

## Education sector

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The ACC also asked for a survey the University Grants Commission conducted on private universities.

Meantime, an ACC team formed to investigate institutional corruption at Roads & Highways Department visited several RHD projects yesterday.

On sending a list of 18,000 graft-suspects to the government, Hanif explained that it was earlier necessary for government officials to get clearance from now-defunct bureau of anti-corruption before promotion.

The government officials had to make it clear that there was no criminal charge or ongoing criminal investigation against them at the time of getting promotion, he added.

As the process was time and manpower consuming, ACC has taken an effort to ease it. An inter-ministerial meeting has decided that the commission would send the records to the establishment ministry, which would forward those to respective departments and offices.

"We're planning to bring the amendment so that it would be a must for a bail seeker to make ACC a party in bail petition. In accor-

dance with the existing law the bail seekers are making the state a party and getting bail," Hanif said.

"At present ACC has to apply for becoming a party in bail prayers and by the time it gets permission, the bail seeker secures bail," he added.

### CHARGE-SHEET

The charge-sheet against Tariqul will be submitted under section 26 (2) (Ka) of the ACC Act, 2004 for not submitting wealth statement.

Former managing director of Rajshahi City AL President Masudul Haque Dul said the AL-led 14-party alliance quite openly endorsed Fazle Hossain Badsha, but the AL is now backing AHM Khairuzzaman Liton.

"Isn't this political campaigning? Doesn't this violate electoral rules? If yes, the authorities are being two-faced as they had been trumpeting the rules on one hand, while on the other, they aren't taking any action against the violators," Dul said.

Another mayor aspirant Durul Huda, president of Jatiya Party city unit, said, "Major parties are openly endorsing their candidates. Let us know if it's legal, then we'll also arrange political support... What would we lagbehind?"

Progressive Development Party's Raihanur Rahman said almost all candidates are secretly hiring workers by huge numbers to do their campaign work.

Acting mayor Rejaunnabi Dudu alleged that many candidates are spending black money to engage hired thugs and run smear campaigns against their opponents.

Abu Bakar Siddik, a councillor hopeful at ward 10, said many public servants are also taking part in campaign work in exchange for money. "Hired goons of the present councillors who are also contesting the polls are threatening to kill us," he added.

Abul Kalam Azad, contesting councillorship post at ward 14, said many candidates are campaigning at places of worship including mosques.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan said to assist the authorities take swift action, everyone, if necessary withholding their identity, should provide the authorities with specific information on rules of conduct.

Deputy Election Commissioner Syed Muhammad Musa said starting Monday (yesterday), the authorities would take tough action against violators of the code of conduct.

Rejecting Musa's comment, a few candidates said they also want action against all the violations that have been committed so far.

"We so far warned candidates for violation of rules. But from now on, we will inform the Election Commission in Dhaka [of any allegation] so it can initiate an investigation and cancel candidacy of the offender," Musa said.

Musa also assured the candidates of justice and told them that the commission has instructed them to take action against those who are using resources of political parties in their election campaigns.

## Rajshahi city polls

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formal complaints about any sort of rules violations, the government should ask its intelligence agencies to increase vigilance over different campaigns.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, Rajshahi Deputy Election Commissioner Sayed Muhammad Musa and the commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police were present at the meeting among others.

Mayoral candidate and Rajshahi City AL President Masudul Haque Dul said the AL-led 14-party alliance quite openly endorsed Fazle Hossain Badsha, but the AL is now backing AHM Khairuzzaman Liton.

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## Party leaders

FROM PAGE 1

were in contravention of the electoral rules.

Instead, it maintained that it was overlooking the matter in efforts to create a congenial atmosphere for the elections.

However, on instructions from the EC, the ROs have lately been meeting the contestants, asking them not to have any central or senior local leaders canvassing for them.

About the allegations against some floating the electoral rules, CEC Huda yesterday told reporters that the candidates were carrying out election campaigns in compliance with the code of conduct.

