

Municipality polls go partisan

Ordinance promulgated amending local govt law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday promulgated an ordinance amending the local government law for holding municipality polls in a partisan manner.

LGRD Minister Khandker Mosharruf Hossain confirmed this to The Daily Star last night.

From now on, political parties registered with the Election Commission will nominate candidates who will contest municipality elections with their parties' electoral symbols as in parliamentary polls.

On October 12, the cabinet approved proposals for amending the local government laws for holding elections to local government bodies -- union parishad, municipalities, upazila and city corporations -- in a

partisan manner.

Of the 317 municipalities, 245 are supposed to go to polls next month, said EC officials.

"We have already started drafting electoral rules for conducting the upcoming municipality polls on partisan lines," a deputy secretary at the EC told The Daily Star.

Talking to reporters at his office yesterday, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said they would need around 40 to 45 days for holding the polls after the election schedule is announced.

EC officials said a total of 40 political parties are registered with the commission. Besides those contesting the election with their parties' electoral symbols, anyone can join the polls race as an independent candidate.

20 Cuban migrants rescued off Colombian coast

AFP, Bogota

The Colombian coast guard rescued 20 Cuban migrants Sunday who were on a boat that had been abandoned by human traffickers in the Gulf of Uraba, the navy said.

The migrants include 15 men and five women who were found aboard the boat adrift in the north of the gulf, which is part of the Caribbean.

According to preliminary information, two Colombian people smugglers who were attempting to get the migrants to neighboring Panama had jumped ship when the engine failed.

The migrants have been taken to a coast guard station in the town of Turbo for processing.

More than 500 illegal immigrants have been found in the Caribbean off Colombia so far this year, a significant increase over previous years. In 2014, the number totaled 134.

Militancy

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movement during the tenure of the BNP-led government between 2001 and 2006.

The leaders of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance refuted media reports that militancy existed in the country.

However, coming under pressure at home and abroad, a number of militant leaders, including Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai, were arrested in 2005.

The duo and several other militant leaders were tried and later hanged in 2007 during the tenure of a caretaker government.

In her speech yesterday, Khaleda termed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "Lady Hitler", and alleged that Hasina wants to establish "monarchy" in the country, wiping out democracy and the rule of law.

She also accused the Hasina-led administration of trying to destroy the BNP to cling to power. "It won't be possible to split the BNP".

The BNP chief urged people to forge "national unity" to get rid of "the evil force and restore democracy".

While the meeting was going on, leaders and activists of the AL's UK chapter staged demonstrations in front of the hotel carrying banners and placards with anti-Khaleda slogans, according to a Bangladeshi journalist now in London.

Khaleda said untoward incidents are taking place in the country for the "absence of democracy".

"But the BNP is blamed whenever anything bad happens in the country," she said.

Khaleda said she would return home soon to revamp the party and get it ready for waging a fresh anti-government movement.

Cuet closed

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Napsu on Saturday, students said.

On information, Raozan police rushed there and brought the situation under control.

An emergency meeting was then convened at the administrative building, in which all deans, directors, heads of the departments and provosts of halls decided to close the university amid tension mounting on the campus, said Ashutosh Saha, director (student welfare) of Cuet.

Male students were asked to leave their halls by 5:00pm yesterday and female students by 10:00am today.

All the classes and examinations have also been postponed for an indefinite period, Ashutosh added.

On Saturday, followers of Shahenewaj, who already passed out but still exercises his influence on the campus, attacked Hridoy, a disciple of final year civil engineering student Napsu, at Bangabandhu Hall and ransacked his room, said university sources.

To protest the attack, students gathered at Gol Chattar when another group from North Hall swooped on them with sharp weapons and sticks in presence of the university authorities, said Rafit, who sustained injuries to the head during yesterday's clash.

Shahenewaj, however, denied his involvement in the clash. He said he had already left the university but heard about the clash between two groups of juniors.

Napsu, who led the other group according to university students, could not be reached by phone for comments.

The authorities tried to calm both the groups but failed, Dr Ashutosh said. So they decided to close the university to avoid any further untoward incident, he added.

Birdman

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after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He had noticed a pair of displaced parrots near his back porch, and proceeded to feed them some rice from his kitchen.

