

# Breaches

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Some BCL men yesterday brought out a bicycle rally as part of the campaigning for Rakibul Islam Rakib, member nominee from the BCL panel, in which four people took part riding motorcycles.

According to the section 3(Ka), any candidate or others on behalf of the candidate cannot bring out a rally, show-down or procession using vehicles, motorcycles, rickshaws, elephants or band party while conducting electioneering.

Violating section 7 of the code, BCL yesterday held a meeting on a stage set up at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla.

Also, posters of a number of BCL leaders, including the ones of its President Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury, were pasted on the walls of Zahurul Haq hall, Sir AF Rahman hall, Muhsin hall, which was a clear violation of the section 6(Ka) and (Kha) of the code.

Also, the BCL's VP nominee Rezwanul conducted electioneering on Tuesday with outsiders, defying the section 4(Ga) of the code.

The JCD yesterday brought out a procession and held a rally in which its DU unit President Al Mehedi Talukder and General Secretary Bashar Siddique were seen taking part, violating section 4 (Ga).

Asked, Bashar said, "We did not take part in the electioneering. We just came to the campus with our panel."

They also conducted campaigning with outsiders on Tuesday.

Witnesses said a colourful procession, accompanied by musical instruments, was brought out on the campus led by Liton Nandi, general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Union and candidate for the post of vice president from the alliance of left-leaning bodies, on Tuesday, breaching Section 3(Ka).

Rejecting the allegation, Liton said, "It was not a band party. It was our musical procession. One of our activists used drums as part of the procession."

On that day, BCL election conducting committee chief Sonjit Chandra Das lodged a complaint against a Liton with the returning office.

Asked about their step regarding the complaint, proctor Golam Rabbani said they could not proceed further as the complainant did not provide any proof to back up his allegation.

The quota reformists violated Section 4(Ga) of the electoral code as non-students joined their election campaign.

Some 42,923 students are going to cast ballots in 18 residential halls of the university during the much-awaited Ducus polls slated for March 11.

# Another stiff

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innings with centuries from skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Soumya Sarkar that helped Bangladesh end the Test on a positive note despite the innings-and-52-run defeat.

It will be important for the visitors now to ensure a collective approach, rather than individual heroics, with both bat and ball if they really want to put up a fight against an upbeat New Zealand side.

Compared to the pitch and weather in Hamilton, it will certainly be more challenging in Wellington as there is rain forecast for the first two days of the Test match. The Wellington surface also looked greenish and is expected to offer initial seam movement, which will certainly help the bowlers while at the same time testing the batters.

The Bangladesh batsmen should once again be prepared for a barrage of bouncers from the Kiwi seamers, which undid the visitors in the first Test.

There is both good and bad news for the visitors as the Tigers are set to miss out on the services of experienced campaigner Mushfiqur Rahim for the second consecutive Test after the wicketkeeper-batsman was unable to recover from his wrist and finger injury.

Tamim has also suffered a groin injury before the start of the Test but is expected to play today, while left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman will almost certainly make a comeback, which would add some strength to the relatively inexperienced bowling attack.

Pacer Khaled Ahmed is likely to make way for Mustafizur while Ebadot Hossain and Jayed need to come up with a better game plan. After conceding 246 runs for two wickets in Hamilton -- the most expensive bowling figures by a Bangladesh bowler -- it was learned that off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz may be replaced by left-arm spinner Taijul Islam.

# Quader

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treatment.

"His kidneys are functioning well and the dose of sedatives has been lessened," Dr Rizvi told reporters at the lobby of Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, adding that he was responding to the doctors' call.

Dr Philip Koh Soon will brief the media at 4:00pm BST today.

Quader, 69, was flown to Singapore on Monday for better treatment as per the advice of renowned Indian cardiologist Dr Devi Shetty.

He was admitted to the BSMMU on Sunday morning following breathing complications. Later, doctors conducted an angiogram and found three blockages in his coronary arteries.



A team of Dhaka South City Corporation inspectors inspect a plastic factory in Old Dhaka's Bakshibazar area yesterday during a drive against illegal chemical warehouses and plastic factories in the old town.

PHOTO: STAR

# Linking women

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Kallyanis who work far away from urban amenities under Infolady Social Enterprise Ltd (iSocial), a business network of women, to reach women, children and adolescent girls with technology-enabled solutions. It was registered in April 2016 under the Companies Act 1994.

Dnet, the organisation behind the initiative, works to promote inclusive growth. It set up iSocial to empower rural women by giving them a means to earn income. At the same time, iSocial brings technology to women's doorsteps in different aspects of life -- health, education, agriculture, hygiene and nutrition.

Dulali joined as a Kallyani in October last year. She had to make an initial investment of about Tk 12,000 to buy necessary tools to give the services for nominal fees.

The Kallyanis they hire are identified under five categories -- information, health, agriculture, adolescents and nutrition -- depending on their role. For example, agriculture Kallyanis are skilled to give information relating to crop and fish cultivation, livestock care and vaccination.

FAhead of the celebration of International Women's Day today with the theme, "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change," iSocial said it was looking to expand its network to 7,500 Kallyanis across the country by 2021. At present, iSocial covers 10 districts.

