

2 new parties set to get registration with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM) and Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP) are set to get registered with the Election Commission as political parties.

A notice on the registration of the two will be issued today, Election Commission Secretary Jahangir Alam said after a meeting of the election commissioners at the EC office yesterday.

Until July 26, any individual or party can object to the two getting the registration. Their registrations would be finalised after the complaints, if any, have been disposed of.

Registration with the EC is required for taking part in the national polls. The next polls are slated for late December or early January.

The EC began the registration process for new parties in May 2022. A total of 93 political parties sought registration.

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Major reshuffle in police

16 DIGs, 35 addl DIGs transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major reshuffle in the police, the home ministry yesterday transferred 16 deputy inspector generals (DIG) and 35 additional deputy inspector generals.

According to police sources, more changes in the posts of superintendent of police (SP) in several districts will take place within a couple of days.

The SPs play major roles during elections, and the changes only about six months before the polls are being seen as significant.

The home ministry yesterday issued two notifications regarding the transfers in the posts of DIG and additional DIG.

As per the notifications, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Abu Kalam Siddique was transferred to Tourist Police, CID Additional DIG AKM Nahidul Islam was promoted to DIG, DMP Joint Commissioner Biplab Bijoy Talukdar was promoted to commissioner and transferred to Rajshahi Metropolitan Police

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PHOTO: LS ARCHIVE

PRANICOOL Providing a haven FOR YOUR PETS

RBR

The founders of PraniCool Animal Wellness Centre, a private treatment facility, feel that there should be animal wellness centres in the private sector where all types of health services are available under one roof.

PraniCool is a venture initiated by a group of animal lovers, people who have pets themselves and are fully aware of what is lacking in pet care services in the city.

Dr Farzana Alam Shampa, a professor of marketing by profession; Simu Naser, a well known content maker; Rakibul Haque Emil, an architect; and Dr Tarana Hossain, a physician, are co-founders of PraniCool.

It is their love that has given rise to quality healthcare facilities for pets.

“We opened in March and our space is unique. We even have it painted in colours that are soothing to an animal’s eye,” says architect Rakibul Haque Emil. Even their waiting table and chair boast a fear-free design. Usually in a veterinarian clinic, the animal baskets are placed on the floor but it is different at PraniCool.

A simple chair that has a movable table rest and two side partition walls, is where you place your basket. It is designed in such a manner that the already sick animals do not become scared, make no eye contact with other sick patients, or mingle to spread diseases.



“We have an in-patient department where we observe and monitor the recovering animal after surgery. X-ray, pathology, isolation for infectious diseases, and consultation have separate rooms at our centre. Although

grooming is not a clinical service, it is about cleanliness. So, we have experts in this area, trained from abroad.

“We make house calls – a doctor and a trained assistant will come to your house. There is also an ambulance service with oxygen cylinder, and treatment table, all disinfected ticking, off the items in a standard checklist,” says Emil, adding that they have proper telemedicine services as well.

What was out of the question only seven to eight years ago is now a reality. Most people are picking up local breeds of dogs and foreign dogs and cats as pets. And this desire to have a pet to cuddle has given rise to professional veterinarian clinics and hospitals.

Stories like giving wrong diagnosis and treatment actions led to fatalities in so many instances; a small thing like trimming the coat led to serious ringworm issues; the below par vet services were the only help we could avail then. The scenario has reversed thanks to clinics like PraniCool. Now, we have proper animal hospitals and clinics where the pet owners can avail of quality treatment for their furry friends.

Lawyer dies as bus hits motorbike on flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two women, including a Supreme Court lawyer, were killed in two road crashes in the capital yesterday.

A bus hit a motorcycle on Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital yesterday and lawyer Parvin Sultana, 58, who was riding pillion, was killed and motorcyclist Shakhawat, also her nephew, was injured, said Md Kamruzzaman, sub-inspector of Jatrabari Police Station.

SI Kamruzzaman said police seized the bus and arrested its driver Mahmudur Rahman, 22.

In another accident, Parveen Begum, 65, was killed after being hit by an auto-rickshaw at Boubazar in the capital’s East Rampura.

