

PARTISAN MUNICIPAL POLLS

AL aspirants in election mood

BNP waits for high command's decision; Jamaat may bank on BNP's symbol to contest polls

PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and RASHIDUL HASAN

As the municipality polls in December would be partisan unlike the previous ones, aspirants seeking Awami League tickets are now busy with organisational activities instead of launching individual campaigns.

Finding it more prestigious to contest the local government polls with the party's electoral symbol "boat", they are keen to make a positive impression on the central leaders in efforts to secure nominations.

The AL central working committee, the highest decision-making body of the party, would sit next month to finalise its policy on selecting candidates for the polls, according to sources.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina has already ordered forming a board comprising senior AL leaders to nominate candidates. She also warned potential rebels against running in the polls in violation of party decision.

On the other hand, the BNP will make

the final decision about contesting the election after party chief Khaleda Zia returns from London next week, acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star on Monday.

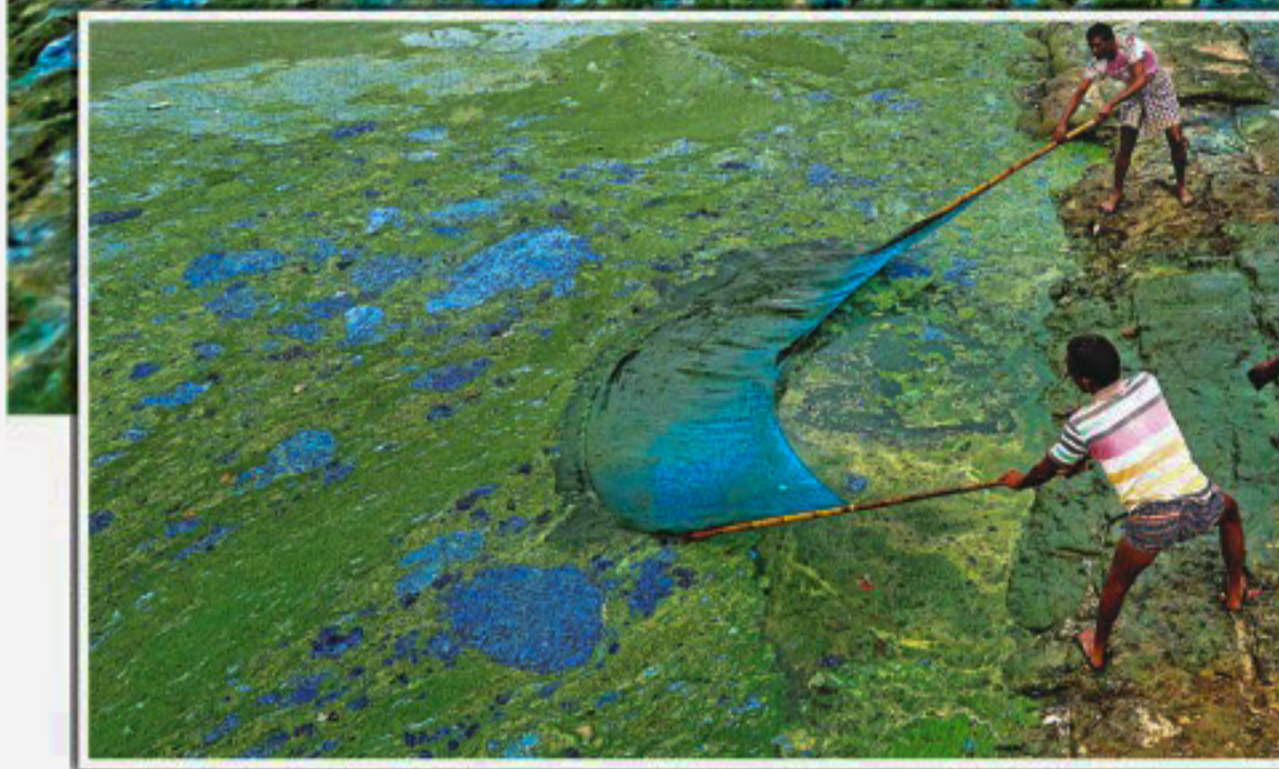
Insiders, however, say the party's Nayapaltan central office has verbally instructed the grassroots leaders to prepare for the polls campaign.