In a recent interview, Saiduzzaman Pulak, head of programme of iSocial, said when the network acquired full capacity, it would have one service provider for every 300 households per union.

Ananya Raihan, chief executive officer, iSocial, said the target was to make "a last-mile network of young entrepreneurs", thus generating employment and helping attain Sustainable Development Goals tied to women and children.

**OPENING UP THE INTERNET**

A similar project by the government,

Tottho Apa, aims to lead grassroots women to the world of information with the internet.

Witnessing major success in the pilot phase that ran between 2011 and 2015, the women and children affairs ministry has decided to take the project into the second phase.

About one crore women are expected to benefit from information services provided by 1,470 Tottho Apas (women who provide information) at the upazila level across the country until March 2022.

Those who would work as Tottho Apa at 490 information centres in as many upazilas are now undergoing training and are expected to be in the field soon, said Mina Parveen, project director of Tottho Apa.

They will be providing information services in six areas -- education, health, agriculture, legal aid, business and gender -- free of cost. The government estimated its expenditure to be at Tk 544.90 crore for the whole process.

Every Tottho Apa will get an internet-enabled laptop, cycle and tools to test blood sugar level for diabetic patients, measure pressure and weight.

Once implemented, the project would make information easily accessible for women who remain disconnected to the outside world, Parveen said. For example, a mother would talk to her immigrant son via Skype or Viber; board examinees would promptly receive results from the internet; and a job-seeker would know where to apply.

Tottho Apas would also arrange community meetings to raise awareness about domestic violence, women's rights, child marriage and religious edicts.

Project Director Parveen said there was a plan to add e-commerce to the project so that women could showcase their products online to attract customers.

As suggested by those behind the initiatives, innovation is at the core for change and more fresh ideas are likely to come their way to make greater impact.

# Blow for Thai

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reporters outside the court the party accepted the ruling.

"We all had good intentions for the country," he said.

Supporters were seen crying, saying they would vote instead for other opposition parties.

The Election Commission asked the court to dissolve the party after it nominated Princess Ubolratana Rajakanya Sirivadhana Barnavadi for prime minister, which the commission described as "antagonistic toward the constitutional monarchy".

The princess relinquished her royal titles in 1972 but is still officially treated as a senior member of the royal family, which is highly revered in Thailand.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn strongly opposed his sister's nomination, calling it "inappropriate" and unconstitutional and her candidacy was swiftly disqualified by the Election Commission.

While Thai Raksa Chart is not the largest pro-Thaksin party, dissolving it would weaken his supporters' strategy of fielding several separate parties in the hope of securing more seats for Thaksin loyalists.

**'MOVING AHEAD'**

Parties aligned to Thaksin's populist policies have won every election since 2001, but changes in electoral laws have effectively diluted the popular vote, in a bid that his loyalists say is aimed at banishing his influence.

# Six of a family

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Shahida's husband Shahjalal, 35, managed to swim ashore in the incident, the OC said, adding that two teams of divers from Fire Service and Civil Defence were trying to rescue the victims.

# Obstacles don't matter

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She said many people lost their lives in the two fire incidents in Chawkbazar last month and in Nimtoli in 2010. "We will of course relocate the warehouses from the capital and will not let any obstacle stand in our way."

The PM asked the new DNCC mayor and city corporation councillors to perform their duties showing due respect for the people who kept trust in them.

Hasina stressed the need for increasing revenue generation by the city corporations across the country to serve city dwellers.

"City corporations will have to try to stand on their own feet. They will have to increase their own income," she said, adding that Chattogram City Corporation had once become self-dependent during the tenure of late mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

She put emphasis on continuous cleaning of public toilets, bus terminals, railway stations and other public places in the two city corporation areas in Dhaka.

The PM asked the authorities concerned to develop roads, as well as water and sanitation systems in a planned manner.

She stressed the importance of maintaining austerity in using water and electricity, and urged the city dwellers

not to misuse that.

About slum dwellers, Hasina said the government had a plan to construct multi-storey buildings for them so that they could live a better life. They could pay the rent of the flats in the buildings on daily, weekly and monthly basis. The rent would also be affordable, she added.

She said the government would also construct multi-storey buildings for the DNCC cleaning workers like those in the DSCC.

The PM mentioned that construction of four out of 13 multi-storey buildings have already been completed for DSCC cleaning workers.

About the stranded Bihari people, Hasina said the government had a plan to construct flats for them.

There were many Biharis who had expressed allegiance to Pakistan, but the country never took them back from Bangladesh. Now they along with their third and fourth generations are living in inhuman conditions in camps, she added.

"We've already started looking for a place for them. We will construct flats for them so that they can live well."

LGRD Minister Tajul Islam and State Minister for LGRD Swapan Bhattacharya were present at the programme.

# Trump warns

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he'd be disappointed, he added: "I don't think I will be, but we'll see what happens."

Trump and Kim met last week in Vietnam to negotiate on getting rid of North Korea's nuclear arsenal, but the summit broke up early with no progress.