This continued for a few days and the birds nested nearby, eventually multiplying to thousands.

Sekar, a camera repairman by profession, now spends about 40% of his income feeding the birds. He rises early every day to cook giant pots of rice, which he then spreads on special wooden planks laid in neat rows on the roof of his house.

"I wake up by 4:30am every morning," he said. "It takes 30 minutes to prepare the rice to be served. Then I start arranging the planks, 14 in a row, and start placing the rice on them. I finish this arrangement around 5:45am. And by 6:00am sharp, all the parrots from far, fly in and assemble promptly. The same way, in the evening, they start by 4:00pm and have their food till 6:00 or 6:30pm."

"In these 10 years, I might have missed eating a meal at times. But the parrots have never missed a single meal," he added proudly. "It's all love."

Wife files case over Dipan

FROM PAGE 1
Prokashani owner Ahmedur Rashid Chowdhury Tutul sued unknown criminals over the attempt on his life and those of two others -- writers-bloggers Tareq Rahim and Ranadipam Basu -- at Shuddhoswar office at Lalmeta.

Razia, a physician, filed the case with Shabbagh Police Station around 2:15pm.

Earlier, she along with Dipan's father Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq, a professor at Dhaka University, went to the office of DU acting proctor AM Amzad and drafted the complaint.

Although Prof Quasem had been saying that he wouldn't seek trial for the murder of his son, he changed his mind following requests from the DU authorities.

Amzad said he requested Quasem on Sunday night to file a case.

However, coming out of Amzad's office, the professor still insisted: "I do not want any trial; I want awakening of good sense in all."

Over the past four-five years, several murders have taken place in the country, but there is no charge sheet. Even after such a long time, there is no progress in the trial process. Police and detectives sometimes offer some updates, but those are inconsistent, he said.

"For these reasons ... it's not that I have no confidence in the judicial process, it's that that in Bangladesh, in some special cases, I don't have enough faith that there will be a solution through a trial ... Despite this, I say let the trial go on. That's why I said that if the police department requested me, I would help them in whatever way I can," he added.

The attack on Dipan happened between 3:30pm and 3:50pm on Saturday inside the Jagriti Prokashani office. The criminals fled the scene, locking the door from outside.

Tutul filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station around 2:35pm.

In the case statement, he said an unknown man aged between 30 and 40 entered his office around 2:45pm on Saturday in the guise of a customer. Soon afterwards, two youths, aged between 20 and 30, came. One of them had a bag.

"The man carrying the bag held my office staff Russell hostage at gunpoint ... They hacked indiscriminately in my head, forehead, hands and other parts of my body with machetes with a motive to kill me," the statement said.

They also hacked Tarek and Basu in a bid to kill them. Tarek was also shot.

Both Tutul and Basu were in a stable condition. The condition of Tarek was improving, but doctors said he was "not out of danger".

He still has a bullet in his body and

doctors will operate on him to remove it after his condition improves further.

Lying on his Dhaka Medical College Hospital bed, Tutul told The Daily Star, "I want this to end so that no one faces what I faced. I want a non-communal, secular, progressive and superstition-free Bangladesh."

INVESTIGATION

There is no visible progress in probing any of the two attacks.

Investigators said they were working to identify the attackers.

"Although there is no visible progress, we have been carrying out our investigation keeping all aspects in mind," said Biplob Kumar Sarker, deputy commissioner (Tejgaon) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Meanwhile, detectives said the Facebook post on a page titled "Ansa al Islam" claiming credits for Saturday's attacks originated in Dhaka.

However, cops are still working to pinpoint the location and identify those who claimed the responsibility by sending emails to media outlets and through tweeting, said Mashrukure Rahman, deputy commissioner of detective branch (south) of DMP.

Talking to The Daily Star, Tanvir Hasan Joha, focal point officer of ICT division's cyber security project, said the Facebook post was uploaded between 6:00pm and 7:00pm on Saturday, but was deleted within two hours.

Commuters

FROM PAGE 16
The JSC and JDC examinees, who had their exam centres away from home had to suffer on their way back home.

The ruling party organised the rally on the eve of the Jail Killing Day today. The rally was addressed by the prime minister.

