

CITY CORPORATION ELECTIONS 2015

Tabith alleges obstructions in campaign
Adabor voters doubt promises of clean city
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensure better housing
North Dhaka slum dwellers demand from councillor aspirants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Voters from several slums of Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday demanded better accommodation facilities from elected councillors.
 They also sought commitments from the elected councillors in setting up public toilets for men and women.
 The slum dwellers voiced their demands at a views-exchange meeting with six councillor aspirants for the 26th, 27th and 28th wards of DNCC.
 PWD Sweeper Colony Slum Dwellers and City Slum Development Organisation jointly organised the programme with assistance from different NGOs at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.
 The councillor aspirants pledged to fulfil the voters' demands.

Rahima Akter Ronu, a councillor candidate under reserved seats for the three wards, vowed to better the lives of slum dwellers.
 Rokeya Sultana Tamanna, former commissioner and a BNP-backed councillor aspirant, vowed that she would ensure modern amenities for women and children in the slums.
 Shamima Rahman, who claims to have received blessings from the prime minister, urged the voters to exercise their rights correctly to enjoy better services.
 Another councillor candidate, Shahida Begum, committed to ensuring clean public toilets in her area.
 Shamim Hassan, former commissioner and the Awami League-backed councillor candidate for ward 26, also pledged to

Manjur feels unsafe in Ctg after attack on Khaleda's car
Doubts prospect of fairness
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shocked at the attack on BNP chief Khaleda Zia's motorcade, the party-backed mayor aspirant in Chittagong M Manjur Alam yesterday expressed serious concerns over the safety of his campaigners and doubts about a free and fair election to the city corporations.
 Manjur said on one hand, the government was

BNP planning to foil city polls
Say AL ministers, leaders adding that aggrieved people might have attacked Khaleda's motorcade; AL-backed South Dhaka mayor aspirant Khokon echoes them
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministers and Awami League leaders yesterday made similar statements on Monday's attack on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's motorcade during her campaign at Karwanbazar, and accused BNP of hatching a conspiracy to thwart the upcoming city corporation elections.
 Khaleda Zia is creating an anarchic situation and trying to spoil the festive mood of the April 28 election, sensing the party-backed candidates' unavoidable defeat, AL publicity affair secretary Hasan Mahmud told a programme in front of Jatiya Press Club.
 He added that the aggrieved people might have attacked the motorcade or it might have been a result of BNP's intra-party feud.

Nasir unveils manifesto today
 DWAIPIYAN BARUA, Ctg

Building Chittagong into a green megacity will be the focal point of Awami League-backed mayor candidate AZM Nasir Uddin's electoral promises he is set to unveil today.
 The manifesto sorts out 12 problems, with waterlogging topping the list, said sources.
 Other priority areas include landslides in hills, water pollution, drinking water crisis, encroachment

Regardless of how enthusiastic a campaigning mayor aspirant is, some dwellers of Adabor remain sceptical about promises of a clean and beautiful neighbourhood.
 Following the visit of Dhaka North City Corporation mayor candidate Tabith Awal yesterday, this correspondent met some voters, who think they will have to live with the same smelly gutters and mosquito bites, no matter who is running the administration.
 "I wonder if he would ever set his foot in this neighbourhood again, if elected mayor," said an Adabor shopkeeper, Kaisar.
 The BNP-endorsed candidate along with several hundred supporters arrived at Shyamoli around 11:00am and started marching into the alleyways.
 Tabith distributed leaflets and talked to pedestrians, commuters and shopkeepers asking for their "blessings" for his electoral symbol "bus."
 However, Iftekhar Hossain, a university student and resident of Japan Garden City, was a little hopeful about the election.
 "The candidates are young and seem less corrupt than typical politicians. They may actually do something for the city," he said.
 Tabith said, "I face many hurdles when I campaign for myself. My posters and banners are often torn to pieces. Also not all mayor candidates are treated equally by the authorities."



A day after her motorcade came under attack during campaigning at Karwanbazar, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia joins a crowd at Malibagh yesterday and seeks votes for Mirza Abbas, her party backed mayor candidate in Dhaka south.

