

EC now decides

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People applying to be registered as voters will have to submit receipts of municipal tax payments or house rent receipts or receipts of payments to village guards, and affidavits of age or attested copies of SSC certificates with their applications on prescribed forms.

No one will get the prescribed Form No 2 for getting his or her name enlisted on the voter list unless he or she submits the required documents with the application, the election officials said adding that the strict provision may discourage people from getting enlisted.

The month long task scheduled to start on July 1 will be conducted from the offices of the ROs and AROs at district and upazila headquarters, and at the wards of union parishes (UPs), municipalities, and city corporations — the grassroots level unit of the local government.

But election officials at district levels feared that the whole process might turn out to be a futile exercise because the EC's latest decision still does not meet the demand of both the ruling alliance and the opposition coalition for going from door to door to revise the voter list.

"Already local opposition leaders told us that they will create obstacles to our job if we don't go from door to door to revise the voter list," a district election officer told The Daily Star yesterday.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said a new circular will be issued soon specifying tasks of the ROs and AROs in line with the EC's new decision.

The officials however said the EC may initiate some more steps for revision of the voter list considering the outcome of the

month long task.

EC RETREATS

The EC started retreating from its headline just two days into its June 12 decision of not going from door to door and its decision to use information collected during the controversial attempt to prepare a fresh voter list in the process of revising the existing list. The attempt to prepare a fresh voter list was declared illegal by the Supreme Court.

Facing severe criticism from legal and election experts, the EC on June 14 cancelled the decision of using the information collected during the preparation of the controversial fresh voter list.

Along with legal and election experts, ruling BNP main opposition Awami League and all other political parties are demanding that the EC revises the voter list by going from door to door. They also requested the EC to reconsider its June 12 decision.

But, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz disregarded the demand and kept on saying that the verdict of the Supreme Court did not specifically mandate door to door visits mandatory.

Election experts and some EC Secretariat officials however are now predicting that the EC finally may decide to go from door to door to revise the voter list as many eligible people are still likely to remain out of the list even after the latest decision due to the EC's persistent intransigence to follow the traditional procedure.

Additional Inspector General (Prisons) Col Sirajul Islam transferred three jail guards of Shariatpur, Kashimpur and Gazipur jails to Chittagong Central Jail while as many from Dhaka Central Jail (DCJ), Madaripur and Netrakona jails were transferred to Comilla Central Jail.

Three jail guards of Gopalganj and Mymensingh jails were transferred to Rajshahi Central Jail, three others from Kishoreganj, Munsinganj and Gazipur jails were transferred to Rangpur Central Jail, and three jail guards of Madaripur, Narsingdi and DCJ were transferred to Jessore Central Jail while three others of

11:15am. Leaders and workers of the ruling party and its front organisations attended the janaza.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and other frontline leaders placed wreaths on the coffin of the late leader.

The second janaza was held at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad at noon. Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar, Acting Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, cabinet members, MPs, diplomats, civil society members and government officials attended the janaza.

The acting president and the acting speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad placed wreaths on the coffin of the minister.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on behalf of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Deputy Opposition Leader Abdul Hamid on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths on the coffin.

Wreaths were also placed on behalf of the ministries of Liberation War Affairs, Shipping, and Foreign Affairs.

Col (ret) Akbar Hossain, who was awarded Bir Protik for his valiant role in the country's Liberation War, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday night.

get the fund," the mayor replied. On the public suffering due to road-digging, the mayor said a lack of coordination among the utility service providers is responsible for it.

The mayor said DCC should be brought under the Prime Minister's Office to accelerate the pace of development work in the capital city.

Asked about corruption of DCC officials, the mayor said, "In Bangladesh corruption is everywhere. We all have to work together to control it."

30 hurt

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left at least 30 injured. Workers beat up some officials of the factory and vandalised a vehicle belonging to Lenny Fashion Ltd at the news of their co-workers' injuries.