She was hit when she was crossing a road around 10:00am yesterday. She died on the spot, said Kamrul Islam, sub-inspector of Rampura Police Station.

Police seized the auto-rickshaw and held its driver.

QUESTION PAPER LEAK Nine more Biman employees suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines suspended nine more employees for their involvement in the question paper leak that led to the suspension of the recruitment exam that was to be held on October 21 last year.

An official notice was issued in this regard on July 13, mentioning that the decision would soon come into effect.

The nine employees are motor transport scheduling supervisor Mahbub Alam Sharif; motor transport operators Nazrul Islam, Faruk Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, and Mohsin Ali; and traffic operators Abdul Malek, Al Amin, Alomgir Hossain, Taposh Kumar, and Ayub Uddin.

On July 5, the Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police filed a charge sheet against 30 people including 26 Biman employees.

It was alleged that the accused had been collecting, leaking, and distributing question papers among job seekers for a long time.

Trainee doctors to continue sit-in

DU CORRESPONDENT

Postgraduate private trainee doctors will continue their protest, rejecting the authorities’ “decision” to raise their monthly stipends from Tk20,000 to Tk25,000, when they demanded Tk 50,000.

They said they would stage a sit-in at the Shahbagh intersection today from 9:30am.

“We’ve not been officially informed but we’ve heard about a decision to hike our stipends to Tk 25,000. If it’s true, we reject it. It’d be ridiculous if they offered us a Tk 5,000 raise only. We’ll continue our strike until our demand of Tk 50,000 monthly stipend is met,” Dr Zahir Hossain, convener of the Postgraduate Private Trainee Physician Association told The Daily Star last night.

Spectre of deadliest year looms

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He also said that fogging and spraying is not enough to control Aedes and that the government needs an integrated vector management system in place.

“The purpose of the system is to have round-the-year monitoring of Aedes and this needs sentinel surveillance.”

He added that such surveillance allows one to know the exact locations of virus-carrying mosquitoes and act accordingly.

“It also enables the authorities to make the people aware of those localities so that they can also play a vital role in eliminating Aedes breeding sources,” said Manzur.

He further said the two city corporations should start anti-mosquito drives in January and continue the work till April to neutralise the Aedes clusters that remain active during that time.

“If they can do that, the disease will remain under control during the [monsoon] season [when Aedes is most active].”

He also advised reviving a high-level committee that was formed by the Prime Minister’s Office in 2019 to tackle the rise in dengue infections.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman, also a professor at National University, said the city corporations’ casual approach early in the season played a vital role in the Aedes population’s increase.

“When the population declined after October last year, no initiative was taken to kill off the rest, for which it has started spreading again. Then, we didn’t try to detect virus-spreading regular dengue-related data to the directorate.

Entomologist Kabirul Bashar, a professor at Jahangirnagar University, said the impact of climate change has also made Bangladesh dengue-prone throughout the year.

“A temperature between 20 to 30 degrees Celsius is required for

Aedes mosquito breeding. We get 20 degrees even in winter ...”

POLICY AWAIT'S NOD

Though the government initiated the formulation of a vector management policy in 2020, it is yet to see the light of day.

Contacted, IGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam said the policy has been prepared but is waiting for the Cabinet’s approval.

Prof Bashar said, “A national vector control guideline and its proper implementation are necessary to control the Aedes population.”

He added that a separate institute will be needed to conduct researches on all kinds of vectors and regularly share information with the agencies concerned in controlling Aedes.

Though the government initiated the formulation of a vector management policy in 2020, it is yet to see the light of day.

“We have a national guideline in patient management, but we still don’t have one to control Aedes,” said Prof Saifur.

DENGUE DATA INADEQUATE

Though dengue patients are treated in different public and private hospitals, along with clinics, across the country, most of them are not centrally recorded, meaning the exact number of victims and their locations are not yet identified.

According to the DGHS, only 53 public and private hospitals in Dhaka and 72 district- and divisional-level hospitals are providing regular dengue-related data to the directorate.

