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FIELD ADMINISTRATION, POLICE

Big changes on cards with polls in mind

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A major reshuffle in the administration and police at the field-level is on the cards in the coming weeks. Many consider it a significant move as the next general election will be held under the supervision of DCs and SPs.

The reshuffle will take place mainly in the ranks of deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP).

Besides, there will be many big changes in the police department, according to sources in the public administration and home ministries.

DCs and SPs are posted in a district for around three years before they are transferred. During elections, the DCs act as Returning Officers while SPs discharge their duties to maintain the law and order situation in their respective districts.

The government wants to post the new DCs and SPs soon because unless they are familiar with the areas where they will work, they won't be able to play the vital role in conducting the election, said sources.

The reshuffle in the police department will see the in-situ promotion (officials who hold the same office and discharge the same duty after elevation) of 720 top-ranking police officials.

The police headquarters (PHQ) has already sent a proposal to the home ministry to that end. Upon receiving the proposal, the home ministry has formed a committee to evaluate it.

With the US announcing its new visa policy, the government wants to bring in police officials with a clean image, highly placed sources in the Home Ministry and PHQ told The Daily Star.

According to the proposal, the PHQ seeks promotions for 16 additional inspectors general of police (Grade-II) from the 15th BCS batch to the rank of additional IGP (Grade-I).

If the proposal is approved, six additional IGP ranking officials will get in-situ postings at the PHQ, and the 10 additional IGP ranking officials will be posted at the CID, Police Telecom, Railway and Highway Police, PBI, Industrial Police, Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU), Sarda Police Academy, Police Staff College, and Armed Police Battalion.

The PHQ also seeks in-situ promotion for 34 deputy IGPs from the 17th BCS batch to the rank of additional IGP, for 157 additional DIGs

New DCs, SPs in around 25 districts

25th, 27th BCS batches to dominate DC, SP posts

Promotion of 720 police officers

Deputy secretaries to be promoted to joint secretary rank

Changes in DIG, additional DIG, additional SP posts

Massive reshuffle in posts of OCs



PHOTO: JAHIDUL ISLAM

Sand extracted illegally from the bottom of the Meghna is being conveyed through the pipelines to different storage sites in Narsingdi town. Officials say sand extraction is banned because it exacerbates the erosion of the banks in monsoon. The photo was taken on Friday at Nagorikandi bridge in Narsingdi.

Flurry of pledges on last day of campaign

AL candidate's dominance seen in the heart of Barishal; IAB strong on the city outskirts

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, SUSHANTA GHOSH, and MD ABBAS, from Barishal

Election campaign in Barishal City Corporation ended yesterday with Awami League mayor nominee Abul Khair Abdullah promising to complete the unfinished development initiatives.

In what turned out to be a three-way battle, Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) nominee Mufti Syed Faizul Karim wrapped up his campaign with a pledge to create employment opportunities for the residents of Barishal city which goes to polls tomorrow.

Independent candidate and suspended BNP leader Kamrul Ahsan alleged that some local BNP activists and leaders were working for the AL nominee in exchange for money. He said that if elected, he would turn Barishal

into a green city where public representatives would be held accountable.

While AL nominee Khair's campaign dominated the heart of the city, IAB's Faizul Karim mainly tried to woo voters who live away from the city centre.

Most of the madrasas in Barishal are in ward 22, 23, and 24 on the outskirts of the city. Many believe that most of the madrasa teachers and the students' parents will vote for the IAB nominee.

Faizul himself is a voter of ward 24. Hridhoy Talukder, a resident of ward 26, said he had not seen the AL nominee campaigning in his neighbourhood.

"But the Islami Andolon Bangladesh nominee visited our area twice," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Voters showing little interest

Many point at absence of strong challenger to AL mayoral candidate in Khulna

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU with SAJJAD HOSSAIN, from Khulna

The mayoral candidates in Khulna city have seemingly failed to generate enthusiasm among voters through their 16-day electioneering that ended yesterday.

The streets of Khulna city have been practically covered in posters and banners.

However, it is quite evident that there is little enthusiasm among the constituents.

According to voters and civil society members, the absence of a strong opponent to the ruling Awami League mayor nominee has resulted in a lack of interest.

Had the BNP participated in the polls, the picture would've been different, they said, adding that the lack of enthusiasm might result in a low voter turnout in

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ISLAMIC FINANCE IN BANGLADESH



Awami League central leaders join a campaign for party mayor candidate, Abul Khair Abdullah, in the Barishal City Corporation election on Sadar Road area yesterday. *Bottom left*, Ansar members patrolling near Khulna city's Picture Palace intersection, and a vehicle, *Bottom right*, is getting ready for electioneering through microphone near Hadis Park in the city. The two city corporations go to polls tomorrow and yesterday was the last day for campaigning.

PHOTO: TITU DAS, HABIBUR RAHMAN



Rest assured of security at polling stations

CEC to voters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday urged voters to cast their votes early and assured them of adequate security at the polling stations.

"Voters can go to the polling station safely... we are giving that assurance. A large number of law enforcers will be present at each polling station," he said at a conference organised by Sylhet Regional Election Office at an auditorium in Sylhet city.

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Jamaat holds rally after a decade

Demands caretaker govt system's restoration, release of party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the permission of police, Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday held a rally in the capital after 10 years.

Dhaka (south) city unit Jamaat organised it at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, to realise the party's three-point demand that include controlling high prices of daily essentials, release of its Ameer Shaliquur Rahman and other leaders and the next national election under a caretaker government.

Last time, Jamaat was allowed to stage a rally at Shapla Chatter on February 5, 2013, protesting the trial of its top leaders in the International Crimes Tribunal for their alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

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