

CITY CORPORATION

ELECTIONS 2015

Let prisoners vote in Ctg

Amir Khasru urges EC thru letter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday urged the chief election commissioner to take votes from prisoners of Chittagong through special arrangements because, he said, thousands of activists and leaders of the BNP-led 20-party were now in jail in false cases along with many non-political persons.

In a letter, the chief election agent of BNP-backed mayoral candidate M Manjur Alam and the Chittagong city unit president of BNP said that in the April 28 city election, the imprisoned persons would not be able to exercise their right to vote despite being the residents of the city. So, special arrangements for taking their votes will protect their basic and constitutional rights, it added.



Mayoral candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation Mahi B Chowdhury, backed by Projonmo, a platform of online activists of Facebook, meets and greets residents as he campaigns in Paschim Rajabazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Waterlogging, food safety Manjur's main concerns in 54-point manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP-blessed mayor aspirant M Manjur Alam of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls declared his 54-point manifesto yesterday, pledging to create a healthy and environment-friendly city by reducing waterlogging and ensuring food safety.

He pledged undertaking income-generating activities and cost effective, innovative and useful projects to generate employment, especially for youths, who would be imparted training so that they themselves can come up with social businesses, defined by Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

On waterlogging, he assured installing sluice gates at places like Agrabad, CDA, Halishahar, Bakalia and Bahaddarhat through which water enters during high tides. Assistance will be sought from Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency to



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Nasir contradicts himself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

For being blessed by the party in power, AJM Nasir Uddin would get cordial cooperation from the government, if elected mayor, the Chittagong city candidate claimed during his campaign yesterday to win over voters but in the same breath criticised immediate past mayor and BNP chief's adviser M Manjur Alam as a failure during his mayorship in the last five years.

Nasir also rubbished Manjur's claim that he did not get enough support from the Awami League government in his tenure. "Even if we take his words as true, why is he running for mayor again when he knows the government still has four years remaining?" he said.

Nasir made the remarks while addressing a small rally on the premises of Chittagong Customs House. He also sought votes from public officials and employees at two other government buildings -- Sarkari Karja Bhaban and Chattagram Bandar Bhaban.

Contacted, Bajlul Kabir Bhuiyan, additional commissioner of taxes (tax zone 2), SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Call for metro govt grows stronger

SHUJAN also proposes its introduction to improve civic services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after the same call from urban planners and architects, civil society organisation SHUJAN yesterday proposed introduction of metropolitan government in Dhaka and Chittagong cities for empowerment of the mayor and councillors to provide better services to the citizens.

"We propose that the elected mayor will be the chief of the metropolitan administration. If the elected prime minister can be head of the whole country's administration, why an elected mayor will not be chief of the metropolitan's administration?" said Muhammad Jahangir, a member of Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (SHUJAN),

in a written statement.

In a metropolitan government, all government bodies providing services to the city people, like police and Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), come under the city corporation.

Jahangir said now the mayors and councillors were facing obstructions in taking decisions; so they could not serve the people properly. When all city service providers come under the direct supervision of the mayor, it will help the mayor take quick decisions, he told SHUJAN's roundtable titled "Metropolitan government is the only solution" at Jatiya Press Club.

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Khulshi OC transferred following RO's plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Khulshi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mainul Islam Bhuiyan was transferred to Chittagong Metropolitan Police's (CMP) Detective Branch yesterday as per the Chittagong City Corporation poll's returning officer's (RO) plea over non-compliance with an order.

Sukanta Chakraborty, inspector (investigation), will take over, said CMP Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandal, adding that they would investigate the allegation.

RO Md Abdul Baten on Wednesday sought the

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Pro-AL citizens' body accuses Khaleda of violating code

Urges EC to take legal action against her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sahasra Nagorik Committee, a citizens' platform formed to campaign for Awami League-backed mayoral candidates in Dhaka, yesterday requested the Election Commission to take legal action against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for "violating" the electoral code of conduct.

"Khaleda Zia is conducting campaigns with a motorcade, blocking roads and making political statements. These all are violations of the electoral code of conduct," the platform said in a letter to the EC.

Describing her remarks during campaigns as acts of provocation, the platform expressed concern that Khaleda's activities might hamper a peaceful election and requested the EC to remain careful so that the people can cast votes without fear.

A delegation of Sahasra Nagorik Committee led by its member secretary Golam Quddus met the Chief Election Commissioner and raised

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Farmers of Banaripara in Barisal, Kuriana in Pirojpur, and Bhimruli in Jhalakathi, the zone known as the capital of Bombay Chilli in Bangladesh, sell their produce at Tk 40-50 for every 100 chillies at Kuriana every Sunday and Thursday. The chilli is cultivated in guava gardens when fruits are not grown there from January till June. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ARTUR RAHMAN

STATEMENT ON BERGMAN VERDICT: 23 get more time to reply on punishment for contempt of court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday gave six more days to 23 eminent persons to respond to the tribunal why they should not be punished for contempt of court for issuing a statement criticising the punishment of Dhaka-based British journalist David Bergman.

