

RACE FOR COUNCILLOR

In Khulna, it's
AL versus AL

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Awami League leaders and activists have become the main contenders of each other for most of the councillor posts in the Khulna City Corporation election.

The mayoral candidates are selected by the parties, whereas councillor candidates are the ones with a local supporter base. Any party can formally endorse any of such candidates.

With the ruling party's support, AL leaders and activists have become the prime contenders in

Five candidates contesting for the councillor post in ward-16. Among them, Mohammad Anisur Rahman Biswas is the incumbent councillor. He joined AL from BNP before the 2018 KCC election and is now an executive committee member of Khulna city unit of AL.

Sheikh Hasan Ittekhkar Chalu, general secretary of ward 16 AL, is also a candidate.

A clash occurred between the supporters of Anisur and Ittekhkar on Sunday night. Ittekhkar has already submitted a written complaint to the returning officer in this regard.



Voters have been showing more interest towards councillor candidates rather than mayoral ones in the upcoming Khulna city polls, slated for June 12. Posters of various councillor candidates can be seen covering most of the city streets and alleys.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

almost all 31 wards of KCC.

In the KCC election, 136 candidates are contesting in the general wards and 39 women candidates are contesting for the reserved seats. Among them, 161 candidates are affiliates with AL, 9 with BNP and 5 with Jamaat, according to sources.

The supporters of councillor candidates from different parties have already reportedly been engaged in scuffles with one another. Some have been hospitalised after being beaten by their rivals.

He said Anisur's supporters beat up his men centring the election.

"He has been threatening us from the very beginning of my candidature. I have already submitted a written complaint to the returning officer but no action has been taken yet," said Ittekhkar.

On the other hand, Anisur said there was a conflict between the two candidates due to business reasons, which has been given a political colour ahead of the KCC polls.

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Barishal gears
up for city polls

SUSHANTA GHOSH and MD ABBAS, from Barishal

The Election Commission started installing CCTV cameras at each polling station and secret ballot booth in preparation for the upcoming Barishal City Corporation elections.

The city polls, featuring seven mayoral candidates, 118 general councillor candidates, and 42 reserved councillor candidates, are scheduled for June 12.

Md Shaheen Sharif, convener of the Camera Installation Committee and the Nesharabad upazila election officer, said a total of 1,146 cameras will be installed at 126 polling stations. He further said the installation process will end by Saturday.

According to Sharif, there will be 894 secret booths for voting. Each secret booth will have one camera installed, and the entrance of each centre will have two cameras.

A trial run is planned for Sunday.

SECURITY TIGHTENED

While visiting various locations within the city, it was found that police check-posts had been set up, and law enforcement agencies were diligently examining vehicle licences to prevent any potential disturbances that may arise.

In response to inquiries regarding this matter, Saiful Islam, chief of Barishal Metropolitan Police, affirmed their heightened state of vigilance.

He said, "We are currently maintaining a high level of alertness, with more than 2,300 police personnel deployed."

He further said 4,400 law enforcement members, including Armed Police Battalion, Ansar, and Border Guard Bangladesh, will be actively present in the field.

MAGISTRATES

Meanwhile, the Barishal district administration is responsible for performing magisterial duties to prevent crime and control law and order in the city on election day.

Confirming the matter, Md Moniruzzaman, assistant returning officer of Barishal city polls and the media coordinator, said an executive magistrate has been assigned to each ward for overseeing the code of conduct.

Additionally, there will be ten judicial magistrates who will be responsible for imposing penalties in case any violations occur. Judicial magistrates will be assigned to three wards.

SADIQ-BACKED CANDIDATE'S CANDIDATURE REJECTED

In other news, the candidacy of Raiz Ahmed alias Manna, a follower of BCC incumbent mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah and former city

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

CCTV cameras and monitoring screens being set up at Barishal's polling centres.

Swindlers active
to put RCC polls
in question

Says returning officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



A group of swindlers have begun extorting candidates for the Rajshahi City Corporation election, according to officials from the regional election commission.