"The situation is satisfactory as we are not seeing any wall writings, street showdowns and use of microphones in the election areas," he said.

ENQUIRY  
The EC yesterday instructed its secretariat officials to probe the allegations against some mayoral candidates of furnishing false information.

"There are allegations that some candidates have given false and incomplete information in their affidavits. Steps will be taken against the violators on completion of enquiry," the EC chief told reporters after a meeting at the commission secretariat.

At the meeting, the EC in particular discussed the allegation against Syed Habibur Rahman Hiron, a mayoral contender in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC).

Hiron is alleged to have provided incomplete information and also divulged his political identity in his affidavit on per-

sonal information, said sources.

The EC will also examine if it was irregular for the RO in SCC to accept Hiron's candidacy application, said the meeting sources.

This apart, the commission will launch enquiry on the basis of allegations that came up in the media about candidates furnishing incomplete information.

### ECACCUSES ATN

In a somewhat surprise move, the EC yesterday accused ATN Bangla, a private TV channel, of violating the electoral code of conduct.

It said the satellite channel has breached the rules by introducing candidates in a city corporation election in terms of their political identity in a live programme titled "Dialogue between the candidates in city polls".

Introducing a candidate by his/her political identity is a clear violation of the code of conduct for city corporation polls 2008," says a press release issued by the EC secretariat.

"This programme by ATN Bangla is creating obstacles in the way of conducting a free and fair election," it continues.

"In this context, it is requested that the electoral code of conduct be complied with in broadcasting any programme on election in future."

A copy of the press release signed by EC secretariat's Public Relations Officer SM Asaduzzaman has been sent to the ATN Bangla chairman while the information secretary and principal information officer of the Press Information Department too have been informed of it.

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## MPO of 48

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School, Yakubpur High School, Dewanganj-Doyel High School, Bibhi Girls High School, Nasibgaon Adarsa Girls High School, Ramma Chandhuar Girls High School, Alisha-Bakar Akata High School, Banglachar Girls High School, Chanpon-Parbatpur Adarsa High School, Ratnai Girls High School and Amgaon Girls High School.

The 16 institutions of Panchagarh are Kadirpur High School, Pahartoli High School, Langolgram Adarsa Girls High School, Pukuridanga High School, Bhutipukuri Girls High School, Ayubul Haque Girls High School, Boalmari Girls High School, Shalsihri Girls High School, Dhakarhara Adarsa High School, Bakshiganj Girls High School, Maria Girls High School, Shakamari Girls High School, Khona Girls High School, Gunjanmari Hati Adarsa High School and Vitoria High School.

Durgadaha Girls High School was the only school of Joypurhat that had its MPO cancelled.

### MIG 29 case

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The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) filed the case against Hasina and four others with Tejgaon Police Station on December 11, 2001, accusing them of causing a loss of Tk 700 crore to the state exchequer by purchasing eight MiG-29 jet fighters while Hasina was the prime minister.

The names of Brig Gen (retd) Iftekhar-Ul-Bashar and former deputy secretary Hasan Mahmood Delwar were dropped from the case due to poor evidence regarding their culpability while former army chief Mustafizur Rahman, air commodore (retd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Hossain Serniabat, and businessman Nur Ali were implicated after investigators had found their involvement in the alleged scam.

Bac Inspector Abdulla Al Zahid submitted a charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on December 11, 2001, showing 40 people as prosecution witnesses.

### BM Bakir's wife

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prime minister and Left parties had been going on for more than a year after Singh had said in an interview to a Kolkata daily that he was determined to go ahead with the pact and if Left parties withdraw support so be it.

He said the opposition wanted to defeat the government in the trial of strength on the floor of the Lok Sabha but did not want to destabilise it.

"I draw a distinction between defeating the government and destabilising it. It is not our habit to destabilise an elected government," Advani said.

Failure of Shiv Sena MP

Tukaram Renge Patil to turn up at the party's parliamentary group meeting triggered speculation that he might ditch the party, which has 12 MPs.

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