The police set up barricades at several points on the road stretching from Baipal to Boliobhoro, which caused heavy traffic congestion on Dhaka-Baipal-Chandra highway from 8:30am to 9:30am.

The protesters left the scene after BEPZA Chairman Ashraf Abdullah Yusuf and general manager of DEPEZA ZM Azizur Rahman assured them of taking immediate measures to improve the situation.

Earlier, on Sunday, the YG was closed since die after the workers refrained from work and demonstrated as they failed to convince factory authorities to resume operations of one of YG's units, Savar Sportswear Ltd (SSL), as promised.

YG was shut down before on June 13 in the wake of workers' agitation. It was supposed to resume operations in phases by June 24 starting from June 17.

On June 17, the authorities informed the workers that SSL would resume operation on June 24.

Meanwhile, two other factories, A-One (BD) Ltd and Sofex Ltd, also remained closed till yesterday. Several thousand workers of these factories are going through hardship without income as their job status has become uncertain due to the recent unrest in the sector.

'Spies' posted in jails

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process to root out corruption which has earned a bad reputation for the whole department. I need my own reporting system to get the job done."

Terming the specially assigned jail guards as 'security teams', he said, "I've received permission from the ministry for this."

According to the jail code, jail guards are to take orders from their superior officials in jails. But an order issued on May 10 said the Prisons Directorate will directly control the activities of the 'security teams'. The prisons where they are transferred are responsible for providing them with lodging, food and salary.

Thirty nine such spy guards were transferred to 13 jails across the country. According to the IG of prisons, such 'security teams' will be appointed to all 66 jails gradually and the process will be completed within this year.

After selecting the spy jail guards, the Prisons Directorate gave them special training for about three months before sending them to different jails.

"They have been trained to report on activities that may lead to security breaches in the prisons, and on corruption," said the IG Prisons.

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VERSION OF THE PRISON BOSS

The Prison Directorate's move does not clash in anyway with the jail code, IG Prisons Brigadier General Zakir Hossain said.

rebel's peace secretary, told Reuters. "We think it might be an inside job. There's competition between the top commanders. Paramilitaries might also be responsible."

Few analysts believe they repeated denials for recent attacks. The military said it was in little doubt, and that no-one else could be behind it.

Rebel political wing leader SP Thamilselvan told Reuters this month that the LTTE would use all strategies — including suicide bombings — if war resumed in earnest.

"I guess they are trying to put pressure on the government by bringing the war to Colombo," said Jehan Perera, director of think-tank the National Peace Council. The Colombo stock market initially fell on news of the attack, but later recovered.

The island's peace process remains seriously stalled. Monday's attack came just days after Rajapakse tried and failed through informal channels to start direct talks with the LTTE in a bid to halt escalating violence.

The Tigers turned him down, saying he was simply trying to sideline mediator Norway, which brokered the original truce.

With the government sharply opposed to the Tigers' demands for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east, many diplomats believe the rebels want to return to a conflict in which some 65,000 people have already been killed.

Seven killed

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roadblock six kilometres (four miles) east of Miranshah, the main town in the area.

"As it did the car blew up, killing seven soldiers who were guarding the checkpoint and injuring five other soldiers," one official told AFP. The bomber's body was also blown to pieces."

The injured soldiers had been washing outside a mosque adjoining the checkpoint where they had come to offer prayers, another official said. Military helicopters airlifted them to hospital.

All roads in the area were closed off after the attack.

The bombing came hours after Pakistani authorities cautiously welcomed a one-month truce offered by pro-Taliban militants in the troubled area bordering Afghanistan.

The ceasefire announced late on Sunday was supposed to allow the meeting of a council of tribal elders, known as a Jirga, at which they will negotiate between the insurgents, local people and the army to stop the bloodshed.

The offer is "conditional, if the security forces attack us then we reserve the right to defend ourselves," Abdullah Farhad, a purported spokesman for the militants said in telephone calls to local newspaper offices.

The rebels also gave a string of demands, including replacing army troops with tribal police; keeping soldiers in their barracks for the period of the ceasefire; and the release of all tribesmen detained in military operations.

