

**MASS CLEANING DRIVE
DSCC aiming
to set Guinness
World Record**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has taken an initiative to have its name listed in the Guinness Book of World Records by cleaning the city en masse.

A DSCC official said they have a target of gathering over 15,000 people to clean the road between Golap Shah Mazar and Jatiya Press Club via Muktagong on April 13.

In this connection, yesterday, DSCC held a press conference, titled "Dettol Porichchhonno Dhaka" (Dettol Clean Dhaka), at the Nagar Bhaban.

Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) of India possesses the current record. Last year, over 5,000 people took part in a cleaning drive in the Indian city.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon urged the city dwellers to participate in the mass cleaning programme. "It's a responsibility of everyone to keep the city clean," he said.

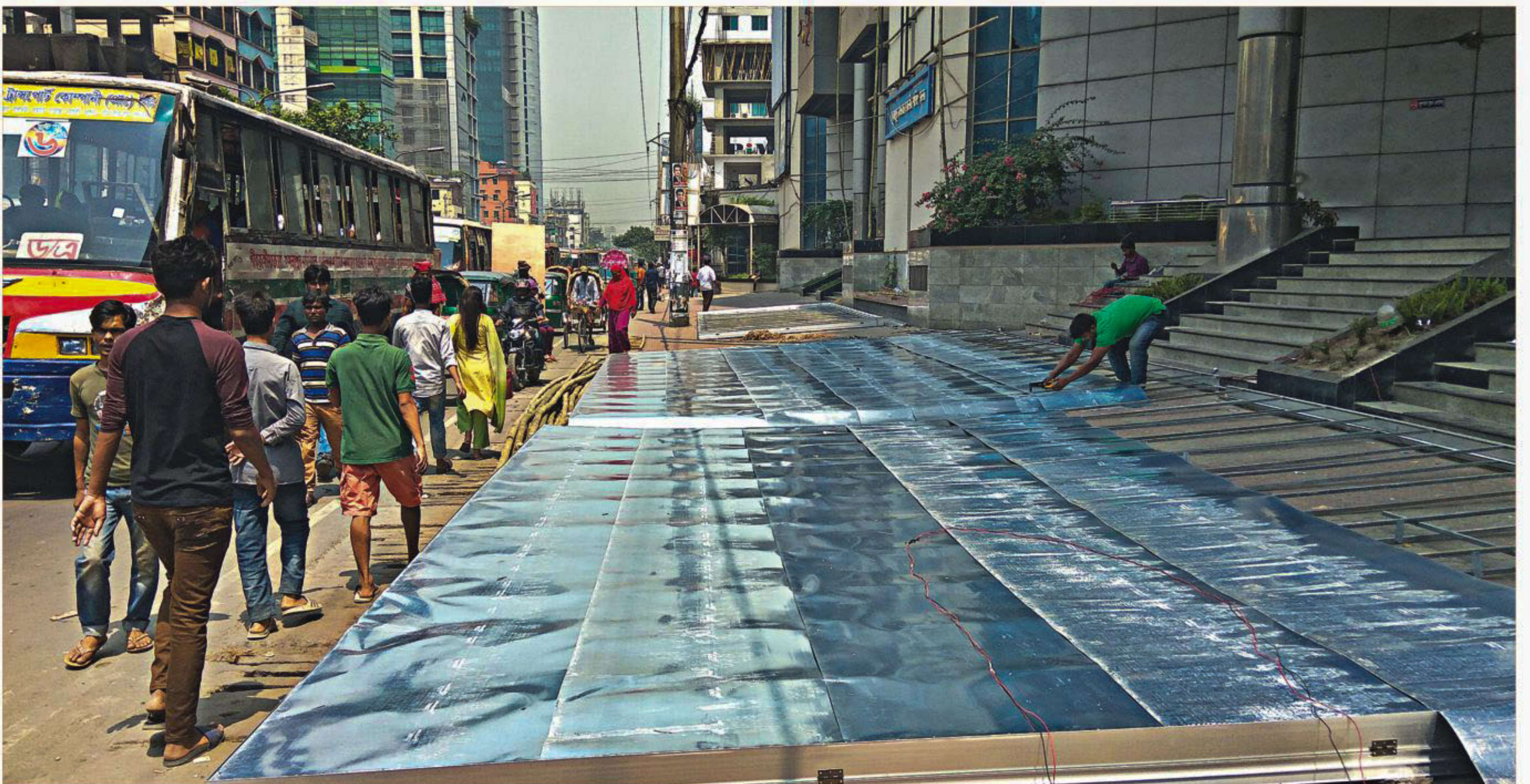
Khokon said, "I urge citizens to take part in the two-hour-long cleaning programme, which will start at 9:00am on the last day of Bangla calendar on April 13."

