

RANGPUR-3 BY-POLLS

Battle of cousins heats up



Ershad's son and JP candidate Rahgir Al Mahi Saad Ershad, left, and nephew independent candidate Hossain Mokbul Shahriar Asif in election campaign in Rangpur city's Lalbagh and Jahaj Company intersection respectively recently.

KONGKON KARMAKER

With only a few days left for the by-election to Rangpur-3 constituency, aspirants are passing busy days in electioneering. The by-election is slated to be held on October 5.

The parliamentary seat fell vacant after Jatiya Party (JP) chairman and also opposition leader of the House HM Ershad died on July 14.

A total of six aspirants from different political parties are contesting the by-polls. Among them, three are actively campaigning.

Of the candidates, two are Ershad's family members -- his son and JP candidate Rahgir Al Mahi Saad Ershad and nephew Hossain Mokbul Shahriar Asif.

Asif, who is contesting as an independent candidate, had been expelled from the party for violating rules.

Rita Rahman of BNP is also active in the race.

On Saturday and Sunday, the candidates were seen visiting different neighbourhoods in the constituency and trying to woo prospective voters.

Saad was seen campaigning in Mulatol, Sen Para and Lal Bagh areas. While speaking to locals, he promised to continue his father's development work in the area.

Though no JP leaders in Rangpur were seen with him, Saad said "everyone was working for him".

About his cousin Asif, he said, "Asif has the right to contest the by-polls. But I'm optimistic that I will win."

Asif, on the other hand, termed Saad and Rita "outsiders". He campaigned in Sadar upazila and the city corporation areas.

Rita Rahman visited Lalbagh and Co Bazar Intersection areas.

TROUBLE IN JP STRONGHOLD
The constituency (Sadar upazila) is considered the stronghold of JP, the main opposition in parliament. Ershad won all elections he took part in from this seat following the end of his military rule in 1990.

Ershad first got elected in 1991. He was also elected in 2008, 2014 and 2019. Besides, his brother GM Quader and widow Raushan Ershad were also elected MPs in 2001 and 2009 by-elections respectively.

But Saad is rarely getting any support from grassroots leaders, according to party insiders, even though JP Chairman GM Quader has urged party leaders to work for whoever is the nominated candidate.

Early this month, Mostafiz Rahman Mostafa, mayor of Rangpur City Corporation and presidium member of JP, said local leaders will not campaign for Saad if he is nominated.

According to political analysts, both JP and AL are divided over the issue. Some of their party leaders are working for Saad, some for Asif while others have decided to remain silent.

Awami League had nominated its Rangpur district General Secretary Rezaul Karim Razu as its candidate for the by-election. But On September 16, the ruling party candidate quit the race, following directives of party high-ups and is now backing JP candidate Saad.

AL sources said Razu's decision had disheartened the local party men.

Tushar Kanti Mondal, general secretary of Rangpur city unit of



PHOTO: STAR

AL, said they are supporting the JP candidate.

RITA MAY GET UPPER HAND
Meanwhile, some JP leaders speculated that the current situation may end up helping BNP's Rita Rahman.

"Rita got around 54,000 votes in last year's national election. Besides, BNP and its allies are working for her," said a JP leader, wishing anonymity.

Rita, however, alleged that she has been facing obstacles in carrying out campaigns. "I don't believe it [by-polls] will be free and fair," she said. She did not elaborate any further.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir took part in campaign in favour of Rita yesterday. A rally was held at the city's Paira Square. Supporters joined the programme amid rain.

Meanwhile, Fakhrul hurt his left hand as he was about to fall off a moving truck during the election campaign.

HINDU VOTES UNCERTAIN
Hindu community of Rangpur Sadar upazila has been demanding that the Election Commission defer the date of Rangpur-3 by-election, as the announced date of polls falls on the day of Maha Saptami.

The election is scheduled for October 5, while the five-day Durga Puja festivities begins October 4.

Sushanta Bhowmik, vice president of Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad's Rangpur unit and joint general secretary of the city's Puja Udjapan Parishad, said Hindus will not get enough time to cast their votes as the by-polls coincides with Saptami.

Also, there will be a risk of chaos in the polls, he said. There are 70,000 Hindus in Rangpur Sadar upazila.

LOCALS NOT MUCH UPBEAT
Meanwhile, residents of Sadar upazila are not much enthusiastic about the by-polls.

This correspondent spoke to quite a few of them last week. They said they will vote for the person who is from the area and will work for them.

"We want the MP to stay with us, instead of living in the capital," said Sumon Mia of Mulatol area. Uday Roy of Rajendrapur echoed Sumon.

