

Govt to pull

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following election campaign related processions, meetings and rallies.

The conditions are that the processions, meetings and rallies have to be election campaign related and can be held only in accordance with the amended Representation of the People Order, and Local Government (Upazila Parishad) Ordinance, 2008.

The government relaxed the EPR order before in September last year, allowing political activities on a limited scale with some conditions.

MEDIA RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

Yesterday, the government revoked clauses 5 and 6 of EPR 2007, removing restrictions on the media and barriers to electoral campaign rallies and processions, a government announcement said.

The clause 5 had imposed restrictions on the media with clear instructions not to publish or broadcast reports on assemblies, public meetings, rallies, processions and political statements that might have gone against the government or be detrimental to its interest.

It had also banned provocative news stories, editorials, post-editorials, and cartoons and talk shows.

The relaxation comes nearly 22 months after the rules were put into effect last year.

AL'S POLL PREPARATION

Awami League (AL) will send letters to its grassroots level units across the country today asking them to send names of five possible nominees for the party ticket within a couple of days for finalizing the selection of candidates for the December 18 parliamentary election.

AL Central Working Committee, the highest decision making body of the party, which sits today will finalise the process of getting grassroots level nominations. After the approval of the ALCWC meeting, the party will start sending letters to its grassroots level committees of metropolitan cities, districts, upazilas, thanas, municipalities, unions and wards.

With the last date for submitting nomination papers for both the parliamentary and upazila elections being November 13, senior AL leaders instructed the grassroots level leaders to take preparations for holding extended meetings of the units to choose a maximum of five prospective nominees through ballots.

Although AL's parliamentary nominations will be largely based on the list prepared for the stalled January 22 election, there will be changes in 25 constituencies, sources said. AL's Parliamentary Board will pick one nominee from each panel upon its chief Sheikh Hasina's return from abroad.

Upazila and union committees will finalise the nominees for the upazila elections.

Sources said AL will not nominate any person who has been convicted. "We won't do anything violating the law, but the govern-

ment will have to allow the law to take its own course," AL Presidium Member Matia Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

BNP 4-PARTY
Although BNP and its four-party alliance has yet to decide whether it will contest in the elections, party insiders said they are 'positive about the elections' and are likely to come up with a decision tomorrow.

Four-party alliance is calculating its possible gains and losses if it contests in the polls, said alliance sources.

All eyes are now set on tomorrow's meeting of the chiefs of four-party alliance components.

BNP standing committee will meet today in the party chairperson's office in Gulshan of the capital.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said all preparations are done, although there are confusions about contesting in the elections. "Our election preparations at the grassroots level are almost at the final stage," he said.

Office of graft

FROM PAGE 1
Besides bribed money, expensive mobile sets were seized.

As all the employees have been detained, the office went under direct authority of the AC land. As of filing the report at 8:45pm, preparations were on to file a case.

The biggest amount, Tk 86,000, was recovered from Hafez Uddin, chief of the office.

Moments after the team seized Tk 12,000 from him, he pleaded with them to let him go to the store room for Zohr prayers.

The team gave him permission and followed him. There, he was caught trying to stash Tk 74,000 in a broken safe.

When the ACC officials contacted the Hathazari AC land, he denied the allegation. He even went on to describe Hafez as the finest officer in the region.

Peon Hasan was caught with Tk 14,000 while three assistant land officials—Wadud, Taslim, and Pankaj with different amounts.

"None of the officials could answer how they got the money," Zulfikar said.

As the team continued the drive, locals thronged the office premises in their hundreds. At one stage, they gave the ACC officials flowers in appreciation of what they were doing.

"Everyone gathered at the office seemed to have a complaint against the officials. They went on and on telling us how much trouble they usually have getting a job done. Some paid bribe in person while some on behalf of their relatives," Zulfikar added.

Referring to mobile sets seized from the officials, the ACC team told The Daily Star that throughout the day people kept calling for different work. Many said they would give the officials the money they had demanded.

SC stays bail

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an 11-member medical board was formed which prepared a medical report on Falu's health condition on September 7 -- a time when Falu was not in the hospital.

ACC counsel Advocate MA Aziz Khan yesterday told The Daily Star that Mosaddek Ali Falu obtained bail in five cases from the HC on health grounds by submitting this false medical report.

Khan said that he has appealed to the SC to take action against those who helped Falu obtain such a false and fabricated medical report.

On October 29, during a hearing on an appeal filed by ACC against the HC bail to Falu, MA Aziz Khan prayed to the Appellate Division for scrutiny of the medical report based on which the HC granted Falu bail.

The Appellate Division on the same day directed the superintendent of BSMMU to explain the medical report to the court.