Researchers say that rebuilding of the facility in question has been underway since the summit and may have started before the Vietnam meeting, reported AFP.

"This facility had been dormant since August 2018, indicating the

current activity is deliberate and purposeful," said researchers at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Researchers said that the activity at Sohae Satellite Launching Station in Tongchang-ri may be intended to "demonstrate resolve in the face of US rejection" of the North's request for an easing of sanctions in return for some dismantlement of nuclear weapons infrastructure.

South Korean media said yesterday new activity has been detected at the North Korean intercontinental ballistic missiles plant at Sanumdong in Pyongyang.



Excavators of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority knock down illegal structures on the Buriganga in Washpur of Keraniganj yesterday. The authorities have been conducting an eviction drive along the river since January 29 to save it from encroachment.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

# In JS, out of party

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Meanwhile, the lawmaker last evening joined the parliamentary sitting, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair. He participated in a discussion on the historic March 7.

The Gonoforum letter said, "Your primary membership at the Gonoforum has been cancelled and you have been expelled from the party because of your activities against the party's policy, ideals and people's interest."

Sultan, who ran in the December 30 national election with the BNP's electoral symbol "sheaf of paddy", was also relieved of the member post of Jatiya Oikyafront's steering committee.

"The people of the country are very much disappointed and outraged as you have taken oath, although the ruling party has not taken any initiative on some national crisis, including holding a fresh election immediately after scrapping of the December 30 farcical election," the letter read.

Earlier in the day, Sultan took oath as a member of the 11th parliament.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath at her Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan office at 11:00am.

Sultan told reporters that he took oath on the historic March 7 to play a positive role to ensure the welfare of the people of his constituency (Moulvibazar-2) who had elected him amid a very hostile environment on the polling day.

Sultan, a former Awami League organising secretary, also urged the seven other MPs-elect of the Oikyafront to take oath so that they could talk about people's problems and their rights in parliament.

He said he joined the Jatiya Sangsad as a representative of Dr Kamal Hossain-led Jatiya Oikyafront and its top leader was informed about his oath taking.

"I took the decision on my own as a representative of Jatiya Oikyafront. But I can say that the top leader of the Oikyafront had been informed about what I did."

Mentioning that he was a follower of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sultan said he had told his party and the Oikyafront after the national election

that he would take oath. "And I've kept my word."

Asked about his expulsion from the Gonoforum, he refused to make any comment.

On March 3, two Gonoforum lawmakers-elect sent separate letters to the Speaker, requesting her to arrange their oath-taking ceremony on March 7.

However, the party's other MP-elect Mokabbir Khan (Sylhet-2) didn't take oath yesterday for "unavoidable reasons".

The BNP, Gonoforum, Nagorik Oikya, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob) and Krishok Sramik Janata League had joined the December 30 election under the banner of Jatiya Oikyafront.

The BNP had bagged six seats while Gonoforum won two in the election.

Bringing allegations of widespread irregularities and vote rigging, the alliance rejected the polls results and decided not to join parliament.

Speaking at a press conference in the city yesterday, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi described Sultan's oath-taking as violation of the Oikyafront's decision and an act of "fraudulence in politics".


**'MEMBERSHIP WON'T BE CANCELLED'**

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday said Sultan's parliamentary membership would not be cancelled as he neither resigned from the Gonoforum nor voted against it in the House.

As per article 70 of the constitution, membership of a lawmaker would be vacated if he resigned from his party or voted in the House against it, he told The Daily Star.

Article 70 says, "A person elected as a member of parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he (a) resigns from that party; or (b) votes in parliament against that party; but shall not thereby be disqualified for subsequent election as a member of parliament."

The attorney general also said as there was no Gonoforum lawmaker in the House except for Sultan, no one from the party could cancel his membership.



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**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works, procurement method: Open Tender Method (OTM).

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No/Reference No.	Name of the works	Last date & time for tender/proposal selling	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	Tender/proposal closing date & time
1.	291871	W4/14.31.0000.050.014.002.19	Additional works for 03 nos. Buildings of 650 sft each at Motijheel Postal Colony, Dhaka.	07.04.2019 Upto 16.30	08.04.2019 Upto 12.30	08.04.2019 at 15.00
2.	291872	W5/14.31.0000.050.014.003.19	Additional works for 02 nos. Buildings of 1000 sft each at Motijheel Postal Colony, Dhaka.	07.04.2019 Upto 16.30	08.04.2019 Upto 12.45	08.04.2019 at 15.15
3.	291873	W6/14.31.0000.050.014.004.19	Additional works for 01 no. Buildings of 1000 sft & 01 no. Buildings of 1250 sft at Motijheel Postal Colony, Dhaka.	07.04.2019 Upto 16.30	08.04.2019 Upto 13.00	08.04.2019 at 15.30
4.	291874	W7/14.31.0000.050.014.005.19	Additional works for 01 no. Buildings of 1500 sft and Water reservoir, Substation Room and Drain Apron at Motijheel Postal Colony, Dhaka.	07.04.2019 Upto 16.30	08.04.2019 Upto 13.15	08.04.2019 at 15.30

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