

RCC okays pro-AL acting mayor

Councillors backed by both BNP, AL allege ex-mayor Liton coerced pro-BNP councillors for support; Liton denies it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

With Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul suspended, Rajshahi City Corporation accepted Awami League-backed councillor Nizam-ul Azim as acting mayor at a general meeting yesterday where mostly pro-BNP councillors endorsed the decision.

But allegations were rife that former mayor and AL leader Khairuzzaman Liton earned the support of BNP-backed councillors, mostly facing criminal cases, to have Azim accepted as acting mayor, assuring the councillors that they would not be harassed by police.

In this regard, Liton held a "secret" meeting with the councillors at his Upashahar residence on Saturday night, said sources of BNP and AL.

But Liton told The Daily Star, "I didn't ask them to give support in the meeting. They came to me after taking the decision themselves for providing support and sought my assistance in different development projects."

Azim, a cousin of Liton's wife, was appointed acting mayor as per an executive order, dated June 1, by the LGRD ministry, but the order required endorsement at a general meeting of the city corporation, said an RCC employee.

Out of the total 40 councillors of RCC, 26 are BNP-backed. At yesterday's meeting, 32 councillors were present with more than a dozen pro-BNP councillors supporting the order. But two pro-AL councillors -- Mohammad Kamruzzaman and Abdul Hamid Sarker -- dissented while the rest remained silent. Hamid Sarker told The Daily Star that the government order was unlawful because in the absence of the mayor, one of the three elected panel mayors should take over.

One panel mayor is in jail, and another did not attend the meeting. The other panel mayor, Nuruzzaman Tito, who was present at the meeting and also endorsed the order, said, "What else can I do? If I want my right to be the acting mayor, police will chase me. Now I attended the general meeting and police did not touch me."

Most of the BNP-backed councillors, who met Liton on Saturday night, are being searched by police in different criminal cases, said Iftekhar Alam, assistant commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police. "We were not aware of the meeting," he said.

Sohrab Hossain Sheikh, pro-BNP councillor, said BNP-backed councillors sought Liton's blessings in the meeting so that police did not harass them in criminal cases.

He, however, declined to comment on their support to the government order. "We needed to decide, as the people are suffering in absence of the mayor," he said.

Pro-BNP Mayor Bulbul was suspended on May 7 for facing charges of murder and other crimes.

Habiganj DC now okays

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adverse effects of the violation of environmental laws including flooding upstream and deprivation of communities downstream, apart from the damage to aquatic life and environment.

LGRD, Habiganj Deputy Director Dilip Kumar Bonik is convening two committees formed at the meeting to monitor the construction.

He told The Daily Star that the equipment convoy would pass once late this month after which the road would be removed. It will be constructed again in September for another convoy to pass in October and then dismantled, he added.



Visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted at Ramkrishna Mission in the capital's Gopibagh yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Business tycoon Moosa gives wealth statement to ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business tycoon Moosa Bin Shamsher submitted his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission through his lawyer yesterday, ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya told The Daily Star.

The ACC served Moosa a notice asking him to submit wealth statement on May 19 this year.

The anti-graft body on last December 4 asked Moosa to appear before it on December 18 to face grilling allegedly for syphoning off money and accumulating wealth illegally.

Moosa appeared before the ACC on the day and he during the interrogation admitted that he had deposited \$7 billion in Swiss Bank accounts that were "frozen."

He, however, denied the allegation of amassing wealth illegally, claiming that he earned the amount abroad through international arms trading.

Law enforcers fail to trace 'abducted' man in 28 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers could not make any breakthrough in their search for a private service holder who had been "abducted" 28 days ago in the capital's Banani.

ASM Farhan Hossain, son of Shahadat Hossain of Rupnagar, used to work as relationship manager at DNS Software Ltd. On May 11, Farhan went outside the office around 4:40pm, informing his colleagues that he would be back in a while. He even left his laptop and bag on his office desk but did not return, the father said.

