

JP mayor candidate announces manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jatiya Party's mayoral candidate Saiful Islam Swapan yesterday announced a 36-point manifesto for the Rajshahi City Corporation election, giving priority to more employment opportunity and reduction of taxes.

He made the announcement at a press conference held at the party office.

Swapan also emphasised on establishing school and colleges at every ward.

The candidate vowed to build a separate market for small traders who are occupying the city's footpaths.

He also pledged for building a drug and crime free city.



With the elections scheduled to be held tomorrow, security has been tightened in Barishal city. Border Guard Bangladesh teams have started patrolling various streets yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Newborn stolen from Natore, rescued in Kushtia
Two women held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Natore Sadar police rescued a newborn from Kushtia early yesterday, a day after she was stolen from Natore Modern Sadar Hospital.

In connection with the incident, two women – Kazoli Khatun, 30, of Varal Bashpara in Poradah upazila, Kushtia; and Kazoli, 42, of village Khazanagar in Kushtia Sadar upazila – were arrested.

Jamal Uddin, a sub-inspector of Natore Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star, "The baby was rescued from Poradah area under Kushtia's Mirpur upazila around 5:00am. Two women have been held. We are investigating if anyone else was involved in the incident."

Liton Hossain, uncle of the newborn, said, "We have found our child. Thank you all for your help."

The one-day-old girl's father, Mahfuzur Rahman Palash of Khajura Mahishdanga village in Natore's Naldanga upazila, said his wife, Hasnahena, gave birth to the baby around 11:00am on Thursday.

On Friday morning, when the baby was with her grandmother, Khairun Nahar, a woman in nurse's uniform took the girl from her on the pretext of taking her to a doctor. Later, when the woman did not return, they started searching the hospital but found no trace of her, said the father.

Dr Moshirur Rahman, the civil surgeon of Natore, said the hospital was empty during Friday prayers. Taking this advantage, the woman ran away with the baby. The CCTV footage was handed over to the police, he said.

POLLING CENTRES IN KHULNA
161 'important',
128 'general'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Election Commission and Khulna Metropolitan Police have identified 161 polling stations out of total 289 as "important" or vulnerable.

Considering the situation, the law enforcers divided the polling centres into two segments – "important" and "general". Of them, general category polling stations are less risky.

In the 2018 Khulna City Corporation election, about 81 percent of the centers were identified as vulnerable as one of the major political parties BNP participated in it.

According to the returning officer and KMP, there are 289 polling stations in the city's 31 wards. KMP has identified 161 centres as "important" and the rest 128 ones as "general".

The polling stations have been categorised considering various aspects such as the distance between the centre and the house of a candidate, and the violence took place at a station in the immediate past election.

Masudur Rahman Bhuiya, KMP Commissioner

The polling stations of ward-4, 6, 7, 10 and 28 of the city were identified as important while the ones under ward-16, 19 and 22 were declared as general.

Apart from this, all centres except one in ward-19 are in the vulnerable list. However, the law enforcers do not consider any centre as risky in ward-13, 25 and 26 that have 23 centers.

All the 40 polling stations in wards-4, 6, 7, 10 and 28 are vulnerable.

KMP commissioner Masudur Rahman Bhuiya told The Daily Star that they categorised the polling stations considering various aspects such as the distance between the centre and the house of a candidate, and the violence took place at a station in the immediate past election.

A total of 4,820 police personnel and 3,467 Ansar members will be on duty to maintain law and order during the election on June 12. Apart from this, border guards and Rab members will also remain vigilant.

Tension escalates as election nears

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

Barishal is currently immersed in a state of tension and unease as the scheduled city corporation election, set to take place on June 12, draws near. The atmosphere in the city has become increasingly volatile, prompting concerns among both residents and authorities about safety and security.

As per usual protocols, law enforcement agencies have issued warnings, threatening to take action against any outsiders (people who are not voters of the city) found staying back without a valid reason.

The city has witnessed a surge in conflicts, particularly between candidates backed by the ruling Awami League and those challenging them within the same party.

The tensions escalated when the election office of Tarikul Islam Jewel, an Awami League-backed candidate, came under attack by supporters of Kalam Mollah, a rival candidate from within the AL on Friday.

"Kalam had been engaging in voter intimidation, pressuring individuals not to vote for me, and eventually resorted to attacking my election office," said Jewel.

"Two of my supporters have been injured," he added. Visiting the office yesterday, it was observed that the premises bore evidence of the attack, with furniture vandalised, and chairs scattered haphazardly.

Jewel complained to the returning officer's office over the matter and also filed a case with the airport police station.

However, Kalam denied the allegation, alleging that Jewel had orchestrated the entire attack as a means to garner sympathy and manipulate public opinion in his favour.

