

BHABANIPUR CONSTITUENCY

Mamata faces test in by-polls today

AGENCIES

The stage is set for today's assembly by-polls in south Kolkata's high-profile Bhabanipur constituency where West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is seeking the people's mandate to enter the state legislature in order to retain her post.

Mamata, who took charge as Chief Minister for the third time after the Trinamool Congress's mega victory in the state election, needs to win the by-polls as an MLA to retain the top post.

According to the Constitution, a person has to get elected to the legislature within six months of taking oath as a minister.

Mamata, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo, will be pitted against BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal and Left Front's Srijib Biswas. The result will be declared on October 3.

By-polls to Bhabanipur seat, earlier represented by Mamata in 2011 and 2016, was necessitated following the resignation of TMC MLA Sovande Chattopadhyay to help party supremo's election to the assembly.

On directions of the Election Commission, Kolkata police imposed restrictions under Section 144 of CrPc in the 200-metre radius of polling stations in Bhabanipur Assembly constituency from Tuesday evening.

The restrictions will be imposed till the conclusion of voting for the bypolls on September 30.

This came after a delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) comprising Union ministers Bhupender Yadav, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Anurag Thakur and BJP leader Om Pathak met the Election Commission of India (ECI) over violence and issues related to West Bengal by-elections on Tuesday.



Demonstrators carry banners and flags during a protest in front of the Justice Palace after a probe into Beirut blast was frozen, in Beirut, Lebanon yesterday. Powerful parties including the Shia group Hezbollah and others in the ruling elite have alleged bias in the investigation.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MORE NEWS

Russia threatens to block YouTube

Russia yesterday threatened to block YouTube and take other retaliatory measures, after the US video-sharing platform blocked the German-language channels of state broadcaster RT. Moscow has recently been ramping up pressure on foreign tech giants as it seeks greater control over content available online to its domestic audience. At the same time, it has launched a series of efforts to broaden its influence abroad, especially with RT which operates broadcasters and websites in multiple languages. YouTube on Tuesday told German media that it had issued a warning to RT for violating its coronavirus disinformation guidelines and then shuttered two channels for breaching user terms.

Japan ruling party elects Fumio Kishida leader, next PM

Japan's ruling party elected former foreign minister Fumio Kishida its new leader yesterday, setting him on course to become the next prime minister of the world's third-largest economy. The soft-spoken centrist defeated popular vaccine chief Taro Kono in an unusually close race to succeed Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after just a year in office. Kishida, 64, will be confirmed as the new premier in a vote in parliament on October 4 and will then lead the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) into general elections that must happen by November. Speaking after his win, he called on members to 'show the public that the LDP has been reborn, and appeal for their support.'



Indian caught with kilo of gold paste in rectum

A smuggler who stashed nearly one kilo of gold paste in his rectum to get the precious metal past Indian customs has been arrested, officials said yesterday. India is the world's second-largest gold consumer and experts say smuggling has increased in recent years, including by converting the precious metal into paste form. The mule was detained on Monday after a security official noticed the 'presence of metal in body cavity' at Imphal airport in the northeastern state of Manipur. The man, who was bound for New Delhi, was taken for questioning but 'could not reply satisfactorily', the Central Industrial Security Force said in a news release. Officials then took him to the medical examination room where an X-ray of his lower body revealed four capsules filled with gold paste weighing over 900 grams (1.98 pounds).

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Stop violating airspace

Taliban warn US after drones enter Afghanistan territory

AGENCIES

The Taliban yesterday warned of consequences if the United States did not stop flying drones over Afghan airspace.

"The US has violated all international rights and laws as well as its commitments made to the Taliban in Doha, Qatar, with the operation of these drones in Afghanistan," the Taliban said in a statement on Twitter.

"We call on all countries, especially United States, to treat Afghanistan in light of international rights, laws and commitments ... in order to prevent any negative consequences."

