

Campaigning continues, so does polls code violation

STAR REPORT

Candidates and their supporters across the country have been continuing to violate the electoral code of conduct even as the Election Commission keeps issuing show cause notices to them.

Yesterday, the Election Inquiry Committee issued show cause notices to Awami League candidate in Dhaka-19 Enamur Rahman and independent candidate from the seat Muhammad Saiful Islam.

Besides, five others, including Savar upazila vice-chairman Yasmin Chowdhury Sumi, Pathalia UP chairman Parvez Dewan, and three supporters of AL candidate – Rocky, Md Saiyeed and Tipu – were also show-caused.

Zakir Hossain, senior assistant judge and also chairman of Dhaka-19

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These children were elated as soon as Santa Claus decided to take part in their merriment on the Christmas Day at Sonargaon hotel in the capital. The fun escalated when their beloved Disney characters -- Daisy, Donald and Mickey -- joined the party. The annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ was celebrated by people across the world yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Rangpur all set to welcome PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Preparations are going on in full swing in Rangpur to hold two separate public rallies of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Taraganj and Pirganj upazilas today.

Hasina, also the president of Awami League, last visited Rangpur on August 2.

Her visit is significant for Rangpur region's political landscape to ensure the victory of AL candidates there in the upcoming January 7 national elections.

AL placed its candidates in four Rangpur constituencies, including Abul Kalam Md Ahsanul Haque Chowdhury from Rangpur-2 (Taraganj and Badarganj), Tipu Munshi from Rangpur-4 (Kaunia and Pargachha), Rashek Rahman from Rangpur-5 (Mithapukur) and Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury from Rangpur-6 (Pirganj), while leaving the seats of Rangpur-1 and 3 for Jatiya Party.



On the occasion of the prime minister's visit to Rangpur today, the district has been decorated with banners, posters and archways to welcome her. The photo was taken in Pirganj upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

According to AL insiders, Hasina will address electoral rallies in Taraganj upazila of Rangpur-2 and Pirganj upazila of Rangpur-6 in an effort to consolidate the victory of her party's candidates.

Ahsanul Haque Choudhury and Shirin Sharmin are the incumbent lawmakers from Rangpur-2 and 6 respectively.

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Govt official vying for polls in Ctg-4

ARUN BIKASH DEY

A government official is contesting the upcoming national polls as an independent candidate from Chattogram-4 constituency, hiding his professional identity in the nomination papers.

In doing so, Md Salahuddin, health assistant at Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex, violated the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979.

In the nomination paper, he mentioned business as his profession instead of government service, said sources in the RO office.

He initially got his nomination papers cancelled by the returning officer concerned, on ground of fraudulence in collecting one percent voters' signatures, but later got back his candidacy by appealing to the court, said sources.

According to the clause of "Taking part in politics and elections" of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, "No Government servant shall canvass or otherwise interfere or use his influence in connection with or take part in any election to a legislative body, whether in Bangladesh or elsewhere."

Sources at Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex said Salahuddin has remained absent from office since November 18 without taking official leave.

The authorities issued him show

cause letters three times, but he did not respond.


Contacted, Dr Nur Uddin, Sitakunda health and family welfare officer, said Salahuddin has been working as a health assistant at the upazila health complex since 2012.

"As he was absent without official leave, I issued a show cause

Uddin.

Contacted, Dr Ilias Chowdhury, civil surgeon of Chattogram, said they officially informed the EC through a letter on Sunday that Salahuddin is contesting the polls without resigning from the government service.

Contacted, Tofail Islam, divisional commissioner and RO in



According to rules, no Government servant shall canvass or otherwise interfere or use his influence in connection with or take part in any election to a legislative body, whether in Bangladesh or elsewhere.

letter to him on November 23 but he did not answer. Meanwhile, I came to know that he submitted nomination papers for the polls. I warned him about it over the phone but he did not pay heed."

"Then I issued a second show-cause letter to him on December 18 but he did not reply," the health official said.

"After learning that he got back his candidacy, I issued the third show cause letter on Sunday in this regard," he added.

"I also informed the matter to the civil surgeon and divisional commissioner and the returning official of Chattogram," said Dr Nur

Chattogram, said he received the letter.

"We did not know that he was a government employee... As per court order, we have allocated him his electoral symbol 'rocket,' he also said.

"Now, after receiving the letter from the civil surgeon, I have officially notified the Election Commission so it can inform the court," he said.

"We will take further action as per the court order," Tofail Islam added.

Salahuddin could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts by this correspondent.

MOHANGANJ EXPRESS

Jubo Dal president Tuku behind sabotage

Claim police; two held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed that the December 13 rail line sabotage was carried out under the instructions of Jubo Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku.

A 20-foot stretch of rail line was cut off by criminals when six carriages and the locomotive of the Dhaka-bound train from Netrakona's Mohanganj derailed near Bhawalgarh station to the north of Joydebpur junction, leaving one person dead and at least 11 others injured.

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Seven coaches of Dhaka-bound Mohanganj Express veered off the tracks in Gazipur on December 13.

When protectors turn perpetrators

2 CID officials held over abduction, extortion charges, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of the Criminal Investigation Department along with an accomplice were arrested on Sunday on charges of abducting a man from his residence in Dhaka and withdrawing over Tk 5 lakh from his bank account on October 8.



Rezaul Karim Abu Saied

The arrestees are: sub-inspector Rezaul Karim, 39, constable Abu Saied, 32, and Sharif Hossain, 26.

A team of detectives arrested them from different areas in a case filed by the victim, Mostafizur Rahman, with Vatara Police Station on October 31, Harun Or Rashid, chief of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters at his office yesterday.

They were arrested based on information given by two other abductors -- Md Emon, 21, and Abdullah Al Fahim, 21 -- who were arrested on December 3. Besides, technological evidence showed that the CID men were involved in the crime, he said.

"If any other police personnel get involved with criminals, they will not be spared. Police force will not take an individual's responsibility," he said.

Mostafizur told The Daily Star that one of the abductors contacted him via WhatsApp on October 7 afternoon and asked about his personal details. Later that night, the caller from a different number reached out to the victim, claiming to be "OC Rabiul" from CID and asked him to visit his office at Malibagh headquarters by noon next day.

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Star, BRAC launch 'Remittance Award'

Initiative aims to recognise migrant workers' contributions

STAR REPORT

To honour the contributions of migrant workers to the country's GDP growth and their role in enriching foreign currency reserves, The Daily Star and BRAC have jointly initiated the "Remittance Award".

A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed by Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Asif Saleh, executive director of BRAC, at BRAC Centre in

the capital on December 17.

The award aims to recognise migrant workers, their family members, and various organisations participating in the remittance sending and receiving system in the countries.


This initiative will honour the workers under the categories -- top remittance senders (overall), top remittance senders (women), remittance senders according to the long duration of their

migration, remittance senders who have invested in the country (entrepreneurship), remittance senders who have invested in their society (social cause), meritorious children of the migrants, returnee migrant workers who are doing something significant, remittance senders investing in the agricultural sector, environment, or climate resilience, and banks and financial institutions for their innovation in bringing remittance.



PHOTO: STAR

With an aim to recognise and honour remittance earners of the country, The Daily Star and BRAC will jointly launch the "Remittance Award" next year. A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed by Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Asif Saleh, executive director of BRAC, at BRAC Centre in the capital recently.




We Mourn

By the passing away of a true visionary (founder of City Group)

FAZLUR RAHMAN

Deepest condolence to the bereaved family.



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