

Stern measures: EC

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the expenditures for the following purposes like printing of poster with more than one colour, on imported paper and as per EC's prescribed size, erection of gate, erection of pandal measuring not more than 400 square feet and making of banner.

The circular mentioned that electoral laws do not allow use of more than three loud speakers in one constituency at a time, setting up of more than one election camp in each union or municipal ward and one central election camp or office in each constituency.

It said the rules also prohibit entertainment of voters, use of truck, bus, car, taxi, motor cycle, speed boat etc, hiring any transport or water vessel for carrying voters, illumination, use of candidate's

portrait or election symbol with more than one colour, display of election symbol larger than the EC prescribed size and wall writing.

The size of the election symbol will not exceed five metres and the size of poster 23'X18'.

Violation of the RPO would be considered as "corruption and crime" under Article 73 and the punishment for this is two to seven years' imprisonment, the circular said.

The EC has instructed all concerned to erase all the wall writings immediately and said officials would be solely responsible for violation of the code of conduct.

It instructed election officials and law enforcing agencies to take action as per rule for strict implementation of the code of conduct.

Samad Azad

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dent Syed Abu Nosor, the rally was conducted by the district General Secretary ANM Shafiqul Haque, with AL nominee for Sylhet-1 constituency AMA Muhith as the special guest. Among others, district Joint Secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim and district BCL President Shaiful Alam Khan Nadel addressed the rally.

Alamee League would win all 19 seats of four districts in Sylhet, he predicted.

AMA Muhith said, "I have a dream to establish an enlightened Sylhet."

Babul Hossain Babul, a former chairman of Sylhet Sadar upazila and Sylhet Pourashava, also once general secretary of Sylhet district Chhatra League, fought the 1996 parliamentary election on a JP ticket and secured the 3rd position. This time round, he tried hard to get JP nomination, but to no avail. He also tried to join the BNP, but failed. Babul joined the BNP in the period of Ziaur Rahman. Later, he was with the JP. This time after 20 years, he joined the AL.

Later addressing another rally at Jaldanga, the BNP Chairperson sought vote for another Jamaat candidate in Nilphamari-3.

AL totally failed: Khaleda

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Khaleda said the ensuring parliamentary election is very crucial and urged the people to cast their vote judiciously.

"You have to decide whether you want misrule, terrorism and corruption or peace, security and development."

She alleged that AL leaders and activists during the party's five-year rule misappropriated public money and unleashed terrorism.

She said, if elected, her party will take stringent measures to improve law and order and remove corruption.

She also pledged that programmes will be undertaken for setting up of industries in northern districts to remove unemployment.

Abdul Latif is contesting against AL nominee Asaduzzaman Noor and Jatiya Party (Ershad) candidate Joinal Abedin.

Addressing two big public meetings at Dimla High School ground and at Domar High School ground, she sought vote for BNP candidate and her nephew Shahrin Islam Tuhin who is contesting from Nilphamari-1 against JP (Ershad) candidate NK Alam Chowdhury and AL nominee Dr Hamida Banu Sova.

"If you want to live in peace, remove corruption and ensure

development of your area, vote for sheaf of paddy".

She also reiterated her pledge to reduce prices of diesel and other agri-inputs.

She made a fervent call to all pro-liberation forces to put up a united front against 'razakars' and 'vote thieves' who had 'ganged up to protect killers of the Father of the Nation'.

If AL is voted power again, court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case would be executed, she said.

Addressing a huge gathering at Altafunnesa play ground in Bogra town in the evening, the former prime minister recalled that in the past people of Bogra did not vote for AL. "You vote for us this time, we will ensure gas supply to Bogra," she said.

Since early afternoon, thousands of people kept on waiting at the meeting venue to listen to her.

Bogra is a stronghold of BNP where AL failed to bag even a single

Khaleda, Ershad

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them again to see return of corrupt regimes."

Seeking votes for AL candidates in the constituencies she visited yesterday, Hasina urged people to give their verdict this time in favour of 'honest and efficient contestants'.

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She said her party, if voted to power, would make plough redundant by replacing it with power tillers and tractors. "If you vote for AL, we will give you peace, ensure food for all and economic emancipation of the people."

