

BNP desperate, AL cautious

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administration in conducting a peaceful election, said the sources.

The party thinks its candidates have a greater chance of winning in at least 170 municipalities.

The two parties face each other in the battle of ballots for the first time in the last six years. They have taken the first-ever municipal polls on partisan lines as an opportunity to prove their popularity.

In the last municipal election held five years ago, AL-backed candidates won in 131 municipalities and the BNP-endorsed ones in 117 municipalities.

Of the 131 AL-backed mayors, 65 got AL nomination for tomorrow's polls, while a good number of the remaining ones are contesting the polls as party dissidents.

And around 25 of them might pose a strong challenge to AL candidates, said the sources.

The party has taken some special measures to secure victory in some of the municipalities where it doesn't have a strong footing.

The AL has already provided election funds to around 40 party candidates, who are not solvent, said the sources.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, AL

Presidium Member Nooh-ul-Alam Lenin said they already directed the party men to guard the polling centres so that BNP men cannot create chaos or taint the government's image centring the local body polls.

In many places, they have formed polling centre-based election committees, which would monitor party leaders' activities on the voting day.

Besides, grassroots leaders and activists have been asked to cooperate with the local administration in holding a free, fair and peaceful election.

The AL has also issued instructions to pick trusted and devoted party men as polling agents, said the sources.

On the other hand, the BNP has asked its candidates to appoint "competent and brave" polling agents.

The party also instructed them to make sure that polling agents are present during vote counting and check the figures before signing the result sheets.

Wishing anonymity, a district BNP leader said, "We have started training the polling agents and volunteers. We are briefing them about their election duties and precautions against attempts of vote rigging by ruling party men."

Campaign ends

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VIOLENCE

In Morelganj municipality of Bagerhat, some Awami League men yesterday allegedly attacked the residence of BNP mayor hopeful Abdul Mazid Howladar, leaving five people, including Mazid and a journalist, injured.

In Bagerhat municipality, AL activists allegedly torched a microbus which was being used for campaigning for a party rebel mayor candidate.

In Chaugachha municipality of Jessore, a man was wounded when supporters of AL mayor aspirant and a party rebel candidate locked into a clash.

In Kurigram municipality, unidentified criminals set fire to the AL's upazila unit office around 12:35am.

In Swarupkathi municipality of Pirojpur, some AL and Jubo League men allegedly attacked a group of supporters of BNP mayor hopeful Shafiqul Islam at Jagannathkathi village around 6:00pm when they were distributing voter slips there, said locals.

In Nawhata municipality of Rajshahi, unidentified criminals hurled a crude bomb at some supporters of AL mayor hopeful Abdul Bari Khan in Puthiapara area around 7:00pm, leaving five people injured, said Shariful Islam, OC of Poba Police Station.

CONFUSION OVER CANDIDACIES

In Sitakunda of Chittagong, family members of mayor aspirant Safiul Alam, who resigned from the AL on December 9, yesterday claimed that Alam would not be in the polls race.

The candidate came under attack from some AL men when he was addressing a press conference at Sitakunda Press Club around midnight Sunday.

"I am not feeling secure. The polls atmosphere is not favourable for a fair election," Alam's son-in-law Safiul Ahmed Shamim told The Daily Star quoting the candidate.

This newspaper could not reach Alam over the phone as it was switched off. The mayor hopeful even did not appear in pub-

lic after the attack.

In Satkania of Chittagong, BNP's mayor candidate Rafiqul Alam around noon yesterday announced that he would take part in the polls.

He made the announcement about 20 hours after declaring that he would not contest the polls for fear of "false cases".

Around 3:00pm, Rafiqul came under attack allegedly by AL men when he was campaigning in Kanupukurpar area of the municipality.

EC WARNS MP

The EC yesterday in a letter to lawmaker Gazi M M Amjad Hossain (Sirajganj-3) warned him of not violating the electoral code of conduct, said EC officials.

On Sunday, the commission asked AL lawmakers Dharendra Debnath Shambhu (Barguna-1) and Showkat Hasanur Rahman Rimon (Barguna-2) to leave electoral areas.

As per electoral code of conduct, VIPs including ministers, MPs and parliament whips cannot stay in electoral areas after the announcement of the polls schedule. They only can visit those areas after the voting is completed.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad last evening called upon all political parties and candidates to keep their supporters in check to help the commission hold the polls in a festive mood.

The EC formed a seven-member committee to monitor the overall situation during the polls. Brig Gen Sultanuzzaman Md Saleh Uddin, director general of the EC's National ID wing, will head the team, said EC sources.