BSMMU Registrar Muhammad Abdul Gafur on November 2 submitted a letter to the Supreme Court saying that the BSMMU authorities had formed a medical board comprising five physicians on February 5, 2008 and finalised a report Falu's health condition on the same day.

He also said that the BSMMU authorities were not aware of any medical board comprising 11 physicians being formed for Falu.

On October 23, during a hearing on an appeal filed by Falu, the HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Farid Ahmed granted Falu three months' bail in the relief scam case filed against him.

Earlier on June 2, a special court sentenced him to five years' rigorous imprisonment in the same case. Falu filed an appeal with the HC against this verdict.

Falu was arrested at his Cantonment residence in the capital on charge of corruption on February 6 last year.

Meanwhile, ACC Advocate Anisul Huq, yesterday informed an HC bench about the false medical report used to obtain bail in Falu's case.

He brought up the matter during the hearing of a petition filed by detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed in the Niko corruption case filed by the ACC.

The HC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Farah Mahbub adjourned hearing of the petition for a week.

Clarification

FROM PAGE 16
The milk collected at the chilling centres is tested again at the BRAC Dairy manufacturing plant to doubly ensure the quality. "We are open to tests being carried out regarding the quality of our finished products by any competent authority," says the company statement.

On Sunday, the foreign secretary called the Myanmar ambassador to lodge Bangladesh's protest and he was asked to convey to his government Bangladesh's request to immediately suspend all activities within the declared maritime zones of Bangladesh in accordance with the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act 1974 of Bangladesh.

The protest note categorically emphasised that Bangladesh government reserves the right to protect its interests and urged the Myanmar authorities to ensure withdrawal of their vessels and stop any 'exploration work' until the

SSF takes over

FROM PAGE 1
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was also provided with SSF security yesterday noon.

Party sources said SSF members entered the Shaheed Mainul road residence of Khaleda Zia at 12:00 noon.

The two top leaders of the country will get special security for the next three months.

30 DU students

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leaving at least 20 injured, the eyewitness added.

Leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, from both hall units led the confronting groups, campus sources said.

The chase and counter chase continued for one and a half hours until police and hall authorities calmed the situation at around 6:00pm.

The injured students were rushed to the DU Medical Centre and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Additional police force was deployed on the hall premises. A tensed situation was prevailing.

2 more

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Mohammad, they said.

Police Saturday arrested four people, including a couple, for selling poisonous liquor in Bogra.

They said they snapped up the toxic ethanol from the three homeopathic shops owned by Nur Mohammad's mother Nurunnahar Parul, wife Zahura Begum Shammi and sister-in-law Anjuara Begum.

An official at Shahjahanpur Police Station said they have information that the three pharmacies are also selling spirit in Gaibandha.

Narcotics officials said licences of Punam Homeo Laboratory owned by Anjuara and Shammi's Unison Homeo Laboratory had been suspended long ago for suspicious activities.

Nur Mohammad was arrested several times on drug-dealing charges.

Nation mourns

FROM PAGE 16
Bangladesh Muktijoddha Projanmo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League, arranged various programmes.

AL leaders and activists wore black badges and placed wreaths on the graves of the national leaders at Banani Graveyard and offered special prayer, seeking eternal peace of the departed souls.

Earlier, they laid wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Besides, AL yesterday held a discussion meeting at Dhaka Engineers' Institute in the capital where top leaders of the party addressed.

Myanmar defies

FROM PAGE 1
The South Korean ambassador to Dhaka and asked him to withdraw the company working for Myanmar.

The South Korean ships are now 50 nautical miles southwest of the St Martin's Island.

Three Bangladesh Navy ships are confronting six ships sent by Myanmar, which deployed around 50 people for oil and gas exploration there.

"We are sending Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain as a special envoy to lodge our protest at the highest level of Myanmar, so that the situation does not go beyond control," the adviser told reporters, adding, "We are sending the foreign secretary to protect our interest."

Sources said Navy official Commodore Habibur Rahman and retired commodore Khurshid Alam will also accompany the foreign secretary.

Emerging from a meeting with the Myanmar ambassador, who was summoned to the foreign ministry twice within 24 hours to hear the protest, the foreign adviser said several Myanmar vessels intruded into Bangladesh territorial waters for hydrocarbon exploration near deep-sea blocks 8-13 claimed by Bangladesh. But Myanmar claims those are within their territorial waters.

Iftokhar said the government will take all steps to protect the sovereignty and territory of Bangladesh. "We want to put an end to this situation forthwith...We want to resolve the matter diplomatically," he said.

He noted that Bangladesh is a peace-loving nation and "we do not want to go for any confrontation as Myanmar is our friendly neighbour."

