

Tulee sued over 'hurting religious sentiments'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanjida Islam Tulee, BNP's primary nominee for the Dhaka-14 constituency, has been sued on charges of "hurting religious sentiments".

Anwar Hossain, 30, a fabric trader and a former leader of Gono Odhikar Parishad, filed the case yesterday against Tulee with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbubur Rahman, the complainant's lawyer Mahmudul Hasan told The Daily Star.

The court directed the Police Bureau of Investigation to probe the case and submit a report before it.

According to the case statement, the accused has recently made "insulting comments regarding the Islamic provision of marriage".

Tulee is the coordinator of Maayer Daak, a platform for families of enforced disappearance victims, and the sister of a disappeared BNP leader.

Dhaka world's 2nd most populous city

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impacts, as well as those seeking better opportunities, said the report.

Jakarta faces similar pressures, with rising sea levels putting up to one-fourth of the city at risk of submersion by 2050, reports Al Jazeera.

The UN says the number of megacities – those with populations exceeding 10 million – has surged to 33, up from just eight in 1975.

Although Indonesia is constructing a new capital, Nusantara, the UN estimates that Jakarta's population will continue to grow, adding another 10 million people by mid-century.

The swelling population has fuelled concern over inequality and affordability, issues that have already sparked public protests.

The report also notes that Iran's capital, Tehran, now with a population of 9 million, is struggling with severe water shortages, prompting rationing measures.

In preparing its latest assessment, the UN adopted a new global definition of cities to reduce inconsistencies across countries.

It now classifies a city as a contiguous area of grid cells with at least 1,500 people per square kilometre and a minimum total population of 50,000.

NCP, allies may unveil a new alliance today

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Earlier in the day, Mojibur Rahman Bhuiyan, chairman of AB Party, said the formation of the alliance is expected to be finalised soon.

Talking to this newspaper, UP Bangladesh Convener Ali Ahsan Zunaid said NCP, AB Party, Rashtriya Songskar Andolon, and UP Bangladesh have reached an understanding. He described the talks as positive, adding, "We are also in touch with a few other parties."

Hasnat Quaiyum, president of Rashtriya Songskar Andolon, said the final announcement may come today.

He added that Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) and Gono Odhikar Parishad could join the alliance.

For months, the NCP has been exploring ways to forge an alliance.

On November 9, it held a meeting at its Banglamotor office to discuss polls strategy, including the possibility of forming an alliance with like-minded parties and platforms.

NCP leaders also met representatives from AB Party, Gono Odhikar Parishad, and the six-party alliance named Ganatantra March in October to explore alliance options.

According to party sources, the new alliance is considered a "third force" outside the dominance of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in the next elections.

Earlier, a senior NCP leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "We don't intend to remain a 'small BNP' or a 'small Jamaat'. Rather than following larger parties, we believe it is time to position ourselves as a major political force. That is why we are working to forge an alliance with like-minded parties."

A senior AB Party leader told the newspaper that this alliance would function as a political and electoral alliance. "It will remain active politically on the ground. The implementation of the July charter cannot be achieved through elections alone."

The new alliance, once unveiled, is expected to launch a coordinated campaign for the upcoming polls slated for February next year.



As winter sets in, roadside markets across the capital are brimming with warm clothes, drawing crowds of eager buyers. The photo was taken yesterday at Mohammapur Krishi Market.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt reshuffles SPs in all districts

FROM PAGE 1

Following the reshuffle, the process to transfer officers in charge of police stations has begun and is also set to follow a lottery system.

Decisions on transfers of range DIGs, metropolitan police commissioners, and deputy commissioners are being prepared, though officials say it is still undecided whether lottery will apply to those posts.

SPs are typically posted for three years. Based on yesterday's changes, most newly appointed officers are expected to serve during the February national election, though once the election schedule is announced, the Election Commission will assume full authority and may transfer officials to those posts.

He said a committee could have selected competent officers and replaced them if needed after observing their performance.

Crime analysts also warned that the approach may backfire.

Tawhidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University, said districts differ widely in crime profiles, and "new officers will struggle without experience. A lottery can also be manipulated."

He said professional appointments "cannot rely on chance", adding that qualified officers risk being sidelined when experienced leadership is essential.

Several police officers voiced frustration, saying some who had

already served as district SPs were re-selected, while others promoted years ago still have no district postings.

Some alleged that certain officers obtained desirable districts despite facing allegations. "This lottery cannot guarantee impartiality," said one SP-level officer.

Another officer from the 28th batch said many of his batchmates, promoted three years ago, still have no district assignments. "We hoped the interim

2024 elections were excluded.

The reshuffle followed several rounds of meetings at the ministry and police headquarters amid tensions over competing demands and internal lobbying.

Former IGP Muhammad Nurul Huda criticised the move, arguing that quality and experience are crucial in SP postings and "a lottery system cannot ensure that level of judgment".

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