

BNP should take part in polls if it believes in democracy
Says commerce minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP should take part in the upcoming general election if its leaders believe in democracy. Staging protests and creating anarchy on the roads will not solve anything, said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi yesterday.

He made the remarks at a programme of the Diabetes Association in Rangpur.

About the Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) election, the minister said Awami League wants fair polls. Everything should happen as per the voters' wishes.

Saying that AL is the country's largest political party, Tipu said the RCC election result will be favourable if all AL members work collectively for the party-nominated candidate.

The RCC election will be held on December 27.

Besides, the minister said that the PM has been asking the country's people to exercise austerity.

Sale through Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

People will gain trust in EVM if polls are fair
Says Rangpur mayor candidate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A positive message will go to the country's people if the Rangpur City Corporation election is held in a free and fair manner through electronic voting machine (EVM), said mayor candidate Mostafizur Rahman Mostofa yesterday.

The Jatiya Party leader and former mayor was addressing a rally as a part of his election campaign at the city's Modern Mor.

"All the contenders are equal. We want an acceptable and credible election here. If it doesn't happen, the SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Students and pedestrians in general have been left to suffer for seven months due to unfinished roadwork beside Mymensingh's Alexander castle. This is a busy road as three educational institutions, a teacher's training institute and several government offices are located nearby. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: STAR

How long does it take to install a 400-metre pipe?

No respite from unfinished roadwork for students in M'singh city



AMINUL ISLAM

The residents beside Alexander castle in Mymensingh city have been left to suffer due to unfinished roadwork, as the authorities have failed to construct a 400-metre drain pipe over seven months.

Three educational institutions -- Mymensingh Teachers Training College (male), Government Laboratory High School, and pre-primary school "Shishu Kanon" -- are within this area. Over 3,000 students are enrolled in these institutions.

Besides, Higher Secondary Teachers Training Institute and several other government offices are located there. Before the SSC exam that started on September 5, the city authorities promised that the construction work would be completed. However, the promise was not fulfilled.

Faridpur Jannat Construction, the company assigned for the job, started the construction as part of a development project in May this year.

"A huge hole was dug in the road two months ago for installing the pipe. But it is yet to be filled, and we continue to suffer," said Namita Rani, a guardian of a student.

The situation has deteriorated as soil lifted for digging work has been piled up on both sides of the road, added Ashrafun Nahar, another guardian.

"We have left no stones unturned to

pressurise the authorities in finishing the construction work ahead of the SSC examination. We did not get anything concrete but empty promises in return," said Anjuman Ara Begum, headmaster of Govt Laboratory High School.

She said some 1,100 students sat for their SSC examinations in the school. They suffered a lot to reach the exam centre on time and had to leave home way before the schedule.

"Currently, 1,800 students of my school are sitting for their annual exams under similar circumstances. Only the construction firm can say how long this menace will continue," the headmaster said.

Besides, huge ring culverts have been kept on the road just beside the gate of the school for two months, hampering the movement of hundreds of people, including students.

Students said they are struggling to reach school premises for their annual examinations on time.

Contacted, Azharul Haque, assistant engineer of Mymensingh City Corporation, hoped to complete the work by December.

Md Shafiqul Islam, an engineer of Faridpur Jannat Construction, said additional time was needed as they had to remove electric poles on the road.

"Besides, the area is a critical one, as there is 33,000 KV of underground electric lines there. But the work will be completed soon," added the engineer.

Some 1,100 students sat for their SSC examinations in the school. They suffered a lot to reach the exam centre on time and had to leave home way before the schedule.

ANJUMAN ARA BEGUM Headmaster of Govt Laboratory High School

Bangladesh seeks Sweden's support for smooth LDC graduation

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has sought Sweden's continued support to make its LDC graduation smooth and sustainable, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam said yesterday.

He hoped that Bangladesh's onward march to becoming a reliable partner in the global supply chain can be supported by Sweden. He was speaking as the chief guest at a reception held on Tuesday marking 50 years of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The State Minister said relations between Bangladesh and Sweden have strengthened over the years, with the emergence of new avenues of cooperation.

He recalled Sweden was among the first European countries to have recognised

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HC grants bail to ex-NSU trustee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted conditional bail to Md Shahjahan, a former member of North South University's trustee board, in a Tk 304-crore money laundering case.

According to conditions, Shahjahan cannot enter NSU premises and cannot leave the country without permission from the court concerned.

The HC bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice Fahmida Quader granted bail to him after hearing a bail petition filed by Shahjahan.

Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer

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Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) for Individual Consultants (Various Position)
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