"We welcome the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire," said a spokesman for Ali Jan Orakzai, governor of North West Frontier Province where the near-lawless region is ruled from.

"The ceasefire is holding," he said earlier Monday.

On June 2 four Pakistani soldiers were killed and eight wounded in a suicide car-bombing in North Waziristan.

Key US ally Pakistan has deployed some 80,000 troops to hunt down Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters who sneaked into the tribal belt after the fall of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in late 2001.

North Waziristan is one of seven agencies that make up the tribal zone. The militants lost some 200 men when the region was rocked by major clashes in March, just after US President George W. Bush visited Pakistan.

Gopalganj, Manikganj and Rajbari jails were sent to Barisal Central Jail.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui ordered the transfer of 21 guards of different jails of Dhaka division.

Twelve of them were transferred to DCJ, two each to Mymensingh and Faridpur jails and one each to Kashimpur 1 and 2, Tangail, Gazipur and Narayanganj jails.

Aggrieved general guards in Narsingdi Jail recently assaulted a spy jail guard. One spy posted at Chittagong Central Jail stopped ration distribution in Cox's Bazar Jail using his 'special authority' on June 1 and kept the distribution suspended for a couple of days, creating strong resentment among other jail staff.

Talking about the incident, the IG Prisons said, "My jail guard found that about 400 sacks of pulse, and 300 sacks of rice and sugar went missing, so he stopped the distribution."

Resentment resulting from the directorate's move is growing fast among jail officials and other jail guards as the specially assigned spy jail guards have been allegedly defying senior officials' orders and misbehaving with them.

The spy jail guards who have the educational qualification of class eight now orders around their superior officials, an aggrieved jail superintendent said.

"Although the jail authorities usually decide the post and the duration of duty of the jail guards, these guards make their own duty details saying they only report to the Prisons Directorate," an aggrieved jailer told The Daily Star. Such a dual administrative arrangement will result in a disaster in the directorate, he added.

TOP general, 3 others

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Elam (LTTE), who has long used suicide bombers both in battle and assassinations, denied they were responsible for Monday's blast.

An April attack by a female suicide bomber on army headquarters in Colombo wounded the army's commander and prompted government bombing raids on the rebels.

"These killings are further examples of the LTTE's concerted efforts to derail the peace process through acts of terror, and its total disregard for the international community's repeated calls on it to cease all violence and acts of terrorism," President Mahinda Rajapakse said in a statement.

By mid-afternoon, there was no report of new military action against the Tigers. There have been no air strikes on the rebels since earlier in the month and the Tigers have warned of military retaliation if they resume.

"This is sheer terrorism. I think the Tigers have lost the plot," said Palitha Kohona, head of the government peace secretary. They don't seem to realise that terrorism is not an acceptable way to achieve political ends."

Kulattung's car was left lying perpendicular across the narrow street, burnt-out and still smouldering. A Reuters witness saw the severed head of the suspected suicide bomber lying in the gutter around 50 metres down the street.

Nine people were wounded in the attack in the town of Panipitiya, about 6 miles from a big army base.

"The LTTE has no involvement in the attack," S. Puledevan, head of the

rebels' peace secretary, told Reuters. "We think it might be an inside job. There's competition between the top commanders. Paramilitaries might also be responsible."

Few analysts believe they repeated denials for recent attacks. The military said it was in little doubt, and that no-one else could be behind it.

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Bigots not seen

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the zealots have vowed to make their Zia International Airport siege on Thursday a success.

"Thursday's programme would be a tough one," Nabuwat chief Noor Hossain Nurani told The Daily Star yesterday, who is now undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Uttara. He also added that they would be prepared for battle with the police to force the government meet their three-point demand.

These include passage of a law in the current parliament session declaring Hazrat Mohammad (pbuh) as the last prophet of Islam, to form a 'Khatme Nabuwat Foundation' and to handover an Ahmadiyya mosque to the 'Muslims' at Sathkha after making proper investigation.