The registration of the participants will start at 8:00am.

"Through cleaning Dhaka, we will celebrate Bangla Noboborsho (the Bangla New Year, April 14)," he added.

Marketing Director of Reckitt Benckiser

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Dhaka's footpaths are being used for everything except for the reason it was made -- ensuring smooth movement of the pedestrians. Clockwise from top, Occupying the entire breadth of the footpath on Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam Avenue, a worker works on a billboard structure yesterday. People squeeze through a narrow stretch in the front of a footpath in GPO area of Gulistan on Tuesday, as most of it remains under the hawkers' clutch. Almost an identical situation prevails in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**Police seek
10-day remand
for nine trade
union men**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ramna police have submitted a 10-day remand prayer to quiz nine people, including general secretary of Trade Union Centre (TUC), in a case filed over assaulting officials and employees of BGMEA in January.

Sub-inspector Abdul Kuddus of Ramna Police Station, also the case's investigation officer, on Tuesday submitted the petition before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The court, however, fixed April 8 for hearing on the remand prayer.

The accused are: TUC General Secretary Jolly Talukder, Organising Secretary KM Mintu, International Secretary Monju Moin, Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) Central Committee Member Sajedur Rahman Shamim, TUC Gazipur District Unit General Secretary Jalal Howlader, Savar-Ashulia unit Lutfor Rahman and its Central Committee Member Mohammad Shahjahan, and Rassel and Munna, employees of the TUC.

Rassel and Munna were earlier arrested and they are in jail.

On April 1, Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mazharul Haque sent seven of the accused to jail after rejecting their bail in the case. The same court also granted bail to Advocate Mantu Ghosh, president of TUC.

On January 31, Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, additional secretary (administration) of BGMEA, filed an attempt to murder case against 12 people with the police station.

**PAHELA BAISHAKH
Extra hours sought
for celebrations**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural activists yesterday demanded continuation of this year's Pahela Baishakh celebration programmes till 8:00pm across the country against the government's decision to conclude outdoor celebrations by 5:00pm.

Limiting the day's celebration in the name of "security concern" is discouraging for overall cultural practices, they said.

They said it is also contradictory to the government's goal of combating fundamentalism.

The activists were addressing a press conference arranged by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) at Dhaka University.

They also demanded one percent allocation from the upcoming national budget for the cultural sector for its overall development.

Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla calendar, is celebrated on April 14.

On Monday, the government instructed all cultural and other organisations to conclude Pahela Baishakh celebrations at open places by 5:00pm.

"All programmes at open places have

been asked to wrap up by 5:00pm while the authorities of Rabindra Sarobar shall end their programmes by 7:00pm," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said after a meeting at police headquarters.

SSJ President Golam Kuddus said Pahela Baishakh is an integral part of the country's tradition and its celebration cannot be limited.

Replying to a query, Kuddus said the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has informed them that it does not want to take any "risks" by allowing programmes after 5:00pm.

"We did not arrange programmes protesting the government's similar decisions in the last two years," he added.

This year, SSJ will arrange a programme at Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi and the DMP has allowed them to continue till 7:00pm. "But we demanded that the time limit be extended to 8:00pm," he said.

Cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff said many people will prefer to come out in the afternoon on the day and celebrate on their own. Many will miss out celebrations if the programmes are cut short, he said.

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**NEWBORN'S HEAD INJURY DURING C-SECTION
HC not satisfied with
three probe reports**

Forms two-member committee to conduct neutral investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday formed an expert committee to conduct a neutral probe into the incident of causing head injury to a newborn during a Caesarean section in Cumilla Medical College Hospital on March 18.

The two-member committee is headed by Prof Dr Parvin Fatema, head of obstetrics and gynaecology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). The other member is Dr Shaila Khatun, national professor and gynaecology expert.

The court has asked the committee to submit the probe report before it by April 11.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque gave the order during hearing a rule issued by the court on March 25.

The court also directed five doctors of the hospital, involved in the operation, to appear before it on April 11. The five are Karuna Rani Karmokar, Nasrin Aktar Popi, Janibul Hoque, Dilruba Sharmin and Ayesha Afroj.

The HC yesterday exonerated Cumilla's civil surgeon and director of the hospital from appearing before it in connection with the incident, as they were not involved with the Caesarean operation, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Arobindu Kumar Roy told The Daily Star.

Civil Surgeon Mojib Rahman and hospital Director

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**GAZIPUR CITY CORPORATION
AL, BNP gear up for polls**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Several mayoral aspirants from both Awami League and BNP have been vying for securing party tickets to run in the Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) election to be held on May 15.

Some of them have already campaigned and sought "blessings" from voters in different areas, locals said.

Sources in the local AL said at least five party leaders are being considered for the party ticket.

They are: Gazipur city AL President Azmat Ullah Khan, Gazipur city AL Vice-President and former acting city mayor Asadur Rahman Kiron, Gazipur city AL General Secretary Jahangir Alam, city Jubo League Convener Kamrul Ahsan Sarkar Russell and its Joint Convener Saiful Islam.

On the other hand, the names of two BNP leaders are doing the rounds as the possible party candidate. They are: Gazipur Mayor MA Mannan and BNP central leader and former lawmaker Hasan Uddin Sarkar.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda announced the election schedule at a press conference at Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital on Saturday. The deadline for submission of nomination papers is April 12.

Election officials will scrutinise the documents on April 15-16, while candidates can withdraw their candidacy till April 23. GCC has 57 general wards and 19 reserved wards

with around 11.64 lakh voters.

Azmat Ullah Khan, who was defeated by MA Mannan by a margin of over one lakh votes in 2013, said BNP won that election because of some "faults and feud inside local AL back then". "We have overcome those shortcomings in the last five years. The BNP mayor also could not meet the peoples' expectations," he said.