Delhi reacts sharply

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have centuries-old historical and cultural links, the terrorism emanating from Afghanistan has affected India. "So, it is quite legitimate that India has interest in whatever is happening in Afghanistan."

Analysts here attribute Mosharraf's diatribe against India in yesterday's speech to his bid to hard-sell his regime's decision to extend "unstinted cooperation to the US to go after bin Laden in the face of mounting opposition from radical" jihadi groups in Pakistan, which resented Islamabad's extending any kind of support to Washington in its mission.

The easiest way to try and mollify the radical groups is to play the anti-India card in Pakistan, the analysts said.

Meanwhile, India has launched a diplomatic initiative to reach out to the Islamic world when External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh spoke to his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharazzi on telephone yesterday and sought Tehran's support for the global coalition against terrorism. Iranian ambassador to India Mohammed Moosavi had a meeting with Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani.

Singh is understood to have impressed upon Kharazzi that Iran's participation in an international

alliance against terrorism would ensure that it was not aimed at targeting Islam.

"Islam can simply not be equated with terrorism and India and Iran need to work together that this does not happen," Singh told the Iranian minister, sources say. Singh also conveyed to Kharazzi that the battle against terrorism was not confined to any individual but against a system that breeds extremist violence.

Analysts here feel Iran's joining the global coalition against terrorism can lead to a thaw in relations between Tehran and Washington frozen since the American hostage crisis in 1979. The mayor of Tehran is reported to have sent a message to his New York counterpart, condoning the deaths in September 11 terror strikes in New York and Washington. This, the analysts said, was the first official-level contact between the US and Iran since 1979.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, in his press briefing in Washington recently, appeared to take a positive note of the message from Tehran's Mayor saying this was a change from Iran's traditional posture towards the United States and Washington's long-held view of Iran.

3 Bangladeshis

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His identification was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, BSF troops opened fire killing Haque and Qudus at Dabri frontier in Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon district while they were going to work in a farmland.

"Later the BSF personnel took away the bodies into India," a report reading here said.

Earlier on Tuesday night, two Bangladeshi nationals were killed in BSF firing at Bodhgaon frontier in Atwari upazila of Panchagarh. Their bodies were handed over to BDR yesterday.

Banners

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can set up a central office and a camp in each ward. The parties agreed to remove the additional camps.

"It is a very positive sign that the candidates agreed to follow the law of the Election Commission," another police officer said.

A large number of camps create troubles among the rival groups, he said.

"Now if we find any banner and more than one camp in a ward, we will demolish them."

ME ceasefire

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peace process, can only meet Arafat after 48 hours of total calm.

The premier's spokesman Ranaan Gissin reiterated Israel's refusal to negotiate under fire, calling Arafat's ceasefire declaration a "tactical rather than strategic decision."

"In that tactical decision he thought he could get away with some level of violence which would enable him to show he has managed to drag Israel to negotiate under fire. And that of course will never happen," Gissin stressed.

And he warned Israel would not put up with the attacks for much longer.

"We are not going to tolerate for long a situation where we sit idly by and they keep shooting at us. If we see that this continues we will take the necessary action in our self defence," a clear threat to attack Palestinian militants.

Govt denies

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seaports and airfields for possible multinational action to combat terrorism," the official announcement on Tuesday said. The two governments will work out the procedural details in this respect, it was decided.

Sami's reaction came in response to reports published in a section of the press that US fighter planes might land in Dhaka airport in a day or two to examine the facilities available here.

Sami, who hosted a lunch for the diplomatic correspondents at the state guesthouse "Padma" here yesterday, said that Bangladesh government did not receive any such request from the US government. "When such request comes, we will let you know," he told the newsmen.

Govt response

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General Rashid had worked in UN peace keeping missions and was the Chief Military Observer in Georgia for nearly two years.

He was in East Timor recently to see the performance of Bangladesh peacekeepers there. On his way back, he attended a security seminar in Malaysia.

Bangladesh now tops the list of UN peacekeepers in several troubled areas of the world.

