

Myanmar Muslim MP-elect vows to be rights champion

AFP, Yangon

After five years without a single Muslim MP, Myanmar is in need of someone to help fight for the rights of oppressed minorities, says Sithu Maung as he celebrates his election to parliament.

The 33-year-old was one of just two Muslims out of more than 1,100 candidates for Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party -- up from zero in the last election in 2015.

Muslims number about four percent of the national population and suffer particularly high levels of discrimination.

Sithu Maung sensed victory was on the cards after seeing voters' reactions to him at the polling station, but was overwhelmed to scoop up a decisive 80 percent of the vote in his downtown Yangon constituency.

"People applauded me, shouting my name from their apartments when I passed," the 33-year-old told AFP at his modest studio flat in a crumbling colonial-era building.

Official overall results are not expected until later in the week, but the NLD is confident it has won by a landslide, prompting street celebrations from thousands of supporters despite coronavirus fears.

Sithu Maung's constituency is one

of the most ethnically diverse in the country with around 30,000 residents almost evenly divided between Buddhists and Muslims as well as Rakhine, Chinese and Indian-origin minorities.

"I'll work for people of all religions, particularly those who are discriminated against and oppressed or deprived of human rights," he promised.

- 'Mixed blood' -
But Sithu Maung refused to be drawn publicly on the issue of the stateless Rohingya, whose persecution in Myanmar has cast a pall over his party leader Suu Kyi in the international community's eyes.

Be judicious while spending state money

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health secretary to collect Tk 5 lakh compensation from four officials of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) for their negligence in preserving and protecting hospital equipment, including intensive care unit ventilators.

The four are AMM Shariful Alam, a director and project director between May 3, 2007 and February 8, 2009; Professor Mollah Obaidullah Baki, a professor between August 16, 2009 and May 19, 2013; Prof Md Moarraf Hossain, a director and project director between December 31, 2014 and June 6, 2019; and Prof Manosh Kumar Bashu, who has been the chief of the anaesthesia department since February 7, 2015.

On January 2 this year, the HC issued a suo moto rule and directive after Supreme Court lawyer Manoj Kumar Bhowmick placed a report by The Daily Star titled "ICU on sickbed" before it, seeking necessary orders on this issue.

The same day, it also ordered the health secretary and the DG of DGHS to form a committee and conduct an enquiry into the allegations of negligence by the NICRH authorities, and submit a report before the court upon its completion.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman delivered the verdict after a hearing on the probe report.

In the verdict, the court also ordered three officials of health ministry (service department), directorate general of health services and Cancer and Research Institute to conduct an enquiry into whether Moarraf Hossain had sent letters to the chief technical

managers of National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Centre (Nememw and TC) in order to activate the ventilators in question.

They will complete the enquiry in 15 days on receiving the verdict.

The HC in its judgment said the demand for medical equipment, machineries and medicines must be determined through an expert committee before their purchase, and their standard and quality must be ensured by the committee in accordance with relevant purchase rules.

It also ordered the health secretary and director general of the DGHS to take necessary steps about the recommendations placed by the Anti-Corruption Commission to the health ministry in order to resist corruption and irregularities in the health sector.

It said the authorities must determine whether structures need to be built to install the equipment and machineries after the demand is finalised. The equipment and machineries will have to be purchased only after the structures are readied.

Competent officials and staffers will have to be appointed and trained to operate and maintain the equipment and machineries.

The appointment of the officials and staffers should be made under the revenue sector, not from outsourcing, as outsourcing appointment has no accountability, the HC said in the verdict.

The court ruled that a high-powered committee must be formed at every hospital to examine the standards and quality of the medical equipment and machineries and to keep them active and functional round the clock.

The tenures of the medical

equipment and machineries must be displayed at outside of the rooms where they are installed, it said.

NICRH NEGLIGENCE

The court said if the enquiry committee finds that the claim of Moarraf Hossain of sending letters to activate the ventilators is not true, Tk 5 lakh will have to be collected from him.

If it is proved in the probe that the Nememw and TC officials concealed Moarraf's letters, Tk 5 lakh will have to be collected from each of its (Nememw and TC) officials Md Abdul Kaiyum (joint secretary, now retired) and Md Rezanur Rahman (joint secretary).

The HC bench lifted its January 2 order that directed the government to suspend the retirement financial facilities of Moarraf.

Yesterday, the bench also ordered the health secretary to take departmental action against Prof Manosh Kumar Bashu along with collecting Tk 5 lakh from him.

In the rule, the court asked the government authorities concerned to explain as to why the reported negligence of the NICRH authorities should not be declared illegal.

