



The Daily Star

Verdict on Dhaka-10 stayed

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday ordered a 10-week stay of operation of the Election Tribunal's judgement declaring void the polling at 51 centres out of 78 in Dhaka-10 parliamentary constituency.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mafuzur Rahman and Justice Md Ifthikar Rasul, after admitting the appeal preferred against the Election Tribunal's judgment, passed the stay order.

The Divisional Election Tribunal, Dhaka, in a judgment passed on November 26 last year declared the election at 51 polling centres void.

Dr H B M Iqbal of Awami League was declared elected a Member of Parliament from Dhaka-10 constituency comprising Tejgaon and Ramna areas in the polls held on June 12, 1998.

Md Abdul Mannan of BNP challenged the election of Dr Iqbal and filed a case with the Election Tribunal.

Returning Officer rules out any chance of rigging

PABA. Dec 9: The Returning Officer of Pabna-2 constituency, where by-election is scheduled for tomorrow, ruled out any chance of rigging, reports APB.

Hedayetul Islam, the Returning Officer, expressed his firm determination to hold the by-election in a free and fair manner.

Islam, the ADM who has been made the Returning Officer as a replacement of the Deputy Commissioner, said this at a press briefing here today.

Referring to widespread allegations and counter-allegations of the parties involved in the fray, Islam said, "we are performing our duties neutrally and impartially."

He sought cooperation of all quarters, including the political parties, to hold the by-polls in a congenial atmosphere.

District Police Super Shah Alam Sikdar and Assistant Returning Officers were present at the briefing.

Alternatives

Due to some unavoidable circumstances, the issue on "Political Protest: Search for Alternatives" will come out on 14 January 1999 instead of 10 December 1998. The next issue will be on "State of Education," which will come out on 25 December 1998.

Scholars, researchers, activists and all other interested parties at home and abroad are requested to send their articles to Imtiaz Ahmed, Executive Director, Centre for Alternatives, Room No 431, Lecture Theatre, Arts Faculty, Dhaka University, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 9661900-19, Ext. 4550; Fax: (880-2) 836769; E-Mail: imtiaz@bangla.net

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Security personnel going to polling centres in Pabna-2 constituency yesterday.

—Star photo

Battle of ballots for Pabna-2 today

By Nurul Kabir with Ranesh Maitra from Pabna



AK Khandaker, AL candidate



Selim Reza Habib, BNP candidate

some 1500 votes for the same seat.

Compared to his AL and BNP contenders, Jatiya Party's Selim Reza Hossain Bachchu appeared less serious during the campaign, while Krishak Andolan candidate Sadek Mohammad Krishak was hardly visible.

In 1996 general elections, Khandaker lost to a BNP candidate by a margin of 10 thousand votes in another Pabna constituency.

BNP has fielded A K M Selim Reza as its candidate. In the last parliamentary polls, Tafizuddin Ahmed defeated Reza by

188,703 — 96,165 male and 92,538 females.

Four candidates from ruling Awami League, opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Jatiya Party and Bangladesh Krishak Shramik Mukti Andolan are in the fray.

But clear signs are there that it will be a two-way battle between the AL and BNP candidates. The seat fell vacant after ruling party MP Tafizuddin Ahmed died last June.

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