Fakrul Anam Benju, president of Rangpur district Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), told The Daily Star that locals are not excited about the by-polls due to the "rifts" in political parties.

The other contestants are: Shaful Alam of National People's Party, Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah of Gono Front and Touhidur Rahman Mondol of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish.

A total of 4,42,072 people are expected to exercise their franchise in the election.

CEC ASSURES OF ACTIONS AGAINST IRREGULARITIES

The Rangpur-3 by-elections will be held in a free and fair manner and tough actions will be taken if any untoward incident takes place at any polling centre, said Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda in Rangpur yesterday.

The CEC was at a meeting with law enforcement agencies, officials of district election office and deputy commissioner's office at the conference hall of the DC office.

Durga Puja to be celebrated at 31,398 mandaps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hindu community's largest religious festival Durga Puja will be celebrated at some 31,398 puja mandaps across the country, said community leaders.

The number of Puja mandaps were raised by 483 from previous year, according to the statistics of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad.

Of these, the festival will be celebrated at 7,271 mandaps in Dhaka division, 4,456 mandaps in Chittagong, 2,546 in Sylhet, 4,936 in Khulna, 3,512 in Rajshahi, 5,304 in Rangpur, 1,741 in Barishal and 1,632 in Mymensingh, statistics said.

The parishad yesterday presented the data at a press conference at Dhakeshwari National Temple's conference room in the capital.

Reading out a written statement, the parishad's general secretary Nirmal Kumar Chattarjee said the rising number of mandaps clearly reflects the economic progress of the Hindu community as well as the whole nation.

However, leaders of the committee expressed their concern regarding

previous cases of vandalism of mandaps in Jhalakathi, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Sirajganj, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Gaibandha, Mymensingh, Gazipur, Tangail, Chadpur and Noakhali, he added.

Addressing the press conference, the Parishad's president Milon Kanti Datta said, "Violence like idol vandalism could be avoided by implementing exemplary punishment, but such actions are not yet implemented."

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad leaders grievously condemned the Election Commission for not deferring the by-election of Rangpur-3 constituency, as the announced date for polls falls on the day of Maha Saptami.

Earlier on September 22, hundreds from the Hindu community of Rangpur Sadar upazila observed a daylong token hunger-strike, demanding deferment of the by-election.

The leaders also placed a 12-point demand, which included declaring three days of national holiday for Durga Puja, recovery of vested properties, legislation of conservation law, building model temples in each upazila and so on.

Appeal for help

CITY DESK

Salina Akhter, 32, daughter of Habibur Rahman from Dhaka, is suffering from kidney disease, says a press release.

She took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors advised that one of her kidneys should be transplanted.

Salina's family wants to take her to India for the transplant and they need Tk 10 lakh for this purpose. They sought financial help from those well-off in society.

Aid can be sent to Md Amir Hossain (uncle of Salina); A/C No-24122162401, Standard Chartered Bank, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka; bKash A/C No-01718438781.

Two RU BCL leaders suspended

RU CORRESPONDENT

Two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Rajshahi University (RU) unit have been temporarily suspended for misbehaving with and threatening a journalist on campus.

They were suspended on Sunday evening, confirmed a press release signed by BCL central committee's acting president Nahian Khan Joy and acting general secretary Lekhak Bhattacharya.

The suspended leaders are Abdul Hoque, deputy mass education affairs secretary and Abu Hasem, deputy liberation war and research affairs secretary. Both are residential students of Shaheed Habibur Rahman hall of RU.

The press release said on September 28, they violated party rules and regulations by misbehaving with and threatening a journalist, so they were suspended temporarily.

Witnesses said, around 1am on Saturday, the two leaders went to a room in Shaheed Habibur Rahman hall. Abdur Rahman Ashik, who was a campus reporter, was staying at the room. He opened the door and asked why they had knocked. The BCL men then threatened him and began an altercation.

They misbehaved when this correspondent went to the site as well.

Meanwhile the victim has filed a written complaint to the hall provost Zahidul Islam on Sunday. Contacted, Zahidul Islam said, "We have already formed a three member probe committee to look into the matter."