US officials were not immediately available to comment. The Taliban Islamist militia swept back into power in Afghanistan last month after most US and other Western troops left, ending a military and diplomatic mission that began soon after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the

- ▶▶ Taliban call for upholding commitments made in Doha
- ▶▶ Afghan army collapse 'took us all by surprise': US defense secy
- ▶▶ Top US general calls Afghanistan a 'strategic failure'

United States, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Mark Milley, appearing before Congress on Tuesday, have acknowledged a series of failures that led to the chaotic withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

"It is clear and obvious that the war in Afghanistan did not end on the terms we wanted with the Taliban now in power in Kabul," General

Milley told the Senate Armed Services Committee, warning that Afghanistan today appears headed towards civil war.

"The fact that the Afghan army we and our partners trained simply melted away - in many cases without firing a shot - took us all by surprise," Austin, a former four-star general who served in Afghanistan, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"It would be dishonest to claim otherwise."

"My analysis was that an accelerated withdrawal, without meeting specific and necessary conditions, risks losing the substantial gains made in Afghanistan, damaging US worldwide credibility and could precipitate a general collapse of the NSF and the Afghan government, resulting in a complete Taliban takeover, or general civil war," Milley said. He called it a "strategic failure".

COP26 'won't be easy'

UN climate chief admits as world faces frequent droughts, flooding, storm surges

AFP, Milan

The forthcoming COP26 summit -- which could determine the viability of the Paris Agreement -- will "not be easy" but an outcome matching the urgency of the crisis is an "absolute necessity", the UN's climate chief said yesterday.

As the world faces stronger and more frequent droughts, wildfires, flooding and storm surges made worse as the planet warms, the COP26 summit in Glasgow is being billed by organisers as a key milestone for keeping the Paris goals within reach.

"The point is decisions need to be taken now, that is why Glasgow is so important," UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa told AFP. Struck to international fanfare in 2015, the accord commits nations to limit global temperature rises to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above those before the onset of the Industrial Revolution.

It also saw countries promise to stick to a safer warming cap of 1.5C through sweeping emissions cuts. Yet, 6 years on, atmospheric levels of planet-warming CO2 have risen steadily and are now at their highest concentrations in roughly three million years.

The latest round of country-by-country emission-cutting pledges -- baked into the Paris deal's "ratchet" mechanism of ever-increasing ambition -- put Earth on course to warm a "catastrophic" 2.7C this century.

COP26, delayed a year due to the pandemic, will provide another chance for states to agree key outstanding elements of the Paris rulebook, or how the aspirational goals outlined in the deal function in practice.



Employees and family members sit in front of the local hydrometeorological sub-station in a flooded village in the central Thai province of Lopburi yesterday, as tropical storm Dianmu caused flooding in 30 provinces across the country.

PHOTO: AFP

Trump had 'Music Man' to calm his rages: new book

AFP, Washington

An aide dubbed the "Music Man" was tasked with playing calming tunes for Donald Trump when he went into rages, according to a scandal-filled book by a former press secretary.



Stephanie Grisham, notorious for not giving a single televised press conference while serving as Trump's chief spokeswoman, writes in "I'll Take Your Questions Now" that her boss went into "terrifying" rants.

The former president and his wife Melania have vociferously condemned the book, excerpts of which appeared Tuesday in The New York Times and Washington Post.

Liz Harrington branded Grisham a "disgruntled former employee" and said the book is "full of falsehoods."

However, as a longtime insider in the tumultuous Trump years, Grisham's book is attracting attention ahead of its publication next week.

One frequent target of Trump's anger, the Times quoted the book as saying, was chief White House

lawyer Pat Cipollone because he'd warn Trump that he was looking to do things that "were unethical or illegal. So (Trump would)... scream at them."

Sometimes, Trump's displeasure took bizarre turns, Grisham was quoted saying.

On one occasion, she was summoned on Air Force One to hear Trump push back against the unflattering description of his penis as resembling a "mushroom" by pornographic film actress Stormy Daniels.