In another development, the commission yesterday asked the police authorities to withdraw officers-in-charge of Phulpur Police Station in Mymensingh and Shahjadpur Police Station in Sirajganj for allegedly working in favour of AL mayoral nominees.

With the two, the EC ordered withdrawal of eight OCs in the last two weeks.

Death toll at 43 as wild weather tears across parts of US

AFP, Garland

Texas reeled from rare December tornados yesterday, as days of storms battering a vast region stretching from the southwestern US to Canada claimed at least 43 lives.

Hundreds of flights across the area have been cancelled, and with portions of major highways flooded or snowed under, the storm system is wreaking holiday travel havoc for millions of Americans.

The National Weather Service is warning of blizzards, freezing rain and flash floods in the next days, all part of a powerful storm system fuelled by unseasonably warm air that began in the deep south last Wednesday.

The NWS said yesterday that 21 states --

from New Mexico to as far north as Michigan -- are under a weather watch or warning.

The governors of New Mexico, Texas and Missouri declared states of emergency for all or parts of their states to handle storm damage on Sunday. Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia earlier took similar measures.

At least 11 people were killed as tornadoes struck the heavily populated Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in Texas, according to authorities who searched house-to-house Sunday for additional victims.

The rare December twisters flattened homes, knocked cars off of highways and flipped big-rig trucks like toys. The NWS said that at least nine twisters touched down in the region late Saturday.

Two dead yet to be named

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the suspects.

Rab during an on-the-spot briefing early yesterday did not disclose the identities of the deceased.

Maj Maksudul Alam, deputy director of Rab's media wing, yesterday told The Daily Star that even though they had information about a secret meeting of militants, they only found two men during the raid.

Following the gun battle, Rab during its sweep of the area found the two bodies, explosives, grenades, a pistol, bullets of the pistol, and books on jihad, the Rab official said.

Sources at Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue where the bodies were taken for autopsies said the bodies had both bullet and explosion injuries.

They added that none went to the morgue as of yesterday evening to claim the bodies.

KISHOREGANJ 1 dies, 50 fall sick after taking food at school

UNB, Kishoreganj

A woman died and at least 50 people, including students and their guardians, fell sick after taking food at a programme of Kalika Prasad High School in the district's Bhairab upazila yesterday.

The dead is Asia Khatun, mother of a student of the school.

Food items were served among the students and their guardians at noon at a programme to mark the 50th founding anniversary of the school. Many started vomiting after having the meal.

Fifty-one of the sick were taken to Bhairab Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared Asia dead around 10:00pm.

Dr Bulbul Ahmed, resident medical officer at the health complex, said the victims might have fallen sick due to food poisoning.

Four of the victims were referred to Dhaka for better treatment, he added.

On information, Bhairab upazila nirbahi officer visited the health complex.

Thai junta chief defends verdict in murder of Britons

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's junta chief yesterday hit out at critics of a controversial court verdict which sentenced two Myanmar migrant workers to death for murdering a pair of British tourists last year.

Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Tun were found guilty on Thursday of killing David Miller, 24, and the rape and murder of Hannah Witheridge, 23, whose battered bodies were found on a beach in the southern diving resort of Koh Tao in September 2014.

The killings have sullied Thailand's reputation as a tourist haven and raised questions over its justice system after the defence accused police of bungling their investigation and using the men as scapegoats -- a charge authorities deny.

The verdicts have sparked anger in neighbouring Myanmar, with daily protests there. The country's powerful army chief has urged Thailand to review the case.

2 'robbers' killed

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half an hour from 7:15 am, Adnan claimed.

After the gunfight, the Rab personnel along with local fishermen searched the area and found the bullet-hit bodies of Kashem and Farid, he said, adding that the fishermen identified the bodies.

The elite force members also recovered 17 firearms, 450 bullets and sharp weapons from the spot.

Adnan claimed that the gang had been abducting fishermen of the area for ransom.

The bodies were sent to Mongla Police Station, he added.

Ex-JP MP, 11 others sued

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Mofazzol of Taltola, Md Ibrahim, 72, Md Khadem, 70, of Kushtia in Trishal and Abdul Karim of Mymensingh Sadar.

Advocates Pijush Kanti Sarker, Shafiqul Islam, Sadia Afsana Rima and Moazzem Hossain Babul moved for the complainant.

Contacted, accused Saidur Rahman Ratan denied his involvement in war crimes saying, "All the allegations are totally baseless, motivated and fabricated to tarnish our social and personal images."

Claiming that he was a class VI student in 1971, Ratan, also a local BNP leader, said he was elected chairman of Kanihari Union Parishad in Trishal twice. A vested quarter is trying to keep him away from next year's polls, he alleged.

He said his brother Manik was physically sick and unable to talk to reporters.

Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency, told The Daily Star that they would carry out a preliminary probe into the allegations upon receiving the case documents.

They would start a formal investigation if they found preliminary evidence, he added.

Incidentally, MA Hannan, the incumbent Jatiya Party lawmaker from Trishal, is behind bars in connection with a war crimes case.

Abducted kid found

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he was playing in the yard of a neighbour's house around 9:00am. His father Babu Dutta lodged a general diary (GD) with Kaliganj Police Station in the afternoon.

After a long search, Saurav's body was found with his throat slit in an under-construction building around 2:30pm yesterday. Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Victim's father said he has no enmity with anybody. The abductors did not demand any ransom, he added. He demanded that police find out the criminals and give exemplary punishment.

Contacted, Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station, said they were trying to unearth clue to the murder and arrest the culprits involved.

Japan offers \$8.3m for WWII

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Up to 200,000 women were estimated to have been forced to be sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during WW2, many of them Korean. Other women came from China, the Philippines, Indonesia and Taiwan.

After the meeting Kishida told reporters that Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered a heartfelt apology.

"Prime Minister Abe expresses anew his most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women," Kishida said.

The wording of the deal does not explicitly state that the "comfort women" will receive direct compensation, but states that the fund will provide "support" and bank-roll "projects for recovering the honour and dignity and healing the psychological wounds".

Some former "comfort women", such as Lee Yong-soo, have taken issue with this.

The 88-year-old told the BBC: "I wonder whether the talks took place with the victims really in mind. We're not after the money. If the Japanese committed their sins, they should offer direct official government compensation."

Another former "comfort woman", 88-year-old Yoo Hee-nam, said: "If I look back on my life, we've lived a life deprived of our basic rights as human beings. So I can't be fully satisfied."

"But we've been waiting all this time for the South Korean government to resolve the issue legally. As the government worked hard to settle deal before the turn of the year, I'd like to follow the government's lead."

With only days left until the end of the year, the timing of the talks was highly symbolic and the expectations for results were high.

Earlier in the year, the South Korean president called for a resolution to the "comfort women" dispute by the year's end, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

However, few believed that a quick breakthrough could be reached on a thorny issue that has strained the region for decades and some critics say the talks have been rushed to preserve the symbolism.

It's unclear if Japan's admission of responsibility was legal or just humanitarian, and Tokyo's offer of 1bn yen has been described as a measure to help the women, not as direct government compensation.

The dozens of surviving women have asked for a formal apology specifically addressed to themselves and direct compensation. They say past expressions of regret have been only halfway and insincere.

Negotiators appear to have overcome several obstacles including disagreements over the wording of the agreement and the amount of compensation. Tokyo was reportedly initially considering paying around 100 million yen only.

Japan has repeatedly apologised or acknowledged its responsibility for wartime sex slaves, most notably in a 1993 statement by the then-chief cabinet secretary Yohei Kono.

It had also resisted giving greater compensation, arguing that the dispute was settled in 1965 when diplomatic ties were normalised between the two countries and more than \$800m in economic aid and loans was given to South Korea.

A private fund was also set up in 1995 for the victims and lasted for a decade, but money came from donations and not from the Japanese government.

Treasure found

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were digging at Christmas, belongs to Liu He, who was the grandson of Emperor Wu.

Liu was given the title Haihunhou, or Marquis of Haihun after he was dethroned after 27 days as emperor.

It is believed he was deposed because he lacked both talent and morals.

Other items found at the site include gold plates, hoof-shaped ingots, jade pendants, a distiller, horse-drawn vehicles, a board game and 2,000-year-old bronze lamps.

The goose-shaped lamps, which would have been filled with water, were designed to dispose of the smoke inside the tomb.

Since 2011, more than 10,000 pieces have been discovered at the tombs and 110 of these have gone on display at Jiangxi Provincial Museum in Nanchang.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Food, Ministry of Food
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
Website: www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.03.15-2417 Date: 27/12/2015

International Quotation Notice for Import of Milling Wheat (Package-02)