Contacted, Md Moniruzzaman, assistant returning officer of Barishal City Corporation, said, "We asked [Jewel] to provide some more evidence and he is now collecting it."

He further assured that appropriate action would be taken after a thorough investigation into the incident once the complaint is substantiated.

POLICE VIGILANT
Police have initiated special drives to identify "troublemakers", according to Md Saiful Islam, commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police.

"We arrested at least eight individuals affiliated with the BNP-Jamaat alliance for suspicious activities in different parts of the city," he said.

Furthermore, the commissioner issued a warning to outsiders who are not registered voters of the city, urging them to leave by midnight yesterday.

However, exceptions would be made for individuals requiring medical treatment or those engaged in official duties related to the election, provided they can provide valid proof of their circumstances.

The commissioner said that 106 out of the 126 polling centres have been marked as "important," warranting increased security measures. Regular polling centres will have an 18-member police team deployed, while the



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Some BNP leaders working for AL, JP: Rupan
Unveils manifesto

STAR REPORT

Md Kamrul Hsan Rupan, an independent mayoral candidate in Barishal City Corporation elections, yesterday alleged that some BNP leaders are working in favour of the Awami League and Jatiya Party candidates in exchange of money.

Rupan made the allegation while unveiling his 30-point election manifesto at Barishal Press Club around 2:00pm.

The independent candidate was expelled from BNP although he was not holding any post in the party.

While providing details of his claim, he said, "Bilkis Jahan Shirin, organising secretary (Barishal division) of the BNP, is directly working for the Awami League candidate Abul Khair Abdullah."

Rupan said he possesses several documents to substantiate his claim. However, he did not present any of these documents before journalists.

Bilkis denied the allegation.

Rupan also claimed that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Three held over arms showdown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

Police yesterday arrested three people who staged a showdown with arms in front of the home of a ward councillor candidate in the upcoming Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) election.

The arrestees are Atiqur Rahman, 42, and Juber Ahmad, 38, from the Bankalpara area, and Nuruzzaman, 34, from the Hajipara area in the city.

Sudip Das, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said they arrested two persons after identifying them in the CCTV footage, while another was arrested based on information.

He, however, said they are yet to recover the arms used for staging the showdown, reports UNB.

Sayed Md Abdullah, a councillor candidate of Ward 7 in SCC polls, on Friday filed a written complaint with the returning officer alleging that his rival candidate tried to intimidate him by staging an arms showdown in front of his house.

The official then forwarded the complaint to the commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police for legal action and it was registered as a case that day, said Sudip.

In the complaint, the candidate mentioned that some 20 to 25 men on 10 to 12 motorcycles, led by councillor and Swecchasebok League leader Aftab Hossain Khan, came in front of the gate of his house at around 6:30am on Wednesday and threatened to kill him and his family and burn down his house.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Highway police to observe 18th anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Highway police are installing CCTV cameras along a 250-kilometre stretch of Dhaka-Chattogram highway to prevent accidents, detect thefts and robberies, and maintain traffic discipline effectively. These cameras will be operated using artificial intelligence, as part of highway police's vision towards achieving "zero accidents" on the roads.

This specialised police unit will be observing their 18th founding anniversary today. Since its establishment on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

MYMENSINGH CITY
Delayed roadworks add to traffic woes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

With the construction works being underway on multiple internal roads that lead to the Natun Bazar intersection in Mymensingh city, the traffic congestion in the area has significantly increased over the past few months.

While the city's traffic has already been a concern for years, the construction works being actively carried out during the daytime has added to the city's traffic.

Currently, drainage works are being carried out by the Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) on Saroda Ghosh and Kali Shankar Guha roads for the last three months, while myriads of ring culvert slabs have piled upon the Shaheb Ali road, informed locals.

These smaller roads lead to the Natun Bazar intersection which commuters have to take to visit the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, different government offices, and educational institutions, including the Govt Laboratory High School.

Upon visiting the area, this correspondent saw the intersection being jammed with vehicles amidst the physical works being carried out during the peak-hour of the day. The construction workers had also blocked a significant portion of the roads making them narrow for the commuters and pedestrians which include a good number of students, patients, and officials.

Shahriar Kajal, a local shopkeeper who is a patient at the MMCH, said he had been stuck in a traffic jam on the Saroda Ghosh road for a long time while he was on his way to the hospital.

"Having to wait for hours in this heat makes me feel sicker," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Several ring culverts have been kept on Shaheb Ali Road, narrowing it down significantly. Meanwhile, drainage works are underway in the nearby Saroda Ghosh and Kali Shankar Guha roads for the last three months. Such delayed roadworks have resulted in traffic congestion in the city.

PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 11

Fazr	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