The roads stretching from Topkhana to Shabbagh, from Matsya Bhaban intersection to Inter Continental (Sheraton) Hotel intersection, from Shabbagh to Elephant Road and the adjoining roads were clogged with vehicles.

Hundreds of commuters were seen moving on foot all the way from Matsya Bhaban intersection to Farmgate along Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue as no vehicle could pass through the tailbacks during the rush hour after work.

Sudipta Roy along with his wife and little daughter got stuck for an hour on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Tejturibazar, waiting for a CNG auto-rickshaw to go to Uttara.

My daughter became restless and then tired of waiting for so long, said Sudipta.

"I got an auto-rickshaw but the driver demanded a fare of Tk 500 despite the recent government rule that all auto-rickshaws must run on meter."

Three bidders submit

FROM PAGE 16
Friendship company that is implementing the Rampal project. The company has been formed with equal stakes of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

There had been some doubts about whether the coal power project would at all get financing considering public criticism about the project's proximity to the Sundarbans World Heritage Site. This doubt was further reinforced when international media reported that three French banks have said they will not invest in the Rampal power plant, while two Norwegian Pension Funds pulled out their investments from NTPC.

"This project has no problem," Bhattacharya told The Daily Star. BPDB sources said the three bidders submitted proposals on September 22. The authorities are evaluating the bids now and the contract for construction would be awarded to the best bidder by January.

This engineering procurement contract was expected to be awarded by early 2014 with the target to begin commercial power generation from 2017. But in the face of environmental concerns, the authorities took extra time to refine tender guidelines and requirements. The project would now be delayed by two years.

It was initially estimated that the project would need US \$ 1.7 billion investment --30 percent of which would come from the friendship power company while the rest from single or multiple international financiers. The actual investment estimate will be available after the best bidder is selected.

Located 14-kilometre northwest of the Sundarbans and four kilometres from the declared ecologically critical area (ECA), the selection of the Rampal site for a coal power plant drew a lot of criticism from the public.

While the government keeps on defending the plant, saying its emission would not harm the forest, most critics believe that the disaster would take place while transporting coal to

the plant site through the rivers inside the Sundarbans.

The plant will need 3.2 million tonnes of coal a year. Imported coal on 80,000-tonne capacity ships will anchor at the Akram Point. From there, lighter ships will load coal containers with maximum 10,000-tonne capacity and transport them to the power plant's jetty on the Passur. In other words, several smaller vessels carrying coal will ply the river every day, all the year round.

The project includes residential and social facilities, water treatment plant, sub-station, jetty, coal handling system and coal silo, ash handling and disposal facilities, and switchyard, including substation.

The project area spreads over 1834 acres of land, all of which have been acquired.

As per a government decision, for every kilowatt power sales from this plant, the Rampal locality will get Tk 0.03. This roughly totals Tk 27 crore or more a year. This fund will be used for building roads, hospitals and other infrastructure in Rampal.

Review hearing now Nov 17

FROM PAGE 1
constitutional provision that allows the trial of an individual for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

She challenged the legality of the appointments of the first three judges to the International Crimes Tribunal-1, which dealt with the BNP leader's war crimes case.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam told The Daily Star that Farhat prayed to the HC to declare the appointments of three ICT judges illegal. He said the constitution had earlier allowed the trial of a group of individuals for committing crimes against humanity, but the 15th amendment allowed trial of individuals.

He said the writ petition was filed in order to make the trial and conviction of Salauddin questionable.

Huzzatul Islam, a lawyer for Salauddin, told The Daily Star that they would move the petition before the HC for hearing next week.

Earlier in the day, the four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha deferred the hearings of

the review petitions of Jamaat leader Mojaheed and Salauddin following a time petition by their principal counsel Khandker Mahub Hossain.

The apex court rejected another petition by Salauddin's asking the court to record statements of eight people, including five Pakistanis.

Salauddin filed the petition on October 19 to establish that he was not in Bangladesh between March 29, 1971, and April, 1974, and that he had gone to Pakistan to study at the Punjab University.

Yesterday, the SC rejected the petition saying that the prosecution had established that Salauddin was physically present in the country during the said period.

