

TACKLING DENGUE DNCC to collaborate with scouts and BNCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday said Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and Bangladesh Scouts will work with the city corporation to eliminate mosquitoes in a bid to prevent the dengue outbreak in the capital. The DNCC will take scouts and BNCC members to Mirpur areas on May 17 to raise public awareness about exterminating mosquitoes, said DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam during a preparatory meeting held at the Nagar Bhaban.

In the meeting, the mayor said, "We have decided to launch a massive campaign to raise public awareness and prevent dengue outbreaks. "BNCC and scouts will join our councillors and staff in the fields," Atiqui said.

The mayor said dengue control is possible through raising awareness among people.



Polls code violations rampant in Sylhet

Mayoral candidates defy EC warning, campaign ahead of time



Awami League (left) and Jatiya Party (right) mayoral candidates conducting election campaigns ahead of official campaigning time in Sylhet.



PHOTO: STAR

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

The Sylhet City Corporation election is scheduled for June 21, and despite warnings from the Election Commission, mayoral candidates have been continuously violating electoral rules by running campaigns in the city ahead of schedule.

The City Corporation (Election Code of Conduct) Rules 2016 state that candidates or their supporters can organise street rallies and indoor meetings only after informing the local law enforcement authorities 24 hours in advance. Additionally, no candidate can start campaigning using any electoral symbol before the official allotment, which is scheduled for June 2 in this case.

But the supporters of the ruling Awami League nominated candidate Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, have been organising multiple meetings and campaigns daily, using the party's electoral symbol, boat, which is a clear violation of the electoral rules.

Candidates from other parties, such as Nazrul Islam Babul of Jatiya Party (JP) and Mahmudul Hasan of Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB), have also been found violating the rules in a similar manner. They have been distributing leaflets in different parts of the city, featuring their respective electoral symbols -- "plough" and "hand fan".

Besides, the present mayor, Ariful Haque Chowdhury, who has not yet declared his candidacy, has been appearing in meetings throughout the city, indirectly discussing the upcoming election. This is seen as an attempt to seek votes, which is also against the electoral code of conduct. Returning Officer Faysal Kader issued letters to all mayoral aspirants warning them about the consequences of violating the polls code. The letter emphasised that the EC would



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'Will stand by mother no matter what'

Says Zahangir following permanent expulsion from AL

Suspended Gazipur mayor Zahangir Alam, seemingly undeterred by his permanent expulsion from the Awami League, expressed his determination to continue his political journey alongside his mother, Zaida Khatun, who is vying for the mayoral position in the Gazipur City polls.

When asked about the possibility of withdrawing from the race if requested by AL leaders, Zahangir affirmed, "My mother and I will be in the electoral race till the end. I have to stand by her."

The former mayor has been expelled permanently from AL, said a press release of the party. The press release, signed by office secretary of the party Biplab Barua yesterday, states that the expulsion order will come into effect immediately. Despite learning about his expulsion through the media, Zahangir disclosed that he had not yet been contacted by anyone from AL regarding the decision. Zahangir, who was previously expelled from AL for violating party discipline, received a pardon in January on the condition that any future breaches of organisational rules would be considered unforgivable. Four months later, Zahangir decided to run for the upcoming GCC polls after AL nominated Azamat Ullah Khan, the Gazipur city

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Engage private sector to combat 'modern slavery'

Speakers tell conference

Speakers at a conference yesterday said the country's private sector, especially small and medium enterprises, need to be engaged in fighting and creating awareness against "modern slavery" and human trafficking.

They said despite having the scope, the country's private sector has not been engaged in this fight effectively. USAID's Fight Slavery and Trafficking in Persons (FSTIP) Activity, implemented by Winrock International, organised the conference on "Private Sector Engagement in Counter Trafficking Initiatives" at the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

According to the UN, although modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term for covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking.

Key presenter at the conference, Matthew Scott Friedman, chief executive officer of Hong Kong-based Mekong Club and an internationally renowned expert on the issue, said according to the "Global Slavery Index-2018", over 40 million people are victims of modern slavery, 55 per cent of whom are in Asia.

"SMEs need to know what is happening with the people they are buying materials from or people within the supply chain," he said.

Nazrul Islam, deputy chief of party of FSTIP, said in different countries NGOs and civil society organisations are joining hands with governments to combat human trafficking.

However, the private sector which has the capacity and scope to play a big part in the fight has not been engaged effectively so far, he said.

Mirza Nurul Ghani Shovon, president of Central Board of Directors, National Association of Small and Cottage Industries in Bangladesh, echoed the same. The conference was presided over by Susan Stamper, chief of party at USAID's FSTIP Activity.

80 days of 'sick leave' and CID's clean chit

Accused of custodial torture, 2 Ctg police officers re-join force as final report finds them innocent

FMMIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

After 80 days of "sick leave", two Chattogram police officers, who were accused of torturing a person in custody, returned to work yesterday as the Criminal Investigation Department did not find proof of their involvement in the alleged incident. The officials are officer-in-charge Nazim Uddin and sub-inspector Abdul Aziz of Panchlaish Police Station.

On January 10, OC Nazim arrested one Syed Mohammad Mustakim during a protest against the price hike of kidney dialysis at Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Police filed a case with the station, accusing Mustakim of assaulting law enforcers. Later, Mustakim received bail from a Chattogram court and on February 21, filed a complaint with a court,

Mustakim's attorneys claimed that the OC and the SI purposefully took "sick leave" with the assistance of the higher authorities to avoid being arrested and then re-joined after receiving the go-ahead from the CID report.

alleging that he was tortured inside the police station after his arrest. Following a court order, Md Shahnewaz Khaled, police superintendent of Chattogram CID, filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station on February 22, accusing the OC and SI.

The two went on a sick leave following that. However, in the final report, Khaled said there have been some "mistakes"

to get the facts right in the case as some of the information in the case statement was found to be false. According to court sources, the report was submitted to it last Thursday.

"We did not find evidence of any custodial torture during our investigation," he added.

The OC and SI joined the police station after coming back from their "sick leave". They submitted their medical certificates along with joining letters, said Deputy Commissioner (north) Mokhlesur Rahman.

When asked how did the OC suddenly recover from his "illness" right after the CID report, he said, "I don't know. Anyone can recover from illness at any time."

Meanwhile, Mustakim's attorneys claimed that the OC and the SI purposefully took "sick leave"

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Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of The Director Chittagong Medical College Hospital www.cmch.gov.bd Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2022-2023/5313 Date: 15-05-2023. e-GP Tender Notice This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan, Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Chattogram for the Procurement of:

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