AL GRASSROOTS' MOOD
SM Jaglul Hayder, lawmaker from Satkhira-4 and president of Shyamnagar upazila AL, said organisational activities in his district have increased.

"In the past, aspirants from our party would just start campaigning. This time they are concentrating on party activities to get nominations as the cabinet decided to hold a partisan local body election," he said.

At Monday's cabinet meeting, Sheikh Hasina said the party would nominate only one candidate against each post and all have to accept the decision.

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This is a large swathe of foul-smelling slime on the Moghbazar side of Hatirjheel lake, one of the very few places in the capital where people go to catch a breath of fresh air. The authorities have taken some measures recently to clean up the glutinous coat, inset. However, only five people have been employed to do what looks like a colossal job. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Next polls in December
245 municipalities

Last polls in 2010-11
236 municipalities

AL-blessed candidates won
88 mayoral posts

BNP-backed candidates bagged
92 posts

NEWS ANALYSIS

Will our parties' culture change in poura polls?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Will the partisan elections to the local government bodies open a window for "nomination business" by the major political parties? Is it going to tighten the parties' grips over their grassroots level leaders?

These vexed questions have now come to the fore because of the traditional culture of non-democratic practices inside the parties and allegations of widespread "nomination business" by the major political parties in previous parliamentary elections.

This non-democratic nature of the parties has become the seedbed for the rise of businessmen in our

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TAVELLA KILLING Cops hunt for 3 suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A law enforcement agency yesterday said it has photos of three suspects in the killing of Italian national Cesare Tavella.



In one photo, a suspect is seen walking while talking on the phone. Another photo shows two of them riding a motorbike.

The agency handed over the photos to different media outlets yesterday but it did not disclose the sources of the photos.

Sources in the agency

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4 ENVOYS' MEETING WITH HOME MINISTER

Worries remain despite security measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Envoys of four countries yesterday said there is still some concern despite the government's beefing-up of security.

US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat, British High Commissioner Robert W Gibson, Canadian High Commissioner Benoit-Pierre Laramée and Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock said this during a meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at his office.

"We are satisfied, but there is still some concern," the home minister quoted the envoys as saying while talking to reporters after the meeting.

Bernicat told reporters that the threats to foreigners' lives are credible and they remain real.

The minister, however, said the envoys could not provide any specific information about their concern.

"Tell us if there is any specific information and we will address it. But they could not provide any information," he said.

However, the envoys assured that if they have any information they will share it following their respective government policies, the minister said.

The home boss also told the envoys that Islamic State militants were not linked with the foreigners' killings and that there's some conspiracy behind the killings. He reiterated that they are close to cracking the cases.

The meeting took place a couple of days after the US, France and Italy expressed satisfaction with security measures

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Kumari Puja celebrated Bijoya Dashami today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu devotees yesterday celebrated Kumari Puja, a major attraction of Maha Ashtami, amid fanfare at Ramkrishna Mission's puja mandaps across the country.

Bijoya Dashami will be celebrated today but the idols of Goddess Durga and her four children -- Lakshmi, Saraswati, Kartik and Ganesha -- will be immersed in ponds, rivers

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Undeterred, they will keep working for the street kids

Say 4 Adama youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The four youths, freed on Monday after serving 38 days in jail on charges that could not be proved, are not suffering from low morale.

Rather, they have strengthened their resolve to provide education and a better life to underprivileged street children.

"As we rejoined work, we feel that the spirit among our volunteers is higher than ever," said Arifur Rahman Arian, chairman of Adama Bangladesh.

Arian along with three of his colleagues was arrested on September 12.

While talking to this correspondent at The Daily Star office yesterday, the youths shared their new

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24 new economic zones get nod

Investors from Japan, India to get one each

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The government has approved 24 more economic zones, including two separate special zones for Japan and India.

The approval came at a meeting of the Governing Board of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The BEZA had earlier okayed 22 such zones at a meeting in February, BEZA officials told The Daily Star.

A total of 24,017 acres of land, mostly owned by the government, have been allotted to the new 24 economic zones, they said.

At yesterday's meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, Hasina said the government would gradually set up 100 economic zones to attract more foreign investment.

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FUTURE BANGLADESH ON THE FIRMIEST FOUNDATION

Chosen steel for the Padma Bridge construction

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