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Polls code violated in Rajshahi

PMO official, Khulna mayor campaign for AL candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

In a clear violation of electoral code of conduct, an official of the Prime Minister's Office and the newly elected mayor of Khulna took part in the campaign for Awami League's mayoral candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton in Rajshahi.

As per the electoral rules, Rajshahi Returning Officer Sayed Amirul Islam says, a "very important person" enjoying government benefits cannot participate in the electioneering in any electoral area during the pre-election period.

But Saifuzzaman Shekhor, who is holding a position at the personal wing of the PMO, talked one-on-one with voters in Saheb Bazar area, flanked by other ruling party leaders. Leaflets seeking vote for Liton were also distributed from the group Shekhor was part of.

Before this, he took part in a procession that began from Rajshahi Central Mosque at Saheb Bazar's Zero Point and paraded up to Sonadighi intersection.

A former student leader of Rajshahi University, Shekhor is an assistant personal secretary (APS-II) to the prime minister.

Contacted, he said, "I did not take part in any election campaign. I went to Katakhalī municipality which is outside Rajshahi City Corporation area. I joined a citizens' rally organised by Katakhalī municipality mayor."

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Newly elected Khulna and Gazipur mayors along with Prime Minister's APS Saifuzzaman Shekhor, fourth from left, campaigning for Awami League mayor candidate Khairuzzaman Liton in Rajshahi city's Shaheb Bazar Zero Point area yesterday. Inset, BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas seeks vote for party mayor nominee Mujibur Rahman Sarwar in Barisal city's Kalijira area.

PHOTO: STAR

Electioneering centres around 'development'

ANWAR ALLI, DWOHA CHOWDHURY, SUSANTA GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

The BNP mayor nominee in Sylhet is cashing in on his development works that he undertook during his term in office, but his rival from Awami League is failing to do so.

It is because immediate past mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury of BNP carried out more development works than what Badar Uddin Ahmed of AL did during his long 17 years at the helm of Sylhet municipality and city corporation, said corporation officials.

The corporation's annual budget increased significantly in the last five years as it received more funding from the government, they added.

But the situation is different in Rajshahi. BNP mayor candidate Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul alleged that he could not implement enough development projects in the city due to obstacles created by the

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Display fees, charges for treatment

HC asks pvt hospitals, diagnostic centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private clinics, hospitals and diagnostic centres must display the charts of their charges and fees in public view, the High Court directed yesterday.

Health secretary, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council have been asked to execute the order within 15 days after receiving the order.

In response to a writ petition, the HC also asked them to form a committee by experts concerned for making rules and policy to monitor the clinics, hospitals and diagnostic centres under the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982, within 60 days after getting the HC order.

The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain within four weeks why they should not be ordered to take steps for setting up ICU/CCU units in all general hospitals at the district headquarters.

It also asked respondents to explain

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Step up efforts for Rohingya return

UNSC urges Myanmar to create conditions for safe repatriation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Security Council yesterday urged the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to create conditions conducive to safe, voluntary and dignified return of the Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

In a statement, the council stressed that progress is also needed by Myanmar for implementing agreements on relations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with Bangladesh on return of the Rohingyas.

"The Members of the Security Council continued to stress the importance of undertaking independent and transparent investigations into allegations of human rights abuses and violations," read a statement issued after the closed-door meeting held at United Nations Headquarters in New York yesterday afternoon.

Diplomatic sources in New York said like the previous four meetings, several Security Council members called for imposing sanctions to put pressure on Myanmar, but China, a close ally of the country and a veto-wielding council member, is highly unlikely to agree.

The new UN Special envoy for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, who visited Myanmar in June and briefed the UNSC yesterday, said Myanmar's leaders want to bring the refugees back, but there are divisions not only between the government and Rohingyas but also between the Muslim minority and the rest of Rakhine's mostly Buddhist population, reports AP.

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Citizen group concerned at attack on Mahmudur

BCL blames locals and BNP-Jamaat men for the attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights yesterday expressed deep concern, frustration and resentment over the attack on Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, allegedly by Chhatra League men on the court premises in Kushtia.

In a statement, the platform demanded arrest and proper punishment of the attackers.

While seeking bail in a defamation case on Sunday, Mahmudur was confined for hours on the court premises in presence of police. When he attempted to leave by his personal car on assurance

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Bee scent could repel elephants



AFP, Tampa

Elephants never forget a bee sting. Their eyes and the sensitive, soft tissue inside their trunks are particularly vulnerable to painful stings, and experts believe African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) have learned over the centuries to recognise the scents bees give off when they are scared and ready to swarm.

Now, researchers say this well-honed fear of bees could be used to help repel the majestic beasts in places where they risk conflicts with humans.

In a three-month field test at South Africa's Greater Kruger National Park, scientists hung white socks filled with bee pheromones, which are chemical clues that honeybees release from their bodies

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2 Bangladeshi 'JMB men' held in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Two Bangladeshi nationals, suspected of being members of the banned terrorist outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), were arrested from Greater Noida in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The arrestees were identified as Musharraf alias Musa and Rubel Ahmed, Uttar Pradesh's Director General of Police (DGP) O P Singh

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 25
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Thai plane's tyres burst on landing

Flight operations suspended for 2 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tyres of a Thai Airways aircraft burst on landing at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) yesterday, leading to the suspension of flight operations at the airport for over two hours.

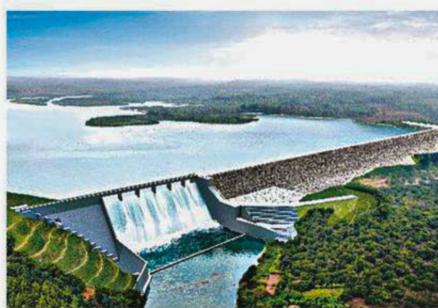
All the 145 passengers on board the aircraft were unhurt and safely evacuated after the incident around 12:18pm, said Group Captain Abdullah Al Farooq, director of the HSIA.

Six tyres of the right bogie of the Boeing 777-200 burst during the landing, he said, adding that the aircraft skidded off the tarmac to nearby grasses moments after touching down.

However, the pilot managed to steer it back to the runway safely.

Officials had to suspend flight operations at the HSIA as the plane brought mud and grasses to the

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This screen grab from ABC Laos footage yesterday shows an aerial view of the flooded plains in Laos' Attapeu province after a dam collapsed the day before. Right, a file photo of the dam. People are being evacuated in San Sai district.

PHOTO: AFP, ABC LAOS NEWS

LAOS DAM COLLAPSE

Hundreds missing

Many feared dead; more than 6,000 people left homeless

AFP, Bangkok

Hundreds are missing and an unknown number feared dead after a partly built hydropower dam in southeast Laos collapsed after heavy rain and sent a wall of water surging through six villages, state media and contractors said yesterday.

Laos News Agency said the accident happened on Monday evening near the border with Cambodia, releasing five billion cubic metres of water -- more than two million Olympic swimming pools.

The agency said there were "several human lives claimed, and several hundreds of people missing" while some 6,600 people had been made homeless as authorities scrambled to evacuate villagers.

Communist Laos is traversed by a vast network of rivers and several dams are being built or planned in the impoverished and landlocked country, which exports most of its hydropower energy to neighbouring countries like Thailand.

Aerial footage posted on the Facebook page of local news outlet ABC Laos showed a vast brown inundation swamping houses and jungle alike over a huge area.

Another video showed families waiting for rescue on the rooftop of their house, with a nearby Buddhist temple partially submerged.

Nearly 24 hours after the collapse local authorities said they were struggling to gauge the extent of the disaster.

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