Foreign diplomats fear relapse into instability
 DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign diplomats based in Dhaka have expressed concern over political violence during the current campaigning for city corporation polls and feared that it may create a situation of conflict and instability again, as in the past three months.
 Fed up with frequent political violence and intimidation, the diplomatic missions are worried about further escalation of violence following attacks on opposition BNP's current campaigning for the April 28 city corporation polls in Dhaka and Chittagong.
 They said the UN and various influential countries were encouraged by the opposition BNP's decision to participate in the city elections as they got engaged in the political process, leaving the three-month long violence and intimidation, which apparently restored peace in the country.
 Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several foreign diplomats feared that the attacks on BNP's election rallies by the ruling party activists might disrupt the way to overcome the ongoing political crisis.
 They said the foreign diplomats, who worked in the last three months (January to March) for de-escalation of political conflict, welcomed the government and opposition for holding city polls and participation by BNP.

Candidates' competence may sway Ctg voters
Learns The Daily Star after talking to residents
 ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Candidates capable of successfully addressing the local problems may win over the voters of Chittagong city, according to several residents who are closely following the campaigns.
 Although waterlogging and cleanliness remain to be the dominating problems, there are wards facing unique problems, and the voters will choose candidates able to solve them.
 A total of 12 mayoral aspirants, 216 councillor aspirants for 41 councillor (general) posts, and 62 candidates for 14 reserved seats of councillors for women are in the race.
 Talking to the voters, The Daily Star has found that most of them would put more emphasis on the candidates' competence than their political background.
 For example, neither waterlogging nor cleanliness is a problem in Ward 1 (South Pahartoli). Rather, the residents are deprived of supply of water by Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) and do not have gas connections unlike in other wards, while the roads are in bad shape.
 Bishwarup Das, a resident of the area, said as the ward was located on the edge, it was deprived of many civic amenities.
 "Apart from water and gas facilities, the people lack access to proper healthcare," he said. "There is no maternity clinic nearby."
 "I would not consider the candidates' political background, rather I would see their capability to address our problems," he said.
 Akbar Reja, a cultural activist and a resident of Ward 14 (Lalkhan Bazar), said hawkers occupy most of the roads making it difficult for movement of vehicles and passersby. Most of the drains here are not cleaned regularly, he alleged.
 In Ward 10 (North Kattali), people are deprived of Wasa water supply, complained Jewel Shil, a photojournalist living there.
 Poor waste management plagues Ward

WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Taher, Nani committed abduction, torture, murders in Netrakona
Testifies nephew of martyr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A prosecution witness yesterday linked Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani to the abduction and murder of his uncle and several others from Gumria and a neighbouring village in Netrakona during the Liberation War of 1971.
 Joynuddin of Gumria village, the second prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Taher and Nani, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had seen the duo with other Razakars and the Pakistan army carry out the attack on the first day of Bangla month Kartik.
 The 65-year-old said he and his father

Komiruddin and uncle Rishi Miah used to transport people by boats from Bangladesh to India for refuge.
 On Kartik 1, Taher and Nani with 100-150 Razakars and Pakistani army men came to their home with a detained villager from Asma, Chanfar Ali, looking for Joynuddin, his father and uncle, said the witness, adding that he went into hiding when he saw them coming and his father was not at home at the time.
 Taher and Nani and the others detained his uncle and went to the neighbouring village of Laufa, said Joynuddin, adding that he followed them.



Taher Nani

GRANTING OF ANTICIPATORY BAIL BY HC
SCBA wants review of guidelines given by SC
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday moved before the SC chamber judge a review petition filed against its guidelines for the High Court in granting anticipatory bail to people.
 Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, chamber judge of the apex court, accepted the petition and fixed today for its hearing. SCBA Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star.
 The SCBA on June 18 last year filed the petition with the SC, seeking a review of its guidelines in dealing with the anticipatory bail petitions.
 In the petition, SCBA President Khandker Mahub Hossain and its secretary urged the Appellate Division to cancel some of the guidelines, so that the HC can give anticipatory bail to people in false and politically motivated cases.
 They said the HC now expressed reluctance to hear anticipatory bail applications following the SC verdict, and as a result, innocent litigants were being victim of police harassment.
 On February 24 last year, the SC issued some guidelines in a verdict and expressed disappointment at an HC bench for "failure to follow its guidelines" in giving anticipatory bail to BNP leader Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain in a money laundering case.
 The apex court said the HC had to scrutinise the facts in the FIR with "expected diligence", and would not grant anticipatory bail "where the allegations are of heinous nature".
 If satisfied in all respects, the HC will dispose of the anticipatory bail applications instantly without issuing any rule, and will not grant such type of bail to an accused for more than four weeks, the judgment said.
 The HC judges will mention the reasons for granting anticipatory bail to an accused and "shall give reasons for their satisfaction on this unravelling point," the Appellate Division said.

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