The NICRH, situated in Mohakhali, is the hospital of choice for patients in the low-income group.

According to an International Agency for Research on Cancer report released last year, about 1.08 lakh people die of cancer while 1.5 lakh are infected with the disease every year in Bangladesh.

Deputy Attorney Generals Amit Talukdar and Sarwar Hossain Bappi represented the state while Kazi Ershadul Alam appeared for The Daily Star.

Awami Jubo

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one lakh tonnes of US wheat for shipment in December 1972 and January 1973.

FM'S EASTERN EUROPE TOUR CONTINUES

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad reached Sofia yesterday on an official visit. He declared upon his arrival at the airport that he was most satisfied with his talks with leaders of other socialist countries he had visited recently. Samad expressed warm sentiments of his people towards Bulgaria. The Bulgarian people, the minister said, supported Bangladesh's liberation struggle with a great deal of sincerity and honesty, for which the newborn country is grateful. Bulgaria was one of the first states to establish diplomatic relations with the country immediately after liberation. Azad hoped that this visit would lead to further expansion of the already established friendly relations between the two countries, he added.

SOURCES: November 12, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Postal dept DG

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notice, several allegations of corruption have been brought against Sudhangshu and evidence was also found in this regard.

16 more die

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On March 8, the health directorate reported the first three Covid-19 cases in the country and the first death occurred on March 18.

On August 26, the number of confirmed cases in the country surged past the 300,000 mark while the death toll exceeded 6,000 on November 4.

Of the deceased in the 24-hour period, 15 were male.

All except one died in hospitals, according to the press release.

Two were aged between 41 and 50, two between 51 and 60 while the other 12 were above 60 years old, added the press release.

Europe's Covid

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Britain, which has imposed a fresh lockdown in England, has the highest death toll in Europe at around 49,000 and health experts have warned that with a current average of more than 20,000 cases daily, the country will exceed its "worst case" scenario of 80,000 deaths.

But France, Spain, Italy and Russia have also reported hundreds of deaths a day and together, the five countries account for almost three quarters of the total fatalities.

Already facing the prospect of a wave of job losses and business failures, governments across the region have been forced to order control measures including local curfews, closing non-essential shops and restricting movement.

France, the worst affected country in the EU, has registered more than 48,700 infections per day over the past week and the Paris region health authority said last week that 92% of the region's ICU capacity was occupied. Facing similar pressures, Belgian and Dutch hospitals have been forced to send some severely ill patients to Germany.

In Italy, which became a global symbol of the crisis when army trucks were used to transport the dead during the early months of the pandemic, daily average new cases are at a peak at more than 32,500. Deaths have been rising by more than 320 per day over the past three weeks.

While the new vaccine being developed by Pfizer and German partner BioNTech will take time to arrive, authorities are hoping that once winter is passed, it will stem further outbreaks next year.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Monday said the European Union would soon sign a contract for 300 million doses of the vaccine, just hours after the drugmaker announced promising late-stage trials.

1,200 stuck with expired

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about 70 percent of Bangladeshi workforce in the Gulf country is involved in this field as unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers, according to the Bangladesh mission there.

An official at the Bangladesh Embassy said those who have valid visas were able to go back to Bahrain from Bangladesh maintaining due health guidelines at present.

However, those who saw their visas expired amid the pandemic are unable to do so, the official said, seeking anonymity.

He added the Bahrain government did not give the embassy any assurance on such visa-holders despite repeated communications.

Sheikh Mohammed Tauhidul Islam, labour welfare counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Manama, said the number of Bahrain-based expatriates stuck in Bangladesh with expired visas could be around 1,200.

Most of them are migrant workers while the list also includes investors and family visa holders. The embassy collected their numbers from various sources, Tauhidul told this newspaper via WhatsApp on October 28.

He said the embassy has been trying in different ways including "issuing an official note verbale" to negotiate with the Bahrain government so that the latter reinstate the expired visas.

Talking to The Daily Star again on Monday, Tauhidul said as per the directive of the ambassador, the mission has prepared a fresh "note verbale" to send to the Bahrain authorities in a day or two. This might lead to a solution, he added.

UK unhappy at exclusion

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transparency. It is now vital to amend the citizenship laws to ensure that everyone can participate fully in Myanmar's political process," the British minister said.

Nigel urged the Myanmar authorities to ensure free and fair elections are held at the earliest opportunity in those areas where they were cancelled.

"We also condemn the kidnapping of parliamentary candidates by the Arakan Army and call for their immediate release," he added.

Meanwhile, regional rights body Fortify Rights has called upon the international community to condemn the mass disenfranchisement of Rohingyas in Myanmar's November 8 national elections.