To calm Trump's moods, a handler known to White House staff as the "Music Man" would play him Broadway tunes, including "Memory" from the long-running hit show "Cats," the book claims.



SEPTEMBER 30

1938 - After signing the Munich agreement with Hitler in Germany, Neville Chamberlain returned to Britain and declared that there would be "peace with honour for our time."

2004 - Russia approved Kyoto Protocol, clearing the way to bring the climate change treaty into force.

2006 - The US withdrew its last 30 military personnel from Iceland as it shut its Keflavik naval air base that in its Cold War heyday was the sixth largest town in the island nation.

SOURCE: REUTERS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Prime Minister's Office
Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority
www.beza.gov.bd

Memo No: 03.07.0000.014.07.058.2021-3018 Date: 28/09/2019

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)
Financial Viability Assessment of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)

Description:	
1. Ministry	: Prime Minister's Office
2. Agency	: Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)
3. Procuring Entity Name	: Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)
4. Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka (BEZA HQ)
5. EOI for Selection of	: A consulting firm to ascertain a sustainable financial solution for BEZA to achieve "Financial Viability"
6. EOI Ref. No	: PS11-BEZA-2021
7. EOI Publication Date	: 02 October 2021 or before
Key Information:	
Procurement Method applied	:
a) Procurement Method	: National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
b) Procurement Sub- Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Funding Information:	
Budget and Sources of Funds	: BEZA Own Fund
10. Development Partner (if applicable)	: None
Particular Information:	
Project/Program Code	: Not Applicable
12. Project/Program Name	: Not Applicable
13. EOI Closing Date & Time	: 21 October 2021 at 3.30 PM
Information for Applicant:	
Brief Description of the Assignment	: The service include but not limited to: a. Organizational financial governance, b. Competitive & comparative analysis and c. Business process reengineering.
15. Experiences, Resources, & Delivery	:
16. Capacity Required	:
a) Qualification and Experiences	: i) Minimum 10(ten) years of general experience in the role of Consulting Firm from its years of incorporation (in case of JV, each member shall meet the requirement). ii) Minimum 5 (five) years specific experience and 2 (two) similar assignments within the last 5(five) years under consultancy contract related to financial viability assessment in the role of Prime Consultant (In case of JV the lead partner must have at least 1(one) assignment).
b) Required Financial Capability	: The audited balance sheets, statements of profit & loss and annual reports for the last 3 financial years (FY 2018-19 to FY 2020-21) with 'Annual Average Turnover' of BDT 1,00,00,000/= (one crore taka) for the last 3 (three) financial years.
c) Expected Team Composition	: Team Leader, Senior Financial Expert, Economist, Junior Financial Expert, Assignment Coordinator, Data collector.
Contract Execution Period	: The duration of the contract is expected to be 3 (three) Months.
17. Other Details (if applicable)	: As stated in TOR
18. Association with Foreign Firm	: Not required
19. Package Details	:
20. Ref./Package No.	Location PS11-BEZA-2021 Dhaka (BEZA HQ)
	Indicative Start 1 December 2021
	Indicative Completion Date 28 February 2022
Procuring Entity Details:	
Name & Designation of Official Inviting EOI	: Doyananda Debnath General Manager (Planning & Development)
21. Address of Official Inviting EOI	: Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, Prime Minister's Office, Monem Business District (Level-12), 111, Bir Uttam C.R Dutta Road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh
22. Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI	: Phone: +(88) (02) 9632463 E-mail: doyananda@yahoo.com
23. Particular Instruction	: • The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs for any reason whatsoever; • Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Regulations 2008; • This EOI notice is also available in BEZA website www.beza.gov.bd and CPTU website www.cptu.gov.bd and • The list of required documents to be submitted with application and detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) are available in the website www.beza.gov.bd

Doyananda Debnath
(Joint Secretary)
General Manager (P&D)

GD- 1749