Salauddin could not produce any certificate from the university which could prove that he was studying there and was not in Bangladesh, the SC said, adding that there was no scope for recording witness statements at the review petition hearing.

Yesterday, the Appellate Division also rejected another petition filed by Mojaheed seeking its directive on the

government not to harass or arrest his lawyer Shishir Manir.

The apex court said Mojaheed could move such a petition before the HC.

Mojaheed recently filed the petition saying that a team of law enforcers on the night of October 22 searched the Mohammadpur house of Shishir without any summons or warrant.

Shishir was not home at the time.

Asked about the SC deferring the review petition hearings, Attorney General Mahubey Alam said the defence lawyers would not be able to seek more time from the apex court, as the court had given them 15 days.

Chief Justice Sinha would not be in the country for a week from November 5, as he would attend a conference in Australia. But it might not be the reason for the SC giving the defence time, he added.

The International Crimes Tribunal issued execution warrants for them on October 1, a day after the SC released the full verdicts.

No cheers for Joy

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programme.

Joy lost his temper during the programme at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium when he saw the name of State Minister for Youth and Sports Biren Sikder was written on the banner as chief guest, according to ministry officials and eyewitnesses.

Leaving the programme, he then returned to the ministry and ransacked Joint Secretary Masukh Miah's room. He also shouted at a few officials, they said.

Talking to several officials and staffs of the ministry, The Daily Star yesterday learnt that Sunday's incident was not the first time they were at the receiving end of Joy's wrath.

At least three officials of the ministry, two of them directors of two projects with the rank of deputy secretaries, took transfer orders to other ministries in the last few months for Joy's "misbehaviour".

Mashuk Mia and a few other officials, too, are now trying to get transferred to other ministries, officials said.

Asked about Joy's "misbehaviour", Sports Secretary Nur Mohammad yesterday said, "Misunderstandings happen when two people work together and those can be resolved at times."

Reflecting on Sunday's incident, he said, "The deputy ministry got angry as his name was not in the banner of the national youth day programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium."

"As the prime minister did not come to the programme, the state minister was the chief guest. The deputy minister asked some officials as to why his name was not in the banner. Being angry, he tried to leave the programme venue a few times. But we tried to manage him.

At one stage he came out of the auditorium and came back to the ministry. Later we heard that he vandalised the room of a joint secretary. It was shameful for us."

The secretary said he had immediately informed the matter to his higher authorities including the cabinet secretary and the principal secretary to the prime minister's office. Asked whether he got any response from them, he said he was yet to get any official instruction to this effect.

There is also allegation that during a tour to the 65th congress of FIFA at Zurich in Switzerland in May this year he led a five-member delegation but left one of them behind illegally.

Joy included Shelim Uddin by introducing him as the delegation coordinator and a member of Bianibazar Sporting Club. As Shelim did not come back, rumour has it that he was left behind illegally, ministry sources said adding that this incident has badly tarnished the image of the ministry as well as the country.

Swiss embassy granted Shelim visa with the condition that Shelim would have to report to the embassy before June 9. As Shelim did not do so, the embassy wrote to the foreign ministry twice to look into the matter seriously. The foreign ministry wrote to the sports ministry but could not elicit any satisfactory response, ministry sources said.

Shelim was neither a member of Bianibazar Sporting Club nor a coordinator of the delegation, they said.

Foreign and sports ministry officials handed this correspondent all the relevant documents that demonstrate that the claims made by the Swiss

embassy are true.

The Daily Star went to the deputy minister's office to have his comments over the allegations, but he did not come to office yesterday. This correspondent called him more than 10 times on his two cell phone numbers, but failed to reach him. Finally, a text message was sent to him, which too was not replied by the deputy minister.

Joy, however, told reporters on Sunday, that he had no involvement with the joint secretary's room vandalism. Some people had broken the joint secretary's computer and were spreading rumours to taint his image, he claimed.

He also alleged that none in the ministry, including a few joint secretaries, helped him. Terming the officials corrupt, he alleged that bribes were paid for the appointment and transfer of officials in the different organisations and departments under the ministry.

Joy, however, told The Daily Star earlier that he had been sidelined in the ministry from the very beginning. He said most of the files were not sent to him and the state minister and the secretary signed them keeping him in the dark.

