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N'GANJ CITY POLLS

Election code violation on

EC warns some candidates carrying out campaign before symbol allocation

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

A number of mayoral and councillor candidates of Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) polls are allegedly campaigning in violation of an electoral code that prohibits electioneering before allocation of symbols.

Polls officials have verbally warned some councillor candidates but turned a blind eye to the mayoral aspirants.

Under the electoral code of conduct, no candidate, person, organisation or political party can campaign before allocation of electoral symbols.

Polls symbols for the December 22 NCC election would be allocated on December 5.

However, some candidates have been campaigning for last couple of days in the name of different social programmes to draw the attention of voters.

BNP-nominated mayoral candidate Shakhawat Hossain allegedly campaigned in Masdair area in the name of exchanging greetings yesterday morning. His supporters were chanting slogans and seeking votes for "sheaf of paddy", the electoral symbol of BNP.

Hossain along with his supporters on Tuesday allegedly distributed leaflets in central Kheya Ghat area seeking votes.

Ruling Awami League (AL)-nominated mayoral candidate Selina Hayat Ivy on Monday allegedly conducted campaign in Shaheednagar area in the name of exchanging greetings with women.

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NEXT ELECTION
Hasina asks AL men to start campaigning

UNB, Budapest, Hungary

Describing 2019 as the election year for Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged Awami League followers, both at home and abroad, to carry out campaign for the party to retain power as it works for development.

"Country's development will continue only if Awami League is in power. The country will fall behind if any other party other than AL comes to power," she said.

The PM said this while speaking at a civic reception organised by All European Awami League here at Four Seasons Hotel on Tuesday evening.

She said the next general election is getting closer. "It's coming, it is not far away; 2019 is the time

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'We are helpless'

Elected women vice-chairmen in upazila parishad allege non-cooperation from male colleagues, executive officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elected women vice-chairmen of upazila parishads yesterday alleged they did not get proper cooperation from male colleagues and executive officers and eventually face challenges in discharging their duties.

The government has allocated three percent allocation from the upazila's annual development projects for the Women Development Forum, but they do not get that properly and cannot run the projects they are supposed to implement, they added.

They demanded that the government send the three percent allocation directly to the bank accounts of the Women Development Forum.

They raised their voice at a daylong workshop at the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner's Office. The workshop was organised by Upazila Governance Project where women vice-chairmen from 69 upazilas of Dhaka division took part.

The Women Development Forum (WDF) alleged that upazila chairmen and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) could not accept the activities of the WDF.

The WDFs were formed with the aim of enhancing capacity of the elected women representatives in union parishads, upazila parishads and municipalities. The forums also aim at empowering women and ensuring their leadership and participation in local government institutions.

"As per a circular, the Women Development Forum should get three percent from the upazila annual development budget, but I did not get that last year or this year," Sheikh Farida Zahan, female vice-chairman of Sreepur upazila in Gazipur, alleged.

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Harvest rest of paddy for Santals

HC asks Gaibandha sugar mill authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to harvest paddy from another 15 acres of Rangpur Sugar Mills land in next 15 days for Santals in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj as the crop was grown by them.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath passed the order after accepting a report from Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation in this regard.

The report prepared by the management of the sugar mill, said the authorities already harvested paddy from 34 acres and gave the crop to Santals, Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star.

The paddy on 15 acres is yet to ripen and it would take about 15 days to harvest the crop, added the report.

DAG Sazu said the Gaibandha deputy commissioner submitted another report to

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120 silver coins found while digging pond



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Some 120 silver coins with Arabic inscription were found in an earthen pot when labourers were digging a pond in the district's Khansama upazila on Tuesday.

The land belongs to Abdus Samad of Dhoneshahpara village.

Locals said Samad employed some labourers for digging a pond on his land a couple of days ago. During the digging, a worker found the pot. The landowner and the workers tried to hide the incident, but it went public yesterday morning.

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Freshwater croc caught in Padma

The species believed extinct in Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore

A freshwater crocodile was caught from the Padma river at Beelmaria area in Natore's Lalpur upazila yesterday morning.

According to wildlife experts, this species of reptile have already become extinct in Bangladesh.

Police and locals said fisherman Fazir Ali and his son were fishing with nets in the Padma around 10:00am when they caught the 5-foot-long crocodile. They recovered the animal and informed the local administration about the matter.

Being informed, Assistant Commissioner (land) Abu Tahir, Upazila Livestock Officer Mostafizur Rahman and Lalpur Police Station's Officer-In-Charge Abu Obayed rushed to the spot and released the crocodile in a pond in Beelmaria village.

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A freshwater crocodile, thought to have gone extinct in Bangladesh, was caught in a fisherman's net in the Padma in Natore yesterday. The croc was temporarily put into a pond yesterday and would be released back into the river.

MOSUL OFFENSIVE AGAINST IS 5 lakh people in water crisis

AFP, Mosul

Up to 500,000 civilians in Mosul are facing a "catastrophic" drinking water shortage, the UN warned yesterday, as Iraqi forces advance against the Islamic State group in the city.

Already suffering from a severe lack of food and electricity, civilians in Iraq's second city are now also running out of drinkable water, said Lise Grande, UN humanitarian coordinator in Iraq.

"Nearly half a million civilians, already struggling to feed themselves day to day, are now without access to clean drinking water. The impact on children, women and families will be catastrophic," Grande said.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi troops and allied forces launched an offensive last month to retake Mosul, which was seized by IS more than two years ago.

Weeks of fighting have seen the Iraqi forces surround the city and break into its eastern neighbourhoods, where there have been heavy street-to-street battles with the jihadists.

Operations to retake the city have damaged water pipes in recent days and residents in east Mosul say they have resorted to pumping water from wells.

"We don't have water or electricity. We are drinking well water but that's not enough," said Mosul resident Mohamed Khalil, 25.

"Water is the most important thing. We aren't washing. We are going to catch lice and our homes are filthy," said Iman Baker, a 34-year-old mother of three who lives in an eastern neighbourhood recently retaken from IS.

Since the launch of the assault on October 17, more than 70,000 people have fled the fighting, but more than a million people are estimated to remain in the city, including

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