"A core principle of elections under international law is universal and equal suffrage and that is not what took place," said Ismail Wolff, regional director of Fortify Rights, in a statement on Monday.

Human rights groups and other observers have expressed serious concerns regarding Myanmar's elections this year, including the disenfranchisement of ethnic minority voters, most notably the Rohingyas.

Other concerns include the government's continued crackdown on the rights to freedom of expression

and peaceful assembly, including the arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society actors and activists.

Myanmar's constitution continues to reserve 25 percent of seats in parliament for unelected military officials and grants the military control of key government ministries in contravention of democratic norms, Fortify Rights said.

Following decades of authoritarian military rule, the international community mostly lauded Myanmar's elections in 2015 as a formative step towards democratisation and restoration of human rights despite the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya voters.

Five years on, the Rohingya suffered genocide and crimes against humanity and the National League for Democracy (NLD) government continues to imprison human rights defenders while also failing to reform key institutions, including the military and judiciary, said the rights body.

"Governments in the region and around the world must urgently step up efforts for international accountability and ensure the root causes of the Rohingya genocide are addressed and refugees are able to return to their homes in a safe, dignified, and voluntary manner," said Ismail Wolff.

Scientists discover

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might be several species, though there was never sufficient proof, he added in a news release from the university. There were hints such as differences in their size, color and physiology, which had been chalked up to a subspecies rather than an entirely different group.

But DNA sequencing allowed the team to analyze the gliders' genetic makeup, and confirm the theory for the first time. The study was published in the journal Scientific Reports.

"It changes the whole way we think about them," said Denise McGregor, a PhD student at James Cook University and one of the study authors.

The three species' Latin names are now Petauroides volans, Petauroides minor and Petauroides armillatus, according to the study.

Like koalas, greater gliders eat only eucalyptus leaves. They live in forests along the Great Dividing Range, a major mountain range that runs along the east coast from northern Queensland to southern Victoria.

They were once common -- but their numbers have been falling for years, raising concern among conservationists. Habitat loss and fragmentation pose the biggest threats, with contributing factors like natural disasters, logging and climate change, according to Victoria's environmental agency.

These threats have hit many animal populations hard; Australia has the highest rate of species loss of any

area in the world. But greater gliders are particularly vulnerable due to their specific diet and dependence on mature trees for shelter, and are now listed as "vulnerable" under the IUCN's Red List of threatened species.

Australia's devastating 2019-2020 bushfire season struck another blow to wildlife, including the gliders -- the fires burnt over 97,000 square kilometers (9.7 million hectares) of land and killed millions of animals, said the study. It marked a major environmental and biodiversity crisis, with scientists afraid entire species may be wiped out by the months of relentless fire.

That's partly why this discovery of the three distinct glider species is so significant, the study added -- it could have major implications for their conservation.

"This year Australia experienced a bushfire season of unprecedented severity, resulting in widespread habitat loss and mortality," said Kara Youngentob of the Australian National University, a co-author in the study, in the news release.

"As a result, there's been an increased focus on understanding genetic diversity and structure of species to protect resilience in the face of climate change."

She added that the discovery highlighted a "lack of information" about the two new greater glider species, which could affect future conservation actions and management legislation.

Woman raped

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On October 25, Saddam again forced his way into the woman's home and attempted to rape her, but failed.

On October 29, the woman filed a case with Sudharam Model Police Station against Saddam, who was later arrested and sent to jail through a court, said police.

However, the victim alleged that Saddam's family members are pressuring her to withdraw the case and she is now living in fear.

Contacted, Tilok Barua, sub-inspector of the police station, said police would provide security to the victim if necessary.

Dipok Joyti Khisa, the district's additional superintendent of police, said they were investigating the incident.

In Mymensingh's Tarakanda upazila, a woman filed a case accusing her father-in-law of raping her.

Police said the 20-year-old victim married a neighbour, who had a speech impairment, around two years ago. The couple has a child together.

On November 5, around 11:00pm,

her 50-year old father-in-law found her alone in her room and raped her.

The victim filed a case against him on Monday.

Police are trying to arrest the accused while the victim was sent to hospital for tests, said Md Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Tarakanda Police Station.

In Faridpur, a man was sent to jail yesterday on charge of raping an eight-year-old girl in a village under Nagarkanda upazila.

The accused is Karim Kazi, 22.

Police said Karim went to the child's house around 8:00pm upon learning that she was alone.

When the girl started screaming, locals rushed there and rescued her. She was later admitted to local health complex.

The victim's brother filed a case early yesterday and police arrested Karim yesterday morning. He was then produced before a court, which sent him to jail, said Sohel Rana, OC of Nagarkanda Police Station.

