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Misrule will not return if ‘Yes’ vote wins: Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the country would undergo a fundamental transformation and misrule would not return if the “Yes” vote prevails in the referendum scheduled for February 12.

He also expressed confidence that the national parliamentary election, slated for the same day, would be free, fair, peaceful and festive.

The chief adviser made the remarks while addressing a farewell meeting with all secretaries at his office yesterday.

Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, later briefed the media at the Foreign Service Academy.

“If the ‘Yes’ vote wins in the referendum, Bangladesh’s future will be built in a more positive way,” Prof Yunus said.

Expressing optimism, he said the election would be better than any held previously in the country, adding that



Operations at the Chattogram Port have returned to normal after the indefinite work stoppage by port workers was suspended till February 15. All operational activities, including import and export, resumed at the country's main seaport from 8:00am yesterday. The photo was taken in the Chattogram Port area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CHATTOGRAM-6 (RAOZAN) Security tops voter concerns ahead of polls

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Ahead of the 13th national election scheduled for February 12, voters in the Chattogram-6 (Raozan) constituency say they are gripped by a deep sense of unease over security concerns.

The contest in the constituency features several heavyweight contenders, including BNP's Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury (sheaf of paddy), Jamaat-e-Islami's Shahjahan Manju (scales), Bangladesh Islami Front's Principal Allama Ilias Noori (candle), and Ganosamhati Andolon's Nasiruddin Talukder (mathal-farmer's cap).

All four candidates have been actively campaigning, repeatedly promising to build a “peaceful Raozan” free from violence and

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PARTY MANIFESTOS Long on pledges, short on funding details: Shujan

KEY OBSERVATIONS

- Major party manifestos overly ambitious
- No party provided cost estimates
- Funding sources for pledges remain unclear
- BNP’s job, growth, welfare targets highly costly
- Good governance key to implementing Jamaat’s pledges
- Economic security voters’ top concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reviewing the election manifestos of five political parties, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) yesterday said the manifestos of the two major parties are excessively ambitious and that none of the parties has provided financial estimates for implementing their proposed programmes.

As a result, although the pledges may appear attractive in principle, questions remain among citizens about the economic capacity to carry them out, the organisation said.

“It is striking that no party has specified how much money will be required to implement their promises, or from which sources that money will be mobilised,” said Dilip Kumar Sarkar, chief coordinator of the organisation.

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FEB 12 ELECTION | DHAKA-6 Legacy collides with new promises

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK and SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

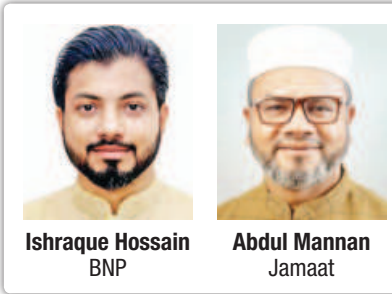
As the election date draws closer, a festive political mood has taken hold of the Dhaka-6 constituency.

The narrow alleyways of Sutrapur, Wari and Gendaria in Old Dhaka are alive with processions, slogans and energetic campaigning.

Candidates are reaching out to voters with promises to resolve long-standing civic problems, while residents look to the polls with hopes of real change.

Dhaka-6 comprises wards 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 of the Dhaka South City Corporation, covering Wari, Gendaria, Sutrapur and parts of Kotwali thana.

The constituency is home to key landmarks, including Jagannath University, Sadarghat, Sayedabad Bus Terminal, Ahsan Manzil, Joykali Temple, Baldha Garden, Asgar Ali Medical College, Narinda and



Dhupkhola.

Residents said the main contest is between the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami candidates.

The BNP nominee is Ishraque Hossain, son of former Dhaka mayor and freedom fighter late Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Jamaat has fielded Abdul Mannan, a former student leader and assistant secretary of Dhaka City South Jamaat. Both candidates are campaigning intensively and engaging directly with voters.

Locals said Ishraque enjoys strong popularity as a former mayoral candidate and young leader, drawing large processions and rallies.

In contrast, Mannan has focused on an organised, door-to-door campaign.

Voters identified key local issues as gas and water shortages, the congested environment across Old Dhaka, severe traffic jams in Sayedabad and

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Justice Naima Haider resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Naima Haider, a senior High Court judge who was under investigation by the Supreme Judicial Council, has resigned from office, citing “personal difficulties”.

“Justice Naima Haider submitted her resignation letter on February 5. We sent the letter to the president the same day,” said Supreme Court Registrar General Mohammad Habibur Rahman Siddiquee.

He said the Supreme Judicial Council had initiated an investigation concerning Justice Naima.

She is also among 12 HC judges who have been kept away from judicial functions since October 16, 2024, following demands from the anti discrimination movement, SC sources said.

Justice Naima's tenure was scheduled to continue till March 18, 2029. She was elevated as an additional judge of the High Court Division on June 30, 2009 and appointed a regular judge of the same division on June 30, 2011.



SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Deadline for probe report extended to April 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the deadline until April 1 for submitting the probe report in the case over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi in February 2012.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ariful Islam set the new date after Investigation Officer Md Azizul Haque, an additional superintendent of police at the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), failed to submit the report yesterday, a court staffer said.

According to case records, investigators could not submit the report before the court despite 125 previous deadlines.



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PHOTO: STAR

A human chain was formed in front of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, demanding security assurances for minorities, indigenous people and women voters, so that they can exercise their right to vote freely. The protest was organised by Nagorik Samaj, with participants from all walks of life and civil society coming out in support.

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