EC determined

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possible to send those to the Returning Officers (ROs) well ahead the schedule," he said. This time the EC is printing some 7.5 crore ballot papers and some 3,00,000 postal ballots at the Government Printing Press and the Security Printing Press.

The Commission asked the ROs concerned to send their representatives (district election officer or a magistrate) to collect ballot papers. Distribution of ballot papers would continue for three days September 25, 26 and 27.

Other election materials have been procured while some more would be procured by the ROs and presiding officers concerned where necessary, EC officials said.

Regarding law and order, the EC spokesman said it is improving following deployment of army in some vulnerable areas. Asked about the number of vulnerable areas, he said the home ministry did not send any such list.

BIWTA

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Jahangir Alam, Abdul Malek, Giasuddin Khandokar, Faruq Khan and Shah Newaz. The BIWTA has a list of 222 illegally constructed houses which will be demolished soon.

Meanwhile, Narayanganj Pourashava also evicted more than 100 wayside structures at Fatullah which at one stage led to a hot alteration and scuffle between the officials of the pourashava and shopkeepers resulting in injury of 10 persons. The injured were treated soon.

He also ran trading enterprises, including Taba Commercial Company, likewise in Khartoum, as well as a vast agricultural project in Gezira State, central Sudan.

But he reportedly had many other business that were not public knowledge.

Sudanese officials say that all of bin Laden's businesses have been

US rejects proposals of clerics

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moshys resolved to declare jihad, or holy war, in the event of US military strikes.

An edict issued by the clerics, or ulema, expressed "anguish and sorrow" over last week's attacks, but that declaration apparently did nothing to mollify Washington, where Bush declared bin Laden "wanted: dead or alive."

The president has demanded that key figures of the al-Qaeda terrorist organisation including Osama bin Laden, be turned over to responsible authorities and that the Taliban close terrorist camps in Afghanistan, and the United States stands behind those demands," said Fleischer.

"This is about much more than any one man being allowed to leave voluntarily, presumably from one safe harbour to another safe harbour," said the spokesman, who declared that Afghanistan's rulers had only themselves to blame for any US military response.

"Anybody who harbours them will find themselves in harm's way," he said.

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Army: Public confidence

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purpose and procedural plans for full deployment of army prior to the October 1 general elections in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his office at the Army Headquarters (AHQ) on Wednesday.

He said the primary task of each of his men will be to maintain full vigilance so that that troubles could be prevented.

"We will take steps to clear any hurdles or obstacles on the election day so that peaceful polling can take place. Any one trying to intimidate the voters or obstruct the polling process will be resisted by our officers and soldiers," he said.

The General went on, "My parameter is different. Our force will try to create such conditions so that - people - men and women will feel safe and be encouraged to cast their vote," said the commander of the 1,10,000 strong Bangladesh Army.

"We have tried to orient our officers and soldiers to the election task. They will be engaged in carrying out reconnoitering activities to familiarise themselves with their assigned areas.

"Our main task is to work in aid of their cantonments till October 6, he replied. "We are always ready for war. Our task is not to stay in barracks. Our logistics and administrative system will enable us to stay outside for 15 days very easily," said General Rashid, an infantry corps officer.

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"We are aware of Jamaat's negative role in 1971. But it is in the past now.

As they have not been tested in power, they should be given a chance to prove their patriotism and capability."

Sharmin Sony 21, of DU, said:

"After passing 30 years since independence, we should not be discussing the political stances of Jamaat too much. It is about time we started working unitedly. All Jamaat followers are not against the country's liberation. There are many die-hard activists of the party who were born after the liberation war. Jamaat is a political party. So what is the problem if it shares power with another political party. All parties are presently using religion covertly or openly in their political campaign."

He, however, added, "I don't think Jamaat will be able to get more than 5/6 seats. Moreover, I think the BNP would not give Jamaat any ministerial position. Even if they do, I have no problems with that. In the Awami League, there are lots of anti-liberation leaders who are competing. Even during the AL tenure, there were one or two ministers who had opposed the war of liberation."

Nineteen-year-old Nitalie Islam, a DU student, also expressed her reservations about the four-party alliance, especially Jamaat.

"I cannot accept the politics of Jamaat. I don't want to wear veil. I am a religious person but why should I have to do something that I