

# GENERAL ELECTIONS

## Minority community worried that violence against them may rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minority communities have been apprehending that incidents of violence and attacks on them might escalate with the next national elections drawing close.

Leaders of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad expressed the concerns at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Oikya Parishad leaders announced a programme to hold a grand rally at Suhrawardy Udyon on September 28, to share their concerns centring the state, government and political alliances.

National Professor Anisuzzaman will be the chief guest at the rally, said general secretary of the alliance Rana Das Gupta, who read out a written statement at the event.

The number of incidents of attacks on religious minorities and tribal communities have declined across the country but are still prevalent, he said.

Around 380 people of the minority community were attacked this year until August, he added.

The number of attacks and incidents of violence on members of the minority community came down from 1,471 in 2016 to 1,004 in 2017, Oikya Parishad leaders said.

They condemned and protested all attacks and incidents of violence on the minority community, and demanded that the culprits be brought to book.



A manhole remains uncovered right in the middle of a road in the capital's East Bhatara. The pedestrians -- including schoolchildren -- and traffic passing through the spot put themselves at risk of falling into it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**Maj Shafiq Ullah no more**

CITY DESK



Major (retd) Mohammad Shafiq Ullah, a former member of Bangladesh Army's engineer corps, passed away at the Combined Military Hospital in the capital on the evening of September 21. He was 72.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baridhara DOHS Mosque on Saturday after Zohr prayers. He was laid to rest at the Army Graveyard, following military formalities, says a press release.

Retired Armed Forces Officials' Welfare Association (RAOWA), of which Maj Shafiq Ullah was a life member, mourned his passing.

## 'Politics is in the hands of men'

**Mahila Parishad demands higher representation of women in parliament**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday demanded increased participation of women in parliament, and to ensure one-third of reserved seats for women in the House through direct elections.

Women should be engaged in policymaking to improve gender balance in the parliament, they said.

The programme, titled "Election, not nomination, in women's reserved seats at the National Parliament", was organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad on its premises in the capital's Segunbagicha.

Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said women are not being considered a political force, as they are not participating in direct elections in reserved seats.

"Politics is in the hand of men where women have got little to say," said Ayesha.

Cultural Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Ashim Kumar Utkil said there are only a handful of women in the secretariat. "We need to see why women are not coming forward in political sectors," he said.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim urged women to get involved in politics and contribute in their respective sectors.

He said women are being deprived for many years and it is the time they come to the frontline, otherwise there will always be discrimination in society.

Prothom Alo joint editor Sohrab Hasan said, "We do not need a democratic society where we cannot protest." Political parties should be free from communalism, and more women should step forward in politics, he opined.

Ajay Dasgupta, associate editor of Bangla daily Samakal, said, "We need to empower women in local government."

## Scrap Digital

FROM PAGE 3

goes against the spirit of the constitution and will restrict free-thinking, freedom of speech and freedom of expression. It will also impede independent journalism, they feared.

Gono Forum yesterday held the party's central committee meeting a day after Dr Kamal Hossain-led Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, from a citizens' rally, gave an ultimatum to the government to meet its three-point demand including formation of an election-time government by September 30.

BNP, nine partners of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury-led Juktofront and some other small political parties extended their full support to the three-point demand.

## Long road ahead

FROM PAGE 3  
why the cost of road construction in Bangladesh is so high."

He said roads are like arteries of the human body, which should enable transports to move uninterrupted, but here that is not the case.

The objective of Dhaka-Chittagong 4-lane highway has not been realised, the expert added.

Prof Hoque said the government will have to plan now, so that the major road crossings of the country have adequate space for future infrastructure, allowing vehicles to take turns to different regions.

If that is not done, traffic jams cannot be reduced in future, he added.

Urban planner Mobassher Hossain said underdeveloped countries have a special opportunity -- that they can use the latest technology. Bangladesh will have to make use of that opportunity.

Hossain said every highway should have a service lane, so that small vehicles can ply those and the highways remain open to only heavy and long-distance vehicles.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said all road division officials will have to take reform-oriented steps, so that existing obstacles in the sector can be removed.

Roads built with bitumen will not endure in Bangladesh, he said, adding that concrete roads have to be built here, so that they last at least 20 years. At first they may cost more, but if sustainability is taken into account, the cost will be lower than that with bitumen.

Columnist Syed Abul Moksud, Senior Secretary of the Planning Division Ziaul Islam, Secretary of the Road Transport and Highways Division Nazrul Islam, Roads and Highways Department Chief Engineer Ebne Alam Hasan also spoke at event.

## Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Kathmandu, Nepal

### Notice for Tender Invitation

**Tender No. SAARC DF: 01-2018 for the Procurement of SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES)**

The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) invites sealed tenders from reputed and competent companies for the development of a security software and installation of hardware infrastructure for SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES). Bidding is open to all eligible bidders from Member States of SAARC (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). A complete set of tender document will be emailed on submission of a written application to Director (Admn), SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu. Also, interested bidders are required to deposit non-refundable fee of US\$ 500/- (US dollars five hundred only) in the following bank:

Bank: Nabil Bank Limited

Branch: Kathmandu, Nepal

Beneficiary: SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal

Account No: 0103212215401

Swift No: NARB NP KA

Sealed bids must be sent to Director (Admn), SAARC Secretariat, Tridevi Marg, P.O. Box 4222, Kathmandu, Nepal (Phone No. 00977-1-4221694, E-mail: [dirpak@saarc-sec.org](mailto:dirpak@saarc-sec.org)) by 1700 hours, 09 October 2018. Bids received after the deadline will not be entertained.