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তারিখঃ ১৪ আশ্বিন, ১৪২৬ বঙ্গাব্দ
২৯ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৯ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

বেসরকারী আইনজীবী পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি স্বার্থ রক্ষার্থে জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষে ও বিপক্ষে সকল মামলা পরিচালনায় বিজ্ঞ এটর্নী জেনারেল ও দেওয়ানী আদালতে সরকার কর্তৃক নিয়োজিত বিজ্ঞ সরকারি আইনজীবীকে সহায়তা প্রদানের নিমিত্ত মহামান্য সুপ্রীম কোর্টের আপিল বিভাগের জন্য ২ (দুই) জন (১ জন ব্যারিস্টারসহ), হাইকোর্ট বিভাগের জন্য ৪ (চার) জন এবং প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনাল ও প্রশাসনিক আপিল ট্রাইব্যুনালের জন্য ২ (দুই) জন সর্বমোট ৮ (আট) জনের একটি বেসরকারি আইনজীবী প্যানেল তালিকাভুক্ত করার লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী আইনজীবীদের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত পুনঃ আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- ১। আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে ঢাকায় স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাসরত হতে হবে;
- ২। আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, বয়স ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত দিতে হবে;
- ৩। আবেদনের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ২(দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে;
- ৪। আবেদনের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, বার কাউন্সিলের সনদপত্র, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র এবং বার কাউন্সিল প্রদত্ত পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্রসহ সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;
- ৫। বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীমকোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ/আপিল বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনায় এডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৭(সাত) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে, তবে অবসরপ্রাপ্ত জেলা জজ/ব্যারিস্টার ডিহীধারীদের ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতার শর্ত শিথিলযোগ্য;
- ৬। আবেদনের সাথে মামলার ধরন অনুযায়ী পরিচালনা ব্যয়ের বিস্তারিত হিসাব উল্লেখ করতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে আইনজীবীগণকে ফি পরিশোধ করা হবে ও সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে এবং সরকারের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;
- ৭। অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- ৮। আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৬০ বছরের অধিক হতে পারবে না; তবে অবসরপ্রাপ্ত জেলা জজ, বিচারক ও অভিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সের সময়সীমা শিথিলযোগ্য;
- ৯। আইনজীবী নিয়োগের মেয়াদ হবে ২(দুই) বছর;
- ১০। উভয়পক্ষের সম্মতিতে চুক্তির মেয়াদ নবায়নযোগ্য;
- ১১। কোন আইনজীবী অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে ৩০(ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে এ বিভাগের সিনিয়র সচিব বরাবরে নোটিশ প্রদান করতে হবে এবং এ বিভাগ ৩০(ত্রিশ) দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে প্যানেলভুক্ত কোন আইনজীবীকে অব্যাহতি প্রদান করতে পারবে;
- ১২। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১৫ (পনের) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে কোন কোর্টের জন্য নিয়োগ পেতে আগ্রহী তা সুস্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখপূর্বক সিনিয়র সচিব, জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা বরাবরে লিখিত আবেদন অতিরিক্ত সচিব (আইন ও শৃঙ্খলা), জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা (কক্ষ নং-১১১, ভবন নং-৮) এর নিকট পৌছাতে হবে;
- ১৩। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদন অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এক্ষেত্রে কোন ধরণের তদবীর প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।
- ১৪। যারা ইতিপূর্বে আবেদন দাখিল করেছেন তাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

(মোঃ মফিজুল ইসলাম)
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ও
সদস্য সচিব

বেসরকারি আইনজীবী নিয়োগ বাছাই কমিটি।



Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed inspected a parade during a ceremony where he handed over regimental colour to four artillery units in Artillery Centre and School in Chattogram's Halishahar yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

HC asks Aman to surrender in 6 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed BNP leader Amanullah Aman to surrender within six weeks before a lower court, in connection with a case filed over issuing death threat to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The court also asked law enforcers not to harass or arrest Aman, a vice chairman of BNP, by this time.

The HC bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Aman, seeking anticipatory bail in the case.

Earlier in the day, Aman appeared before the HC bench for bail.

Advocate Zainul Abedin and Advocate Sagir Hossain Leon appeared for Aman while Deputy Attorney General Aminul Islam represented the government.

Earlier on August 6, the HC ordered four other

Public Service Act-2018 contradicts constitution: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has urged the government to not enact the Public Service Act-2018 as it contradicts the constitutional provision of "all citizens are equal before law".

Issuing a statement, TIB expressed deep concern as the government has taken decision to enact the law, which has a provision stating that government permission will be needed to arrest

government officials and employees accused in criminal cases or corruption cases before a court accepts charge sheets against them.

By including the discriminatory provisions, government's decision to enact the Public Service Act-2018 is contrary to the constitution, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said.

He said the prime minister's firm statement that ongoing anti-corruption drive will be continued, will be questionable if the law is enacted.

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