"We showed enough patience respecting the laws of the country but the government did not pay any heed to us except arranging a few meetings with some low-ranking police officials and bureaucrats," Nurani said adding that it is time for them to make continuous attacks on the government to fulfil their demands.

He, however, said that they might withdraw the Thursday's siege programme, if prime minister takes steps to implement their demands.

"Besides, the travel agencies also requested me not to enforce any strike at ZIA for it will cause losses to them as well as to the labourers going abroad," Nurani said.

Klinsmann not after US job

AFP, Berlin

Germany manager Juergen Klinsmann has laughed off suggestions that he would be tempted to become coach of the United States team so he could be close to his California-based family.

"The USA link is speculation which doesn't interest me. I have my own job here," said Klinsmann.

Klinsmann was promoting his sports marketing firm in the United States before taking charge of Germany in August 2004.

He caused controversy by jetting back and forth to California to see his family rather than relocating to Germany on a permanent basis.

Klinsmann is yet to pen a new deal as Germany coach saying his future hinges on the World Cup.

For the United States, ranked fifth in the FIFA world rankings, it has been a miserable finals as they crashed out without winning a single match.

Switzerland

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breaking the deadlock in the first half but saw their efforts come off the bar leaving the match delicately poised at 0-0 at half-time.

Ukraine were having very little of the ball in the first period but they showed they could be dangerous in the 21st minute as Maksym Kalynychenko swung in a freekick from the left and Shevchenko stooped low to get his head to the ball and saw it bounce down and against the bar with Swiss' keeper Pascal Zuberbuhler beaten.

However, the Swiss went desperately close themselves a few minutes later as Frei's superb freekick rattled the Ukrainian bar but though the ball fell to Patrick Muller a few metres out he kicked his effort wide of the goal.

The Ukrainians started the second-half brightly with Andrei Voronin going close with a header which flashed past Zuberbuhler's post.

However there was little of note for at least the next 20 minutes until Shevchenko brought the ball down — with his arm admittedly but — the referee missed it — and turned Ludovic Maignin inside out before lashing a divine shot just wide of the post.

The Ukrainians were seemingly more capable of raising themselves from the dead, play and Andrei Gusin saw his 70th minute header from a corner scrape the far post with Zuberbuhler completely lost.

Extra-time required everybody having a large dose of caffeine to keep themselves awake with the most notable thing being the bizarre substitution with just five minutes remaining to penalties of Frei by Mario Lustrinelli.

Frei left the pitch shaking his head, but the spectators were doing the same thing but only in wonderment that these sides are reputedly two of the best 16 sides in the world.

The penalties proved catastrophic as while Shevchenko saw his saved by Zuberbuhler — who was to exit the tournament not having conceded a goal in open play — the next three Swiss players all missed theirs to allow Gusev his deserved moment of glory.

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"Besides, the travel agencies also requested me not to enforce any strike at ZIA for it will cause losses to them as well as to the labourers going abroad," Nurani said.

Although his hospitalisation has literally crippled the activities of the movement, Nurani claimed to have had meetings with the other bodies of Khatme Nabuwat to declare fresh programmes.

He also hinted at shifting the siege programme from the airport to the Madadpara Ahmadiyya mosque, their main target.

The law enforcers on Friday foiled the zealots' attempt to attack the Ahmadiyya mosque at Ashkona in Uttara and to hang a signboard on the mosque, which read "a place of worship for the non-Muslim."

The police also dispersed the bigots through baton-charge, when they tried to offer their prayers on Airport Road, leaving some 20 wounded.

Shazneen case

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23, 1998 that they would talk with their parents next day to punish Hasan for his lewd behaviour with Shazneen on April 1.

But, that next day never came in her life as accused Hasan with the help of other accused killed Shazneen on that very day, he said before the High Court (HC) Death Reference Bench.

The hearing on the trial court's verdict against the six accused was held at the bench of Justices Ali Asgar Khan and Emdadul Haque.