GD-2242

SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu

## Dhaka North City Corporation

Office of the Project Director

Urban Resilience Project-DNCC Part

House No.: 27, Road No.: 44

Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212

Memo No.: 46.207.000.09.07.128-2019/1307

Date: 20-09-2018

## e-GP Tender Notice

(No. e-GP-01/2018-19)

e-GP tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following package:

Tender ID No.	222623
Name of package	Build Emergency Operation Center (EOC) DRM Office and Urban Resilience Unit Including a Communication Room at DSCC, Dhaka
Tender publication date and time	19-Sep-2018, 19:00
Last date and time for tender selling/downloading	15-Oct-2018, 13:30
Last date and time for tender security submission	15-Oct-2018, 14:00
Last date and time for tender closing/submitting	15-Oct-2018, 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hardcopy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to date and time mentioned in the notice.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Dr Tariq Bin Yousuf

Project Director

Urban Resilience Project-DNCC Part

## Don't nominate

FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, ruling party men at a rally in Pabna on Saturday brought similar allegations against lawmaker Mokbul Hossain (Pabna-3) and urged the party leader not to nominate him as a candidate in the upcoming national election.

Former BCL Leaders' Forum organised the rally at Jerjis intersection in the town.

Ishaque Ali Manik, president of Chatmohar municipality unit AL, alleged, "MP Mokbul [in the last 10 years] has been involved in widespread corruption and irregularities in the constituency."

"Recently, he appointed 90 night guards in Chatmohar in exchange for money. He also manipulated most of the recruitment process in educational institutions during his tenure," he alleged.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mokbul Hossain denied the allegations. He claimed that those who failed to get "illegal benefits" from him were making the allegations.

### 'A MAJOR CONCERN'

According to AL leaders, intra-party conflicts over nominations have become a major concern for party high-ups.

Bringing allegations against existing lawmakers and declaring local MPs "persona non-grata" (unwanted) are results of these conflicts, they said.

On September 10, some leaders of Barisal AL and its associate bodies brought allegations against MP Pankaj Debnath (Barisal-4), also the general secretary of Awami Shuchchhaseb League. The allegations include not maintaining contact with party grassroots.

Before that, three ruling party MPs were declared "persona non-grata" in their constituencies. They are: Monoranjan Sheel Gopal (Dinajpur-1), Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu (Barguna-1) and Kazi Abdul Wadud Dara (Rajshahi-5).

**GENERAL ELECTIONS**

**Minority community worried that violence against them may rise**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minority communities have been apprehending that incidents of violence and attacks on them might escalate with the next national elections drawing close.

Leaders of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad expressed the concerns at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Oikya Parishad leaders announced a programme to hold a grand rally at Suhrawardy Udyon on September 28, to share their concerns centring the state, government and political alliances.

National Professor Anisuzzaman will be the chief guest at the rally, said general secretary of the alliance Rana Das Gupta, who read out a written statement at the event.

The number of incidents of attacks on religious minorities and tribal communities have declined across the country but are still prevalent, he said.

Around 380 people of the minority community were attacked this year until August, he added.

The number of attacks and incidents of violence on members of the minority community came down from 1,471 in 2016 to 1,004 in 2017, Oikya Parishad leaders said.

They condemned and protested all attacks and incidents of violence on the minority community, and demanded that the culprits be brought to book.

**Maj Shafiq Ullah no more**

CITY DESK



Major (retd) Mohammad Shafiq Ullah, a former member of Bangladesh Army's engineer corps, passed away at the Combined Military Hospital in the capital on the evening of September 21. He was 72.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baridhara DOHS Mosque on Saturday after Zohr prayers. He was laid to rest at the Army Graveyard, following military formalities, says a press release.

Retired Armed Forces Officials' Welfare Association (RAOWA), of which Maj Shafiq Ullah was a life member, mourned his passing.

**হরিণ/পাখি**

সরকারের লাইসেন্স নিয়ে হরিণ, পাখী পাখী গালি পাখী গালি করতে চাইলে সার্বিক সহযোগিতা করা যাবে।

বাংলাদেশ ওয়ার্ল্ড লাইফ কর্নজারেশন এন্ড রিয়ারিং এলিমেন্টেশন

২২২, সেনাবাহী রোড, হারিপুর, ঢাকা, ১০১১-২২২২৩০, ০১৭৪৪-২০৮৩৬

মিনি চিড়িয়াখানা পরিদর্শনের সময় বিকাল তাটা থেকে -- সদা ন্যাত

## LOST

I HAVE LOST MY HUSBAND'S PASSPORT NUMBER E-0303539, E-0303540 ALONG WITH SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS. FILED GD NO. 1336, 1335 WITH DOUBLE MOORING MODEL THANA, CTG. JOSNAARABEGUM

D-279

## Sand essential

FROM PAGE 5

Addressing the symposium, National River Conservation Commission Chairman Muzibur Rahman Hawladar said mapping is required to determine areas of river beds for sand extraction.