However, there are 16,000 public and private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and blood banks across the country. Of those, around 1,600 are in the capital.

“Due to a lack of adequate data, authorities concerned can’t know

the gravity of the situation,” said entomologist Saifur.

He suggested the government conduct serosurveillance tests – a blood test performed to detect the presence of antibodies – like it did during the Covid-19 pandemic, to identify asymptomatic dengue cases.

“At least 70-80 percent dengue patients are believed to be asymptomatic.”

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY

Brig Gen Md Zobaidur Rahman, the immediate past chief health officer of Dhaka North City Corporation, said they have been conducting anti-mosquito drives since the beginning of the year.

“The allegation that our efforts are lacking is not true.”

He, however, said they were more focused on Culex mosquitoes from January and February, but made simultaneous efforts against Aedes and Culex in March and April and have been giving their full attention to Aedes since May.

About the unreported cases, IGRD Minister Tazul said there is no country who can report dengue cases without the hospital admission of patients.

Stressing the need for awareness, he said controlling Aedes needs public participation.

Dr Fazle Shamsul Kabir, chief health officer of Dhaka South City Corporation, in May said they have been conducting awareness campaigns in every ward since the beginning of this year and plan to extend those to educational institutions.

“We are also conducting our regular anti-mosquito drives.”

Md Abu Nasher, public relations officer of DSCC, said they have been taking other steps as well, including holding advocacy meetings, conducting mobile court drives at different wards and anti-mosquito combing operations at different educational institutes.

Tigers win first T20I series

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In chase of 117, Liton Das provided the flying start together with Afif Hossain, his opening partner for this match, as the hosts put on 50 without losing a wicket in the Powerplay.

The visitors, though, bounced back somewhat following the 67-run opening stand, with Liton dismissed for 36-ball 35 off the bowling of Muejeb Ur Rahman.

JP leader killed

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in-charge of the capital’s Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Salam was the finance secretary of JP, a businessman and contractor.

In a case filed with the police station, Karim said the body was brought to the hospital in a car.

A young man and woman then

The mystery spinner then removed Afif for 24 off 20 balls in the same over, but Shakib, later adjudged the player of the series, made sure there was no late drama like the first T20I.

Man-in-form Towhid Hridoy played a cameo of 18-ball 19 and the Tigers were on course by the time he was dismissed, with Shakib eventually remaining unbeaten on 18.

It was Bangladesh’s fifth win in

eleven outings against Afghanistan and they were able to dominate the visitors in both the matches of the series.

The Tigers will face the same opposition in the upcoming Asia Cup and in their opening game of the ODI World Cup later this year, and despite the defeat in the ODI series, the T20I series win will definitely help the team gain valuable momentum.

officers are examining the security camera footage to identify the car, said OC Utpal, adding that the body was sent to Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Contacted, JP (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said he had no idea about why anyone would kill Salam.

SUDAN VIOLENCE

Paramilitaries deny Darfur war crimes

AFP, Wad Madani

Air strikes pummelled Khartoum yesterday and fighting raged in Sudan’s western Darfur region, witnesses said, as a three-month war between the army and rival paramilitaries showed no signs of abating.

In the capital’s east and northwest, army fighter jets “targeted bases” belonging to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) who “responded with anti-aircraft weapons,” witnesses told AFP.

RSF drones targeted Khartoum’s largest military hospital, according to witnesses. A similar attack Saturday on the same facility left five dead and 22 injured, the army said.

The war between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed

Hamdan Daglo, has claimed at least 3,000 lives and displaced over 3 million people since it erupted on April 15.

In Darfur, a vast region which has seen some of the worst of the fighting, witnesses yesterday reported “heavy clashes using various types of weapons” in the town of Kas.

Residents of Kas, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of the South Darfur state capital of Nyala, said houses were broken into and looted by RSF fighters.

The paramilitaries in a statement hailed their “victory” in the town.

Darfur, home to around a quarter of Sudan’s 48 million people, has seen entire towns razed to the ground, with reports of mass civilian deaths and ethnically charged assassinations blamed on the RSF and allied Arab militias.