The three-member tribunal asked them to place their replies before the tribunal by April 29. It also asked 15 of them who are living in the country to appear before it on the day. Yesterday had been fixed for submitting replies but the court set the new date following separate time petitions filed by the 23.

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL: Another links Taher, Nani with Netrakona murders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another prosecution witness yesterday linked Obaidul Haque Taher and Ataur Rahman Nani to the abduction and murders of several people in Barhatta upazila in Netrakona during the Liberation War.

Matiur Rahman, 57, son of martyr Moshrob Ali Talukder of Laufa village, said Taher and Nani had killed his father and five other family members on October 19, 1971 after picking them up from



Taher



Nani

their home. Matiur, the third prosecution witness, told International Crimes Tribunal-1 that this led his mother to lose sanity and commitsuicide 10 or 12 years ago. Earlier, the second witness, Joynuddin, a resident of Matiur's neighbouring village Gumria, gave an almost similar description.

Matiur said their village was targeted by Razakars for being a stronghold of freedom fighters.

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The Academy is organizing a contact program in Dhaka.
Date & Time: Saturday April 25, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.
Venue: Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre, Bashundhara, Dhaka - Adjacent to Joar Shahara Cooperative Society and Bashundhara Convention Center 2, [Map: www.bit.ly/jkcdhaka](http://www.bit.ly/jkcdhaka)
To confirm your participation please contact:
Mr. Malik Mahmood (+ 880 171 522 9157).

SUPER POWER COMES FROM SUPER FOODS....



Vegetables are considered a staple in our diet. Let it be for breakfast, lunch, and dinner or maybe even in their preparations, such as a side dish or dessert. They contain vitamins, minerals and fibers that are essential for human health. Dominating the Bangladeshi meal scene and available throughout the year at low price, bottle gourd (more commonly known as lau) and pumpkin are two such vegetables.

Bottle gourd is mostly cooked as a curry. But their greener, younger counterparts are boiled and used to prepare desserts or cooked with fish, meat and other vegetables such as potatoes. Although pumpkins are available throughout the whole year, it is considered a summer vegetable and naturally has a sweet taste. It is usually prepared with other vegetables such as bitter gourd or even as a mixed vegetable dish. Even plain boiled pumpkin with a dash of mustard oil and salt is another traditional mouth-watering dish. Even the seeds of pumpkin are edible. They are usually dried and then deep fried as a small snack. Both vegetables are low in calories and saturated fats. Most dieticians recommend eating bottle gourd or pumpkin to control cholesterol or lose weight.

Bottle gourd and pumpkin are super foods. Bottle gourd is believed to aid with liver function, urinary tract infections and stop graying of hair; juice of the leaves help cure jaundice. Fresh bottle gourds contain small amounts of folates that decrease the probabilities of neural defects in newborns when taken by the mothers during the earlier trimesters. Bottle gourd is a known remedy for indigestion and constipation as it assists in easy digestion. Pumpkins are high in fibre, anti-oxidants such as Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin C and Vitamin E, minerals such as, copper, calcium, potassium and

phosphorus all required to maintain normal body functions. Both vegetables also contain vitamin-C; one of the most natural powerful antioxidants that help the body to get rid of free radicals which is one of the reasons for cancer developments. Additionally, the vegetables are a source of thiamin, niacin (vitamin B-3), pantothenic acid (vitamin B-5), pyridoxine (vitamin B-6) and minerals such as calcium, iron, zinc, potassium, manganese and magnesium. All these vitamins and minerals combined protect the body from many physical ailments such as Tetany, Tickets, Osteoporosis, and Anemia. They help boost the immunity system, prevent infections, development failure in children, heart arrhythmia, muscular fatigue and muscle cramps.

Of the many vegetable farmers that Shwapno acquires their vegetables from, Pavel from Keraniganj, is one of them. He says that he takes about a week to prepare the field before sowing the seeds for bottle gourd and pumpkin cultivation. He prepares the soil using natural fertilizers such as cow dung and then sows the seeds on days when it is not cloudy or raining. The whole process of cultivation of these two vegetables takes about 6-7 weeks. When they are ready to be picked, they go through a three step sorting process based on their sizes. After which they are wrapped in banana leaves and jute and sent straight to Shwapno. This whole process from picking the vegetables to making them available at the stores is a one day process. The target is to send local fresh products.



Photo: Dolon Talukder

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The Daily Star