Khulna mayor

FROM PAGE 16
sheets against 56 people, including Moni, in two criminal cases in connection with arson and attacks on law enforcers.

Earlier, Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Huq, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and Gazipur City Corporation Mayor MA Mannan were also suspended on the same ground.

3 die in 'gunfights'

FROM PAGE 16
Uttarkhan Police Station.

Based on information given by the arrestee, the law enforcers of Kotwali and Uttarkhan police stations conducted a joint drive in Uttarkhan area around 12:30am to arrest his associates. Rajib was with the team.

Sensing presence of police, Rajib's cohorts opened fire on them and the law enforcers returned fire, triggering a "gunfight" between the criminals and the law enforcers.

During the gun battle, Rajib was hit by bullets. He died from his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the police official said.

Rajib's wife Salma Akther Eti alleged that police picked up her husband from their house at Nayabari in airport area around 10:00pm on Sunday.

Police then shot dead her husband, Eti claimed.

Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, denied the allegation of shooting her husband.

He said a gang of robbers looted Tk 25 lakh after shooting an employee of a jewellery shop in Shakhari Bazar last month. The police official claimed Rajib was the ringleader of the gang.

Rajib stood accused in at least 13 criminal cases, including robbery and mugging, with different police stations in the capital, according to the police official.

In Gazipur, criminals opened fired when the elite force members were raiding Bongaon area of Joydebpur after they had received information of a snatching incident there around 01:30am, reports our Gazipur corre-

spondent, quoting ASP Akram, operation officer of Rab-1.

The Rab members then fired back, setting off a "gunfight" and left one Rafiqul Islam Rafiq critically injured. Rafiq later died at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital, Akram said.

Two Rab officials were injured in the incident.

Rafiq stood accused in six criminal cases, including extortion and arms, said Khandaker Rezaul Hasan Reza, officer-in-charge of Joydebpur Police Station.

In Jhenidah, 30-year-old Kamal was killed reportedly in a "gunfight" with Rab on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Kaliganj upazila, reports our correspondent there.

Kamal, of Agrail-Labutala village of Jessore Sadar upazila, allegedly burnt his mother-in-law and sister-in-law to death over dowry after pouring petrol on their house in Farashpur village of Kaliganj upazila on October 19.

Kamal fired at a Rab-6 patrol team in Koraitala Bus Stand area while the elite force members were trying to intercept his motorbike around 3:30am, claimed Maj Suruj Mia, commander of Rab-6 Jhenidah camp.

As the Rab members returned fire, Kamal suffered bullet wounds, said the Rab official.

He was taken to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex where the doctors pronounced him dead, Suruj said.

A foreign pistol, a bullet and a magazine were recovered from Kamal's possession, according to Rab.

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Jia (Jack) Li, a Partner of David Bitel at Parish Patience Immigration Lawyers of Sydney Australia will hold a seminar in Dhaka for people seeking Business and Skilled Migration opportunities to Australia, 10 November 2015 followed by individual consultations to be held 11-13 November.

Mr Li will also be available for private consultations with potential Business Migrants. Please reserve a consultation on business@ppilaw.com.au

For Skilled Migrants if you have a current IELTS test of at least 6 in each band and internationally recognised qualifications in a profession and are aged under 40 contact us on dhaka2015@ppilaw.com.au or phone +88 01719250814 to reserve a place before 4 November.

There will be a limited number of places available and a seminar fee of TK 1,000 will apply. Mr Li will also be available for private consultations for a fee of TK 1,500.

Due to current Australian government policies we can not assist Health Care professionals without Australian recognised qualifications and Banking or sales and marketing professionals at present and the seminar is not tailored to these professions.



Jia (Jack) Li, Partner Lawyer MARN 0301059




Skilled Seminar : 10 November 2015 - 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Business Seminar : 10 November 2015 - 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Individual Client Consultation : 11 to 13 November 2015

Seminar Venue : Marino Hotel, House No-46, Road No.-18, Block-J, Banani, Dhaka | at 10:00 AM
Individual Clients Meeting Address : Niloy Guest House, House No.-43, Block-I, Road No.-7, Banani, Dhaka.