Shahadat immediately lodged a general diary with Rupnagar police and then another one with Banani police. He even informed Rab-4.

On May 16, an unknown caller demanded TK 25,000 from Farhan's father saying that the amount had been spent for keeping his son with them for five days. "We sent TK 20,000 to a B-kash account no, given by the caller, and afterwards, their numbers were switched off", Shahadat claimed.

Then the family filed an abduction case with Banani police station on May 23. Banani police and Rab-4 officials said they are probing the incident.

His father now wants that the Detective Branch of police to take the case for a quick probe.



K-pop contest held in Dhaka for first time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Korean embassy in Dhaka held a contest K-pop, a musical genre originating in South Korea, for the first time in Bangladesh yesterday.

A total of 13 teams participated in the event where the first three winners got Samsung smart phones.

The first winner can visit Korea to join K-pop Global Contest 2015.

Anika Saiara Ali won the first prize for a dance with the song Girl's Generation, while Yeo Farin and Yeo Farah, two sisters, became second for their dance with the song Crazy, and Ayub Ali Tanvir became third for his song with a guitar.

Korean Ambassador Lee Yun-young handed over the first prize, while Yoon-Hee, the president of Korean Community in Bangladesh, and Kim ji-Hoon, Koica's resident representative, gave the second and third prizes.

SEE VIDEO STORY ONLINE

Remember pledge for people with disabilities

Jatiya Pratibandhi Forum urges finance minister about budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith should recollect before the budget is passed his pledge to provide several ministries block allocation for mainstreaming people with disabilities, something not reflected in his budget speech, said Jatiya Pratibandhi Forum (JPF) representatives yesterday.

The urge came at a press conference organised by JPF and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Muhith at a views-exchange meeting with JPF on May 11 made the assurance involving ministries including that of education, local government, health, and women and children affairs, said JPF Director Dr Nafeesur Rahman.

"Notwithstanding this, the proposed budget does not have any significant allocation for development of people with disabilities as human resources," he stated.

Rather than considering people with disabilities as human resources, Muhith regarded them as helpless and impoverished, making allocations only in the social welfare ministry, he added.

However, the government's aim for mainstreaming people with disabilities was reflected in the reservation of one percent quota in first and second grade government jobs, he said.

Stating that a significant number of the extreme poor have disabilities, Nafeesur said they receive only special allowances and small loans rather than education and skill development training to fight poverty.

JPF national executive committee member Monsuruzzaman Khan, convener Mosharraf Hossain and assistant convener Nazma Ara Poppy were present.

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[Effective from July 01, 2015]

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Page-7	Fixed BDT 4,800/- (4 Colour) BDT 3,600/- (B/W)	Fixed BDT 5,300/- (4 Colour) BDT 4,100/- (B/W)
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Main News Paper	8	20.5	164
Life Style/ Shout/ Showbiz/ Star Weekend	6	12	72

Front Page	BDT 6,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
Front Inner	BDT 4,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
Back Page	BDT 5,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
Back Inner	BDT 4,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
3rd page	BDT 3,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
Inner Page	BDT 2,500/- (Per Col. Inch)

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Front Page	BDT 4,000/- (Per Col. Inch)
Back Page	BDT 3,000/- (Per Col. Inch)
Front Inner Page	BDT 2,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
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[Only Colour Advt. No B/W]

Front Page	BDT 5,000/- (Per Col. Inch)
Back Page	BDT 4,000/- (Per Col. Inch)
Front Inner Page	BDT 3,000/- (Per Col. Inch)
Back Inner Page	BDT 3,000/- (Per Col. Inch)
Inner Page	BDT 2,000/- (Per Col. Inch)

[Only Colour Advt. No B/W]

Front Page	BDT 4,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
Back Page	BDT 3,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
Front Inner Page	BDT 2,500/- (Per Col. Inch)
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