

Yunus should apologise to his workers

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it is not up to her to pardon Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, who has recently been sentenced to six months in jail for violation of labour law.

Replying to a question if she would consider pardoning Yunus as she celebrates her election victory, the PM said she has nothing to do here as the labour court passed the judgement.

The question was asked by an Indian journalist during a post-polls courtesy meeting with visiting foreign observers and media as well as local journalists at Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said Yunus violated the labour law and deprived his own employees who filed a case at the labour court.

"I have nothing to do with that," she said, adding that he should seek pardon from his employees whom he deprived.

S ALAM'S 'ASSETS ABROAD' SC defers appeal hearing till Jan 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday deferred till January 15 the hearing on a leave to appeal petition challenging a High Court order that asked the authorities to probe allegations against the owner of S Alam Group of amassing huge amounts of properties abroad without Bangladesh Bank's permission.

The Appellate Division of the SC was scheduled yesterday to hold hearing on the petition, which

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PHOTO: STAR

POLLS POSTER REMOVAL

Six out of 12 city corporations yet to take action

DIPAN NANDY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite the national election being over, thousands of posters and banners of candidates are still hanging across the country, causing potential hazards to the environment.

Out of the 12 city corporations in the country, six have taken steps to remove those, while the other six are still in the planning phase.

Dhaka South City Corporation has tasked its 2,500 waste management staffers to remove the posters.

"The DSCC staff have started removing the posters since 7:00pm today (Monday), and hopefully it will be cleared within the next two days. The posters will be taken to the city's Matuail landfill," Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury, chief waste management officer of DSCC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will keep the laminated posters separately so that we can recycle those later," he said. Dhaka North City Corporation also took steps for the removal of posters. "We do not want this city to look dirty. We do not want visual pollution," said DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday.

Sayeed Khokon, former DSCC mayor

and the MP-elect of Dhaka-6, suggested the city corporation authorities seek assistance from the candidates for poster removal if they lack manpower for the process.

Chattogram City Corporation was a little advanced in this regard, as it issued letters to all councillors and the waste management sections way before the polls to take steps regarding poster removal.

Khaled Mahmud, secretary of CCC, said they are expecting the poster removal to be done within the next two days as well.

Respective authorities of Khulna, Rajshahi, and Rangpur city corporations also started the process of removing posters and expected to get done with it soon.

However, authorities of Barishal, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Gazipur, and Narayanganj city corporations said they would start removing the posters after holding meetings in this regard within a day or two.

"We will discuss the matter with the council and hope to start the process within a couple of days," Nur Azizur Rahman, chief engineer of Sylhet City Corporation, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
PUBALI BANK PLC

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

পিপলস পূবালী পেনশন স্কীম

আকর্ষণীয় সুদহার
(৬ মাসের এফডিআরের চেয়ে ১% বেশী হারে মুনাফা)

দৈনিক স্থিতির উপর মাসিক চক্রবৃদ্ধি হারে প্রতি মাসে মুনাফা

আপনার ভবিষ্যৎ আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে এবং স্বাচ্ছন্দ্যময় জীবনযাত্রার নিশ্চয়তার লক্ষ্যে পূবালী ব্যাংক নিয়ে এলো 'পিপলস পূবালী পেনশন স্কীম'।

১৮ থেকে ৫৯ বছর বয়সী যে কোনো বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক এই হিসাব খুলতে পারবেন। এই স্কীমে মাসিক কিস্তি বাধ্যতামূলক নয়, যেকোন সময় এবং যতবার খুশি ১০০/- বা তার গুণিতক হারে জমা প্রদান করা যাবে। কোন মাসে টাকা জমা দিতে না পারলেও জরিমানা দিতে হবে না। হিসাবধারীর ৬০ বছরে স্কীমের মেয়াদপূর্তি এবং মেয়াদপূর্তিতে এককালীন/মাসিক/আংশিক উত্তোলন সুবিধা পাবেন। আংশিক উত্তোলনের ক্ষেত্রে অবশিষ্ট স্থিতির উপর একই হারে সুদ/মুনাফা প্রদান করা হবে অথবা গ্রাহক আজীবন হিসাব চালু রেখে সুদ/মুনাফা গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। হিসাবধারী মেয়াদান্তে ডেবিট কার্ড ও চেক বই ব্যবহারের সুবিধা পাবেন। মেয়াদপূর্তির পূর্বে যেকোন সময় হিসাব নগদায়ন করা যাবে, এক্ষেত্রে গ্রাহক জমাকৃত টাকা প্রযোজ্য সুদ/মুনাফাসহ তাৎক্ষণিক ফেরত পাবেন।

*বিস্তারিত জানতে ভিজিট করুন: www.pubalibangla.com অথবা নিকটস্থ শাখা/উপশাখা/ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং উইডোতে যোগাযোগ করুন



Adorned with red roses and yellow marigolds, boat-shaped bouquets were in high demand at flower shops in Shahbagh yesterday. They were being sold for Tk 800-1,500 each depending on size and variation. These bouquets were mainly bought by supporters of Awami League to congratulate the new parliamentarians.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

New cabinet by Jan 15: Nasrul

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday said a new cabinet may be formed by January 15.