Senior lawyer Mujibur Rahman also explained different legal aspects on behalf of the state.

The DAG said he, as a state lawyer, is carrying out the duty of ensuring justice to Shazneen's family members. Her family members are waiting for justice, he added.

He said allegations against the accused have been proved through the statements of prosecution witnesses and through all the information presented before the court. He appealed to the court for upholding the death sentences against the accused given by the lower court.

The DAG said Shazneen used to react at sight of Hasan ever since he made advances. The traumatised girl struggled to control her anger when she saw Hasan five hours before death.

He urged the court to uphold the trial court verdict based on the statement detailing agonised days of Shazneen. He said the court could accept Shazneen's statement under section 32 (1) of the Evidence Act. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh has also given opinion on accepting such statements, he added.

He said accused Shahid surrendered to the police in Chittagong on April 27, 1998 and he was brought to Shazneen's residence on the same day where he narrated how Shazneen was killed. His statement was spontaneous at the crime scene.

He also said the confessional statement of Shahid made before the magistrate also supports the

statement he had made at the crime scene.

Besides, there are similarities in the crime scene statement of Shahid with the confessional statement of accused Minu.

Quoting higher court's references, the DAG said the court could accept new information extracted from statement made outside the court by the accused. In this case, the statement Shahid made at the residence of Shazneen was unknown to all and it was completely new information for the court.

He said the confessional statements of the accused and statements of the prosecution witnesses proved that according to Hasan's plan the other accused killed Shazneen after trapping her.

Senior lawyer Mujibur Rahman in his argument presented different legal aspects regarding the accused persons' involvement in the killing with reference to other High Court verdicts.

He said allegations against the accused have been proved beyond doubt and urged the court to uphold the trial court's verdict against the accused.

Assistant Attorney General Zinat Akhter Nazli Begum and advocates Nazmul Haq represented the state during the argument. Advocates Anisul Haq and Mosharraf Hossain Kajol moved for the defence.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of a leading businessman Latifur Rahman, also a student of Scholastica, was raped and killed at her Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

The Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka on September 2, 2003 convicted six accused and ordered to hang them all due death.

The convicts are Hasan, domestic help Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, his assistant Badal, carpenter Shanir Mandal and housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin.

Graft thrives

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policy reform among the people, and making the state machinery effective for elimination of corruption.

The views were expressed at a seminar titled 'Role of Citizens in Addressing Corruption in Bangladesh: Creating Demand', part of a series of seminars on good governance held at a hotel in the capital organised by the Embassy of the United States of America in association with the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh.

In his keynote paper Iftekhar Zaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said politics in the country has become a profitable business, it has become synonymous with investment and abuse of power with impunity. Political leadership in its redefined form also damages public institutions by promoting partisan interests undermining the rule of law, he said.

Habitual disregard for commitment, negligence in duty, mistrust, hatred for each other, and intolerance have ultimately resulted in erosion of moral values in the society, he added.

Corruption leads to policies and decisions based on private interests, it breeds and increases poverty and injustice, undermines democracy and governance, and encourages secretiveness in decision making, Iftekhar said. The social menace of corruption distorts the market and stifles economic growth as well, he noted.

Under these circumstances, fighting corruption is highly challenging because of its links with the powers that be, Zaman said, adding that the fight needs a comprehensive strategy, the elements of which are political will, a strengthened sense of national unity, and the citizens' awareness and demands.

The government has to take the lead to make the state machinery effective while participations in motivational activities by public officials, public representatives, and other stakeholders especially the youths are crucial, he said.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui stressed the importance of pro-active role of the civil society and private sector, and the importance of properly functioning state machinery in combating corruption.

There has to be a coalition of the civil society, NGOs and the private sector whose first responsibility will be to do some self-criticism before criticising others. "Only then they can carry out powerful campaigns."

Some areas should be identified first to eliminate corruption, Kamal Uddin Siddiqui said, adding that other areas should be covered gradually.

He mentioned peaceful processions, long marches, and pro-active advocacy as parts of the campaign against corruption.

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