International quotation in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (fifty thousand) Metric Tons of Milling Wheat. The particulars of quotation are furnished below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh					
1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Food.			
2	Agency	: Not applicable.			
3	Procuring entity name	: Director General of Food.			
4	Procuring entity code	: Not applicable.			
5	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.			
6	Invitation for	: Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Milling Wheat.			
7	Invitation Ref. No.	: 13.01.0000.093.46.03.15-2417			
8	Date	: 27/12/2015			
KEY INFORMATION					
9	Procuring method	: International Request for Quotation.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
10	Budget and source of fund	: GoB Fund.			
11	Development partners (if applicable)	: Not applicable.			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	: Not applicable.			
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	: Not applicable.			
14	Package No.	: Package-02			
15	Package name	: Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Milling Wheat.			
16	Notice publication date	: 28/12/2015			
17	Document last selling date	: 07/01/2016			
18	Closing date and time of submission of quotation	: 10/01/2016, Up to Time: 1:00pm (BST).			
19	Quotation opening date and time	: 10/01/2016, Time: 2:30pm (BST).			
20	Name and address of the office(s) Selling quotation documents	: Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.			
	Receiving place of quotation	: 1) Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. 2) Office Chamber of Joint Secretary, Room No. 114 (1st Floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.			
	Opening place of quotation	: Office Chamber of Additional Director (Procurement), Room No-517 (5th Floor), Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.			
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	: Not applicable.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER/QUOTATIONER					
22	Eligibility of quotationer	: Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the quotation documents.			
23	Brief description of goods or works	: 50,000 (fifty thousand) MT (±5%) of Milling Wheat at Chittagong and Mongla Port on CIF Liner out term at both ends (Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring are on seller's account. Lighterage, if any, is also on seller's account). Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$ for both Chittagong Port and Mongla Port. Quantity must be supplied 60% for Chittagong Port & 40% for Mongla Port.			
24	Brief description of related services	: Not applicable.			
25	(i) Price of quotation document (Tk.)	: Tk. 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 100 (one hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.			
	(ii) Mode of Payment	: Through Letter of Credit (L/C).			
	(iii) Crop year	: 2015 or latest.			
	(iv) Validity of the offer	: Up to 17.00 hrs. BST on 20/01/2016.			
26. Quality & Specification: A)					
	Quality Parameters	Specification Rejection			
i)	Test weight (minimum)	76 Kg/hl below 76 Kg/hl			
ii)	Damaged kernels (maximum)	3% above 3%			
iii)	Foreign material (maximum)	0.7% above 0.7%			
iv)	Shrunken & broken kernels (maximum)	4% above 4%			
v)	Wheat of other classes	4% (including maximum 2% contrasting classes) above 4% (including maximum 2% contrasting classes)			
vi)	Protein content (minimum)	12.5% (at Dry Matter Basis) below 12.5% (at Dry Matter Basis)			
vii)	Moisture content (maximum)	13.5% above 13.5%			
viii)	Dockage (maximum)	1% (All dockage shall be deductible from the value)			
ix)	Radioactivity (maximum)	50 Bq/Kg of ¹³⁷ Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC & South-East Asian Countries.) above 50 Bq/Kg of ¹³⁷ Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC & South-East Asian Countries.)			
C) Organoleptic properties: Bright, clear appearance, natural smell and color					
Pack. No.	Identification of shipment	Country of origin	Location	Tender security amount (US\$)	Completion time in weeks/months
Pack-02	50,000 MT (±5%) Milling Wheat on CIF Liner out term	Any country of the world except Israel	Chittagong -80% and Mongla Port-40%	US\$ 3,00,000 in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Milling Wheat (±5%) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay-Order. (No Bank Guarantee is allowed)	40 (forty) days from the date of signing of the contract
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
27	Name of official inviting quotation	Ilahi Dad Khan.			
28	Designation of official inviting quotation	Director (Procurement).			
29	Address of official inviting quotation	Office Chamber of Director (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.			
30	Contact details of official inviting quotation	Phone: +88-02-9550261, 9556197 Fax: +88-02-9556302			
31	(i) Incomplete, conditional quotation and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all quotations partly or wholly without assigning any reason.				
	(ii) Tenderer/quotationer who has been awarded two LOIs (Letter of Intent) awaiting signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sail for destination, will not be eligible to participate in the tender/quotation.				
	(iii) Tenderer/quotationer who had been awarded LOIs (Letter of Intent) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, will not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders/quotations.				
	(iv) Tenderer/quotationer whose bid-bonds has been forfeited twice for not submitting PG or signing contract on time, will not be eligible to participate in the tender/quotation for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from the bid-bonds so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not.				
	(v) Tenderer/quotationer whose whole PG (Performance Guarantee) had been forfeited for non-supply of the contracted quantity, will not be eligible to participate in the tender/quotation for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from PG so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not.				
Ilahi Dad Khan Director Procurement Division, Directorate General of Food 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka, Phone: 9550261					
GD-3989					

ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন

এডুকেশন এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট ফাউন্ডেশন - এডুকো

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বাড়ি নং ৫০৪, রোড নং ৩৪ ডিওএইচ এস (নতুন), মহাখালী, ঢাকা - ১২০৬।	বাড়ি নং ১২, রোড নং ১৩৮ গুলশান - ১, ঢাকা - ১২১২।