They used Election Commissioner Brig Gen Md Ahsan Habib Khan's (ret'd) photo while demanding money from one councillor candidate and offering him a win in the election in exchange, the returning officer Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

The councillor candidate and Boalia thana election officer filed separate general diaries with Boalia Police Station, he said.

In a press release, the RO asked people for information leading to the capture of the culprits and said the miscreants have become active to put the election's occurrence in question.

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COX'S BAZAR POLLS

Rebel trouble
haunts AL

MOKAMMEL SHUVO



The politics of Awami League in Cox's Bazar is in utter chaos ahead of the municipality election scheduled for June 12.

The situation escalated since both mayoral candidates, who have the potential to win the polls, belong to AL.

Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury got the AL ticket for the mayoral race, while his opponent Masedul Haque Rashed, an expelled AL leader, is taking part in the election as an independent candidate for the mayoral post.

The debate started when AL announced the name of Mahbubur Rahman popularly known as Mabu, as its mayoral candidate on April 15, dropping Mujibor Rahman, a heavy-weight politician, and five other AL leaders, who sought the AL nomination.

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Save old
Brahmaputra

Demand residents
of Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

A group of locals yesterday threatened to continue their protest if the ongoing dredging of the Old Brahmaputra in Mymensingh is not completed within the specified time frame.

Nagorik Andolon organised the "Nagorik Ahajari" rally at the Kachari Ferry Ghat on the river.

People from all walks of life participated in the event.

Participants said the Old Brahmaputra is nearly extinct and steps have to be taken to save the river.

The protestors said they were born by the river and they must raise voice in unison to protect the Brahmaputra.

The secretary of the forum, freedom fighter Nurul Amin Kalam, said before beginning the excavation in 2019, the authorities claimed that the river would have a reasonable depth and width during the dry season, but the waterbody is drying up at various locations.

He said the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority began the dredging work at a cost of approximately Tk 2,763 crore at the end of 2019, with its completion scheduled for 2020.

However, the work is still unfinished.

Forum president AHM Khalequzzaman, joint-secretary Shabbir Ahmed Liton, and member Md Mizanur Rahman Liton spoke at the occasion, among others.

PRAYER
TIMING

JUNE 10

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:05

12:45

5:00

6:50

8:15

JAMAAT 4:40

1:15

5:15

6:55

8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



CHANGE
MAKER

In a landscape where adversity often extinguishes the flicker of hope, a resilient woman has emerged as a beacon of self-employment, defying all the odds with determination. Suraiya Farhana Reshma, 37, an entrepreneur, has overcome the harsh blows of abandonment from both her father and her estranged husband to forge her indomitable path.

From abandonment to
EMPOWERMENT

Reshma paves a path to success

MOSTAFA SHABUIJ, Bogura

Her story is nothing short of a fairy tale.

Reshma was only two months old when her father left her mother Hosne Ara. Every day was a battle for Hosne Ara to provide for her baby girl, and as Reshma entered eighth grade, poverty forced her into an arranged marriage.

To make things worse, her husband turned out to be a gambler and drug addict, subjecting Reshma to relentless abuse in his pursuit of drug money, even in front of her mother, who used to live with them.

So she decided to divorce him, liberating herself and her mother from the clutches of despair.

Rebuilding their shattered lives, Reshma and her mother found solace in Bonga village, nestled in the Sherpur upazila of Bogura. However, the shadows of Reshma's past haunted her every move. People's curiosity about her absent father and estranged husband served as a constant reminder of her painful past, igniting a fire within her to establish her own identity.

With no financial means or formal education, Reshma faced an

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Reshma acknowledges support she has received from agriculture and livestock offices, Jubo Unnayan Kendra and Rural Development Academy. Above all, she cherishes her mother's unwavering support, who she describes as "an anchor amid life's tempestuous seas."

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Shafiqul Mannan
Apartment Owner, Project: Grand Nawab

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