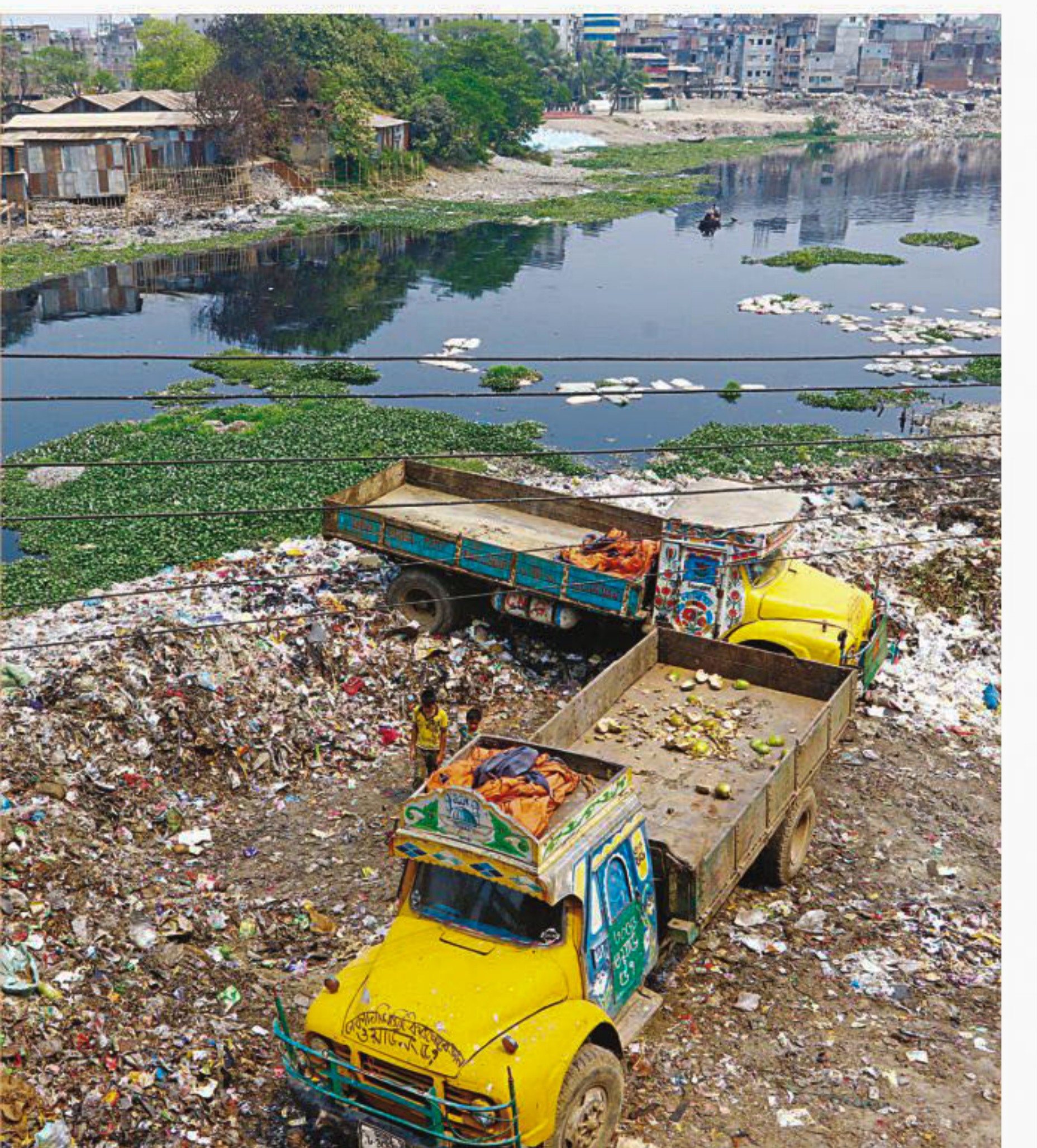
Another AL mayoral aspirant Jahangir Alam said his activities and dedication to the people of Gazipur proved his capability for the post. He hoped the party chief, leaders, supporters, and people of Gazipur would help him win.

Meanwhile, BNP grassroots leaders said they would work for whoever the party selected as a candidate for the election, as they had no alternative but to remain united since the party was no longer in power.

Sazedur Rahman, a Jubo Dal activist and known as a supporter of Mannan, said Mannan had been behind bars for about two years and also faced cases "unjustifiably". "It will help him gain the sympathy of many voters." Gazipur city BNP member Babul Sarkar said Hasan Uddin Sarkar is a competent mayor candidate.

Meanwhile, three mayoral forms, 133 forms for councillors of general wards and 33 forms for reserved wards were collected from the Returning Officer's office in the last two days.

Gazipur city Jamaat Amir SM Sanaullah collected a mayoral form as an "independent candidate" yesterday, said sources at the office.



Two garbage trucks, belonging to the Dhaka South City Corporation, wait by the bank of the Buriganga after dumping waste there. With the custodian of the city itself engaging in such a brazen act, saving these vital lifelines remains a long shot. The photo was taken at Ashrafabad of Kamrangirchar recently. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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