

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS Submission of nomination paper Sunday

BSS, Dhaka

Aspirants for the presidential election will have to submit their nomination papers to the Election Commission (EC) tomorrow.

"According to the polls schedule, the nomination papers can be submitted to the chief election commission (CEC) office till 4:00pm on February 12," said EC Secretariat Secretary Md Jahangir Alam.

Scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on February 13 from 10:00am, while nomination papers could be withdrawn till 4:00pm on February 14.

On February 19, the 22nd presidential election

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Their ancestors were brought in by the British to work as cleaners. More than two centuries later, after the birth of a new country, they were replaced without any rehabilitation. They only had the colony in Jatrabari's Dhalpur to live in but now, DSCC has allegedly asked them to leave that space as well. Members of the Telegu community were seen sharing their woes during a protest in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

'Illegal, undemocratic, whimsical'

Oikya Parishad concerned over DSCC's decision to evict Telegu community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday showed their grave concern over the alleged verbal direction of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) to vacate the houses of the Telugu community at Dhalpur of Jatrabari.

The direction was given to the leaders of the Telugu community at the Nagar Bhaban on Thursday, said leaders of the parishad.

While visiting the Outfall Telegu Colony in Jatrabari's Dhalpur yesterday, they said any steps without rehabilitation

are illegal, undemocratic, and whimsical.

They hoped that as a barrister himself, the DSCC mayor would refrain from taking any such unlawful decision, says a press release of the Oikya Parishad.

Kajol Debnath, presidium member of Oikya Parishad, and General Secretary Rana Dasgupta visited the colony.

Around 1,200 residents of the colony are from the Telugu community, and many residents have stopped cooking their daily meals after receiving the mayor's direction, they said.

On February 8, Jatrabari Police

Station Officer-in-Charge Mofizul Alamon called upon the leaders of the community and allegedly threatened them not to organise any protest and inform anyone about the direction, said the parishad leaders.

The community members yesterday held a human chain and a protest rally yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club, demanding their rehabilitation before any such move.

They said the British government had brought the community's ancestors there from the Telangana state in India to

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UN groups concerned over harassment of human-rights organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three special rapporteurs of the United Nations expressed grave concern over the reported harassment of Maayer Daak and Odhikar -- two NGOs that keep track of human-rights records in Bangladesh.

In a joint letter on December 22, the UN working groups alleged that "a smear campaign has been launched aimed at playing down the authenticity of enforced disappearances and questioning the way humanitarian procedure of working groups is operated."

Aua Baldé, chair-rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Clement Nyaletsossi Voule, special rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and Mary Lawlor, special rapporteur on the situation of human-rights defenders, signed the letter sent to government.

"Several outlets have undertaken a smear campaign against the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances [WGEID] and Bangladesh-based human right organisation Odhikar," the letter reads. "[Certain] media reports refer to some individuals allegedly included erroneously in the UN "listing" of victims, and accuse the WGEID of conducting 'sloppy' work."

However, the working group has not published

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End of an era Last cinema hall in Tangail town demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cinema was once one of the means of healthy entertainment for Tangail's people, but now its very existence is being removed.

Tangail's cinema hall business began in 1950, with Lebu Chowdhury constructing Rawshan Talkies in a secluded corner of the then small town. At that time, hall owners were considered to be the "elite class" of society.

Following Chowdhury's footsteps, other cinema halls were opened in 12 upazilas throughout the years. In the 1990s, this number stood at 51.

Inspired by Lebu Chowdhury, Montu Miah established the town's most attractive cinema hall in 1964, next to the main road. He named the hall Rupbani and it was the second hall in the district.



Current state of Malanch Cinema Hall.

The business was profitable till 2000. In the 90s, the halls would screen five shows daily from 10:00am to 1:00pm. During festivals like Eid, large crowds formed in front of the cinema hall. However, in the years that followed, 46 cinema halls were closed—one after the other—due to a lack of audience.

In 1973, Chowdhury, built a second cinema hall named Rupsi. Later, he built three more in Delduar, Mirzapur and Dhanbari upazilas. In 1975, Sana Miah built the fourth cinema hall -- Malanch -- at Adalat Para.

The business was profitable till 2000. In the 90s, the halls would screen five shows daily from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Posters and megaphones were used to publicise the release of new films. During festivals like Eid, large crowds formed in front of the cinema hall.

However, in the years that followed, 46 cinema halls were closed—one after the other—due to a lack of audience.

Earlier in 1996, Rawshan Hall was demolished

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Tawfiq Aziz Khan's 22nd death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former executive editor of The Daily Star, sports writer and commentator.

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfiq joined the then-Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he

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