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FIVE CITY ELECTIONS
41 mayoral aspirants
collect nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 41 mayoral aspirants have collected nomination forms from Awami League, seeking the party's ticket to contest five city corporation polls -- in Gazipur, Sylhet, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barishal.

The form distribution started on Sunday and ended yesterday, according to an AL press release.

As many as 17 persons -- the highest number of nomination-seekers -- bought forms to take part in the Gazipur polls. Ten people collected forms for Sylhet while seven for Barishal.

Four mayoral aspirants, including the incumbent mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, took forms for Khulna, while three persons, including current mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, bought forms for Rajshahi.

The Election Commission on April 3 announced the schedules of elections to five city corporations.

The elections will be held in Gazipur on May 25, Khulna and Barishal on June 12, and Rajshahi and Sylhet on June 2.

AL sources say disgruntled AL leaders running as independent candidates may become a serious issue during the polls this time too.

Since BNP boycotted most of the national and local elections held after 2008, ruling party nominees have faced major challenges from such independents, popularly known as "AL rebels".

This time, AL decided to go tough on the "rebels" and will deter them at any cost from participating in the polls, keeping in mind that BNP will not participate, said party insiders.

Awami League will finalise its candidates at a meeting of its Local Government Nomination Board, to be held on Saturday, AL office secretary Biplab Barua yesterday told reporters at the AL chief's Dhanmondi political office in the capital.

This time, the AL decided to go tough on the "rebels" and will deter them at any cost from participating in the polls, keeping in mind that the BNP will not participate, said party insiders.



Rickshaw-van pullers have an unusual, and illegal, way of parking their vehicles when they're not driving them. They turn the vans upright and tie them to the bars on the dividers in the middle of the road. The tires of the vans protrude outside the divider area, creating a scope for an accident to occur. This photo was taken near Ideal School and College in Motijheel recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

When cons use
Facebook as a tool

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They had a team to keep an eye on law enforcers.

Whenever the group would notice the movement of law enforcement agencies in the area, the members would swiftly give a signal and take shelter in a hideout.

This is how dozens of youths -- who are reportedly defrauding people and raking in huge sums through Facebook pages -- have

been evading the law over the years.

The majority of youths who are involved in this crime live in Chachuri Bazar village in Narail. To swindle people, they open Facebook pages and make posts, showing fake but attractive offers for gadgets, apparel and food.

They ask customers to make advance payments through mobile financial services (MFS). Soon after the payment, the criminals stop all communication.

The Cyber and Special Crime Division of the police's Detective Branch (DB) disclosed the information to this newspaper after a youth who is reportedly involved in this activity was arrested.

"We had to maintain pin-drop silence to conduct a drive in the locality, or else these fraudsters would get alerted through their security team," said Junaed Alam Sarker, additional

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AL govt always for
ensuring rights of
people of all faiths
Says Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that when her party, Awami League, is in power, it always works to ensure the rights of people of all faiths.

She said this when leaders of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Okya Parishad called on her at Gono Bhaban.

The PM told the leaders that religions belong to individuals but festivals are universal.

The premier's deputy press secretary Shakhawat Moon briefed the reporters after the meeting.

During the meeting, leaders of the parishad, led by its general secretary Rana Das Gupta, said that discrimination has been removed in all fields -- such as employment, recruitment and promotion -- in the country.



DSA is for info
security: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the Digital Security Act has been enacted in continuation with different countries who have enforced similar laws to ensure the security of information on digital platforms.

"BNP has been politically opposing this Act as it has been indulging in conspiracies against the state and people using digital platforms," said Quader in a statement, protesting the remarks of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on DSA.

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A journey for improving
millions of lives

MJF celebrates 20 years of partnership with UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Jahanara Akter Parul of Chandpur survived an acid attack back in 2001 at the age of 15, her family was not capable of bearing the expenses of her treatment at a Dhaka hospital.

At that time, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) provided her with support through the Acid Survivors Foundation. Parul recovered from her injuries after a 10-year-long treatment course, which included 12 surgeries.

"My life almost stopped there. Because of MJF's help, I still carried on. I will forever be grateful to the organisation for their support," said Parul, while sharing her stories at an event celebrating 20 years of partnership between the United Kingdom and Manusher Jonno

With support from the UK, MJF has contributed to ensuring rights for the poor and deprived people and developing their lives. Everyone, including MJF and the donors, has to work together to progress further in terms of these achievements.

MA MANNAN, Planning Minister

Foundation at a city hotel yesterday.

Like Parul, MJF has stood beside around three million people -- mostly from the most marginalised communities in Bangladesh -- during its journey in supporting human rights and good governance

since 2002.

At the event, Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, highlighted the achievements of the partnership during her presentation.

She stated that around 400 local organisations received financial and technical support under the partnership.

"We are grateful to the UK government for their support through 20 years. It has sparked the ray of hope in the hearts of the deprived people," Shaheen Anam said at the event.

"MJF has received £107.24 as support from the UK government since 2002. We distributed around 72 percent of the funds among local partner organisations to implement different programmes," she said.

Speaking as chief guest, Planning

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PAHELA BAISHAKH
Letter warns of
possible attack

DU CORRESPONDENT

The organisers of Mangal Shobhajatra have received a letter from anonymous sources that warned of an attack on the event.

Abatahi Rahman, one of the organisers, filed a GD with Shahbagh Police Station on Tuesday night, after discovering the letter attached to a chair at Dhaka University's fine arts faculty.

The letter stated that an attack could happen at any time during the celebration.

According to DU Proctor Prof Maksudur Rahman, law enforcers are alert to face any incident, and the threat should not deter people from participating in the event.

Nur Mohammad, OC of Shahbagh Police Station, said they are investigating.

However, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday that no security threat has been received centring Pahela Baishakh.

Construction of Kewatkhali
bridge to begin in August

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Physical works of the country's largest steel arch bridge in Mymensingh are expected to start in August, as the authorities have almost completed the preparatory works.

The project authorities have already selected consultants for the construction supervision of Kewatkhali Bridge, and a contract will be signed with a consultancy consortium today.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader is expected to join the signing ceremony at his ministry.

"We hope to sign the contract with

the contractor within June and start physical works of the bridge within August," said project director Noor E-Alam.

It would take three years to complete the bridge, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is implementing the Tk 3,263.63-crore project to build the 1,100-metre bridge, which will include a 320-m steel arch over Brahmaputra river. The bridge aims to improve connectivity between the capital and the districts under Mymensingh division.

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The Daily Star
STELLAR WOMEN
Spark Your Inner Power

REGISTRATION
ONGOING

Stellar Women is an initiative of The Daily Star and bti, through which we will be recognising one extraordinary woman every month (from January '23 to December '23), playing a vital role in their distinguished fields for the development of the society and nation.

WE ARE INVITING WOMEN TO REGISTER
IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

CULTURE
REGISTER BY 15TH MAY '23

CORPORATE
REGISTER BY 31ST MAY '23

AGRICULTURE
REGISTER BY 30TH JUNE '23

SCAN OR VISIT
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TO KNOW THE CATEGORY DETAILS

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