

FASTBUILD PROVIDES RODS OF ANY SHAPE AND SIZE AS PER DESIGN

BSRM building a safer nation

Terminal 3, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport

Proud Construction Partner

SHAH CEMENT

POLLS CODE BREACH 102 AL picks given show-cause notices

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

At least 102 of the electoral rules violators are ruling Awami League candidates, shows data from the Election Commission.

As of yesterday morning, electoral enquiry committees formed by the EC to probe polls irregularities have issued show-cause notices to 236 candidates and 20 of their supporters over allegations of breaching the electoral code of conduct.

Besides the 102 AL nominees, 30 independent and 10 Jatiyo Party candidates are among the violators and the rest are other party contenders. Of the AL candidates, 52 are incumbent lawmakers, according to the EC.

After probing the allegations, the enquiry committees have started sending reports with their recommendations to the EC.

EC sources said the committees have already placed 60 such reports before election commissioners for further decision.

The committees recommended suing at least four AL candidates and issued warnings to at least five candidates on the promise that they would not breach the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



A makeshift campaign office of the Dhaka-8 Awami League candidate, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, has been set up on the footpath near Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University, obstructing pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

18 hurt in pre-polls violence

6 held in N'ganj over attack on supporters of an independent

STAR REPORT

At least 18 people were injured in pre-polls violence, while six were arrested, in four separate districts since Monday night.

In Rangpur's Mithapukur upazila, at least 10 people were injured yesterday in a clash between the supporters of Rangpur-5's AL-nominated candidate Rashek Rahman and independent candidate Zakir Hossain. The clash took place near the Jaigirhat bus station around 5:30pm.

Injured Sahidul Islam, supporter of Zakir, said, "We were returning from a rally that was addressed by the prime minister at Jaigirhat. On our way, supporters of the boat symbol attacked us and beat us severely."

The attack triggered the clash, which left people of both groups injured, locals said.

Rashek could not be contacted over phone for comments.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Mithapukur Police Station's OC Nazrul Islam.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Israel strikes over a hundred targets in Gaza

At least 30 Palestinians killed, says Gaza's health ministry

AGENCIES

The Israeli army struck more than 100 Hamas targets, including tunnel shafts in central Jabalia and Khan Yunis in south Gaza, in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as heavy ground combat continued.

According to the health ministry in Gaza, at least 30 Palestinians were killed in the strikes, and the bodies were brought to Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis.

Israeli troops also conducted a raid on a refugee camp near the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, leaving at least two Palestinians dead.

Global concern has mounted and international calls for a ceasefire have multiplied but Israeli PM Netanyahu vowed to stay the course in an op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal late Monday.

Israel launched extensive aerial bombardment and a siege followed by a ground invasion. The Palestinian death toll from the ongoing Israeli attacks has risen to 20,915. Another 54,918 people have been wounded, according to Gaza's health ministry.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

It all boils down to 3 contenders

MD ABBAS, from Netrakona

Netrakona-3, a constituency comprised of Kendua and Atpara upazilas, is going to see a three-way battle among an incumbent and two former lawmakers.

All three of them – Ashim Kumar Ukil, current MP, and former lawmakers Iftiqur Uddin Talukder Pintu and Monjur Kader Kuraishi – have their own strong vote banks.

Pintu, who failed to secure the AL ticket in the 2018 national polls, appears to have the edge over his rivals due to his constant contact with the locals.

Meanwhile, limited interaction with the constituents during his tenure put Ashim, cultural secretary of central AL, in an unfavourable situation, according to locals.

Former MP Monjur, however, seems lagging behind the two in terms of campaigns and support from the locals.

Though Pintu is contesting the polls as an "AL independent", local party leaders – Kendua upazila AL former general secretary Nurul Alam Jahangir, Kendua municipality AL Vice Chairman Muffazal Hossain, and the upazila AL Vice President Abu Taher – along with some local BCL and Jubo League leaders are actively backing him and seeking votes for him.

On the other hand, majority of the top-tier leaders and activists in the upazila and district units are supporting Ashim, which might bring a positive outcome for him in the polls, locals said.

"If you compare Pintu with the sitting MP, Pintu has a clean image and acceptability here," said Abu

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

AL candidate to face tough test from two rivals

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU, from Faridpur

The electoral race for Faridpur-1 is turning out to be a contest among Awami League's Abdur Rahman, BNM chief Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar and independent aspirant Arifur Rahman Dolon.

According to locals, Dolon, a former vice-president of Krishak League, has an edge over his rivals as some local AL leaders are rallying behind him.

Although five aspirants are vying for the seat, the three major contenders are campaigning vigorously to win voters.

Abu Zafar is the acting chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM), and also a former BNP standing committee member. AL nominee Rahman, a presidium member of the party, was elected MP twice from this constituency (Madhukhali-Boalmari-Alfadanga).

Locals say Alfadanga upazila is known to be a stronghold of the AL. However, the BNP has a vote bank in Madhakhali. The three aspirants have voter bases in Boalmari.

A number of AL leaders from Alfadanga, including upazila Chairman AKM Zahidul Hasan Zahid, upazila Jubo League President Mirza Ahsanuzzaman, and former presidium member of Krishak League Shawkat Ahmed, are backing Dolon who hails from Alfadanga.

This may help the independent aspirant cut back

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Nasa shares stunning pic of rare 'Ice Halo'



THE SUN ONLINE

Stunning snap shared by Nasa show an "Ice Halo" in an enchanting scene reminiscent of the Disney film Frozen.

In the picture – taken in Bavaria, Germany – a church can be seen surrounded by glowing rings of light that illuminate the snow covered landscape.

The spectacle is so rare that some are saying it looks like Elsa the snow queen has been working her magic.

The halos can range in size and shape and are a rare phenomena caused by frozen water crystals in the air. This image is particularly jaw dropping as capturing multiple rings in one shot is no easy feat.

The idyllic winter scene was captured earlier this month by German photographer Bastian Werner, who was taking photos near the church.



Relatives mourn beside the body of a Palestinian, killed during Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Inset, Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a house in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS



কীর্তমানের মৃত্যু নেই

বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি জনাব ফজলুর রহমানের মৃত্যুতে

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা এবং

মরহুমের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