He also said that the supply of power and energy at affordable prices will be the main challenge for the new government.

He made the remarks while exchanging greetings with reporters at his office in his ministry.

Nasrul Hamid won the general election from Dhaka-3 constituency for the third consecutive term.

He said the election was held in a free and fair manner due to the strong position taken by the Election Commission.

He said there are many challenges waiting for the new government including bringing inflation under control.

DHAKA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY 1 killed in bus-car collision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and another injured when a bus rammed a car on the Dhaka Elevated Expressway yesterday evening.

The deceased, identified as Milon, 50, died after he was taken to the Kurmitola General Hospital.

The injured Mahfuz, 35, has been admitted to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

They were both inside the car when the collision occurred at 6:15pm on the expressway's East Nakhhalpara section.

A bus of VIP Paribahan rear-ended the car after the latter's tyre burst.

Afterwards, the car driver lost control of the steering and came face-



to-face with the bus, leading to a head-on collision. The car was completely damaged.

The car and the bus involved in the collision have been impounded.

The bus driver fled the scene. Legal proceedings are underway in this regard, said police.

Image crisis behind JP downfall

Say party insiders; GM Quader alleges polls marred by irregularities, rigging

RASHIDUL HASAN

Image crisis, flip-flop decision regarding participation in polls, and organisational weakness, among others, are reasons that have led to Jatiyo Party's debacle in the national polls, according to party insiders.

Besides, division in the party and failure of leadership also contributed to JP's worst ever result, they added.

JP, which had 23 MPs in the 11th parliament, managed to win 11 seats in the January 7 election. Most of the party contestants lost their security deposit.

This is the worst election result of JP since 1990 as 14 incumbent MPs of JP including several big shots couldn't win this time.

On paper, JP had participated from 265 seats. But in reality, around 230 candidates of the party were inactive during campaigning.

After a tight-fisted negotiation, Awami League withdrew candidates in 26 seats to make things easier for the JP nominees. Even after that, 15 among 26 of those JP candidates lost.

All the 11 winning candidates are from the seats where there were no AL candidates.

"From the start, the JP chairman has been inconsistent in deciding whether to participate in the election, initially stating that the party wouldn't engage in polls under Awami League. Ultimately, when he chose to participate, the party's grassroots responded negatively to the decision," a JP presidium member said.

Another JP presidium member said, "We have been suffering from an image crisis. People think we are a domesticated opposition party. Why will people vote for us?"

"How does an opposition party make consensus with the ruling party over seat sharing? What signal does it send to voters?" he added.



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'King's parties' super flop

Four newly-formed ones couldn't bag a single seat in national polls

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and MD ABBAS

None of the four newly formed parties, known as the "King's parties," could not manage to secure a single seat in yesterday's parliamentary elections.

The parties are Trinamool BNP, Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP), Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM), and Bangladesh Congress.

A total of 135 candidates of Trinamool BNP, including its chairman Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, and Secretary General Advocate Taimur Alam Khandaker, took part in the elections.

Shamsheer became third in the Sylhet-6 constituency by securing 10,936 votes, while Awami League pick Nurul Islam Nahid, a former education minister, secured victory in the constituency by bagging 58,126 votes.

In the Narayanganj-1 constituency, Taimur Alam Khandaker lost his deposit money by getting only 3,190 votes.

As per the EC rule, a candidate must get 12.5 percent of the total cast votes to get back the security deposit.

Awami League candidate Gazi Golam Dastagir Gazi won the seat by securing 1,56,483 votes.

Meanwhile, another lesser-known party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Movement, announced candidacies in 82 constituencies.

Its acting Chairman Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar became third in the Faridpur-1 constituency, getting 22,465 votes. The AL pick Abdur Rahman, also a presidium member of the party, won in the constituency by securing 123,331 votes.

Another party named Bangladesh Supreme Party fielded 79 candidates.

The party's chairman Syed Saifuddin Ahmad Majibandari took part in the election from Chattogram-2 constituency. He lost his deposit money by getting only 3,138 votes, while AL candidate Khadizatul Anwar Sony secured the victory by bagging 1,01,078 votes.

A total of 96 candidates from the Bangladesh Congress contested in the polls, with most of them losing their deposit money.

The parties are Trinamool BNP, Bangladesh Supreme Party (BSP), Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM), and Bangladesh Congress.