(Our correspondents from Noakhali, Mymensingh and Faridpur contributed to the report.)

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www.dmp.gov.bd	
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থসালে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের ষোড়া ও ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি ষাণ্মাসিক ক্রয়ের (২য় ষাণ্মাসিক-জানুয়ারি-২০২১ হইতে জুন-২০২১ পর্যন্ত) জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ এবং বিধিমালা-২০০৮ মোতাবেক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।	
০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
০২। সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
০৩। দরপত্র ক্রয় কর্তৃপক্ষ	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
০৪। দরপত্র আইটেমের নাম	(১) ক. ষোড়ার বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (আইটেম বাই আইটেম ব্যাসিস) খ. ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (লট বাই লট ব্যাসিস) (২য় ষাণ্মাসিক-জানুয়ারি-২০২১ হইতে জুন-২০২১ পর্যন্ত)।
০৫। দরপত্রের আহবানের নম্বর	২৭ (২০২০-২০২১) অর্থসাল।
০৬। দরপত্রের তারিখ	১০/১১/২০২০।
০৭। দরপত্র জামানত	দরপত্র জামানত হিসাবে (১) ক এর জন্য ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা এবং খ. লটের জন্য ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা বাংলাদেশ সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন সিভিলিয়ান ব্যাংক এর পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট পুলিশ কমিশনার, ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশের অনুকূলে প্যাকেজের প্রতিটি ক্রমিক নং অনুযায়ী দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
০৮। দরপত্র দিলের মূল্য	দরপত্র দিলের মূল্য (১) ক. এর আইটেমের জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) এবং খ. লটের জন্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
০৯। দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (স্থানীয়)।
১০। দরপত্রের অর্থের উৎস	জিওবি (রাজস্ব)।
১১। দরপত্র দিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৯/১২/২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১২। দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১০/১২/২০২০ তারিখ সময় ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে।
১৩। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১০/১২/২০২০ তারিখ সময় ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪। দরপত্র দিল সঞ্জ্ঞাহের ঠিকানা	(১) সহকারী পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইকুইপমেন্ট), রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস্, ঢাকা (২) ডিসি (অর্থ), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা অফিস-৩৬ শহীদ ক্যাপ্টেন মনসুর আলী স্মরণী, ডিএমপি সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা (৩) পুলিশ সুপার (এ্যাডমিন ও টেলিকম), টেলিকম ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা।
১৫। দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার ঠিকানা	(১) সহকারী পুলিশ কমিশনার (ইকুইপমেন্ট), রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস্ এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে, (২) ডিসি (অর্থ), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা অফিস-৩৬ শহীদ ক্যাপ্টেন মনসুর আলী স্মরণী, ডিএমপি সদর দপ্তর, রমনা, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে, (৩) পুলিশ সুপার (এ্যাডমিন ও টেলিকম), টেলিকম ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে।
১৬। দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিকস) এর কার্যালয়, রাজারবাগস্থ লজিস্টিকস বিভাগের (কনফারেন্স কক্ষ নং-১৪), ৩য় তলা, ঢাকা। দরপত্রদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে।
১৭। কাজের সর্বাঙ্গিক বিবরণ	(১) ক. ষোড়ার খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (আইটেম বাই আইটেম ব্যাসিস) ও খ. ক্যানাইন স্কোয়াডের খাদ্য দ্রব্যাদি (লট বাই লট ব্যাসিস) (২য় ষাণ্মাসিক-জানুয়ারি-২০২১ হইতে জুন-২০২১ পর্যন্ত)।
১৮। দরপত্র আহবান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
১৯। দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিকস), ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ।
২০। দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	লজিস্টিকস অফিস, রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইনস্, ঢাকা।
২১। দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে। ক) সিটি কর্পোরেশন/পৌরসভার/ইউনিয়নের নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স। খ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সার্টিফিকেট। গ) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট। ঘ) সদ্য ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট। ঙ) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট। চ) দরপত্রদাতা কর্তৃক উদ্ধৃত একক মূল্যের হিসাবে স্বশিষ্ট আইটেমের মোট সভ্য মূল্যের ২৫% Liquid Asset (Working Capital) থাকিতে হইবে মার্চে ব্যাংকের সনদপত্র। ছ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রসিদ ছবি অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। জ) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের/আইটেমের ০১ (এক) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
২২। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে অত্র দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাহান করার ক্ষমতা অত্র সংস্থা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
	স্বাক্ষরিত/- উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (লজিস্টিকস) ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ

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