
not allowed to  
campaign

HC scheduled to hear his bail  
plea today; he wants to make  
Dhaka a model city with  
readiness for globalisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the goal to make a liveable, ideal and international standard city out of Dhaka, BNP-blessed mayor candidate in the north Mirza Abbas made 98 promises yesterday, which will be implemented on a priority basis.

Afroza Abbas, his wife, unveiled the manifesto at Jatiya Press Club, focusing on 10 issues including civic service, amusement facilities, healthcare, education, traffic jam, communication infrastructure, environment and waste management, ICT, social service, and public safety.

Since the start of the formal campaign on

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## AL MEN'S BULLYING AT RU VC'S OFFICE

Manhandled Ruta chief  
now calls it altercation

Draws protests from colleagues, RU journos demand  
withdrawal of ruling party's defamation case against  
Kaler Kantha for reporting incident

RU CORRESPONDENT

One of the Rajshahi University (RU) teachers who had been recently manhandled by Awami League (AL) men at the vice-chancellor's (VC) office yesterday claimed no such incident occurred, drawing flak from colleagues attending campus protests entering the fourth consecutive day.

Meanwhile, RU correspondents at a human chain in front of the central library threatened initiating "tougher programmes" if Rajshahi city unit General Secretary Dablu Sarker did not withdraw the "false, fabricated" defamation case centring a Bangla daily Kaler Kantha report on the AL men's "virulent" behaviour.

Editor Emdadul Haque Milon, Rajshahi staff reporter Rafiqul Islam and RU correspondent Rokon Rakib have been accused

in the case, filed with the Rajshahi District Judge's Court on Sunday.

Yesterday's protests demanding punitive measures against the AL men include human chains formed separately by the music and anthropology departments in front of Ismail Hossain Siraji Bhaban.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi lawmaker and Workers Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Fazle Hossain Badsha met the VC and condemned the AL men's behaviour and asked all to safeguard RU's autonomous character.

Besides, some 300 engineering students formed a human chain in front of the Fourth Science Building around 1:00pm demanding exemplary punishment over the sexual assault on some 20 women at the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Why should  
use of political  
party symbols,  
affiliations  
remain illegal

HC orders EC, govt  
to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Election Commission and government to explain in two weeks why they would not be ordered to allocate or use electoral symbols and identities of political parties in local government elections.

Issuing a rule, the court also ordered them to show cause as to why relevant electoral rules restricting the allocation and use should not be declared unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman came up with the rule following a writ petition challenging the legality of relevant provisions in four electoral rules.

The four are City Corporation (election conduct) Rules, 2010; Union Parishad (election conduct) Rules, 2010; Poursava (election conduct) Rules, 2010; and Upazila (election conduct) Rules, 2013.

Muhammad Aminur Rahman, head of Bangladesh Sanskritik Muktiyote, a registered political party, submitted the petition on April 19.

The petition said the restriction went against people's fundamental

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