The foreign adviser said Bangladesh and Myanmar will hold talks here on delimitation of boundaries on December 16-17. A deputy minister from Myanmar will lead his country's delegation as Myanmar attaches importance to the meeting.

On Sunday, the foreign secretary called the Myanmar ambassador to lodge Bangladesh's protest and he was asked to convey to his government Bangladesh's request to immediately suspend all activities within the declared maritime zones of Bangladesh in accordance with the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act 1974 of Bangladesh.

The defence lawyer urged the court not to issue arrest warrant against Mojahid as hearing on his appeal was going in the HC.

After hearing, Judge Amar Kumar Roy of the Special Court-2, adjourned the day's hearing as the matter is pending with the High Court.

Following a petition filed by Mojahid, an HC bench on October 19 ordered him to surrender within two weeks before the trial court that had earlier issued an arrest warrant against him in this case.

The HC had also directed the government not to harass or arrest Mojahid during the period.

On October 7, another HC bench asked Saifur to appear before the trial court within four weeks. The court also directed the government not to harass or arrest him during this period.

Jamaat gets poll pass

FROM PAGE 1
The EC joint secretary also the head of the technical committee for party registration, Nurul Islam Khan, told reporters in his office yesterday afternoon that the commission has taken a 'positive decision' about Jamaat's registration.

Sources in the commission said a registration certificate will be issued to Jamaat in a day or two.

The commission, however, will hold four separate hearings in its secretariat today to resolve complications regarding registrations of Islami Okiya Jote (IOJ), its two components Nezam-e-Islami Party and Jamiatul Olayama Islam, and of Khelafat Andolon.

"We will also have a hearing on National Democratic Party," said NI Khan, adding that they will complete registering parties by November 10, three days ahead of the last date for submitting nominations.

"The number of registered political parties will be between 20 and 25 after the final scrutiny," he said adding, "Although initially we thought the number would be between 30 and 35."

A total of 55 political parties contested in the eighth parliamentary election held on October 1, 2001.

The EC officials said reduction in the number of political parties and the new electoral rules will also reduce the number of candidates this year.

Earlier in the morning, a Jamaat delegation led by its Law Affairs Secretary Jashim Uddin Sarkar met Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda in the latter's office and submitted a written statement about the objections against their party's registration.

Election Commissioners M Sohul Hussain and M Sakhawat Hussain, EC Secretary M Humayun Kabir, and NI Khan were also present.

"We will get the registration according to the law," Jashim told reporters after the meeting. He also said the commission assured them of the registration. He said the commission will send the registration certificate to the party office following the electoral rules.

delimitation of maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar is resolved.

Sources at the foreign ministry said Myanmar claims that it is exploring in its own territory.

Earlier, Iftokhar chaired a high-level inter-ministerial meeting at the foreign ministry on follow-up actions in the aftermath of the visit of General Maung Aye, senior vice general of Myanmar, and his delegation of seven cabinet ministers.

The meeting reviewed progress in areas such as border trade, rice purchase, contract farming, road building and boundary delimitation issues.

The foreign adviser stressed the importance of coordinated government and private sector actions, so that Bangladesh can derive maximum benefits out of relations with Myanmar.

AKM Mosharraf

FROM PAGE 16
M Saifur Rahman, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and AKM Mosharraf Hossain, who also sought bail in this case, were present at the bench yesterday.

Mojahid was due to surrender before the Special Court-2 on November 2 as per directive of the High Court.

During the hearing at the special court yesterday, prosecution lawyer Mosharraf Hossain Kaji told the court that Mojahid did not comply with the directive of the High Court.

Abdur Razzaq, counsel for Mojahid, told the court that his client did not appear before the court as his appeal for quashing the proceedings of the case is pending with the High Court.

In reply, the prosecution lawyer said the defence lawyers did not submit any petition seeking time extension for appearance of Mojahid.

Kaji also urged the court to issue arrest warrants against Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, also an accused in the case, as they did not comply with the high court directives.

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Chittagong Customs House Principal Appraiser Harun Ar Rahman and his wife Babli Rahman will be accused of concealing and amassing wealth worth Tk 32.17 lakh.

McCaIn also was scheduled to hit Pennsylvania, Indiana, New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada before ending early Tuesday with a rally in Prescott, Arizona. He was scheduled to finish the day and the campaign at home in the Phoenix area.

McCaIn launched an election eve sprint across seven states Monday, defiantly predicting victory despite polls showing him lagging behind Democratic rival Barack Obama.

In the shadow of the 65,000-seat Raymond James Stadium -- the sort of venue Obama has been packing regularly during his campaign -- McCaIn told a small crowd of around 500 supporters to prepare for victory.

"There's one day left until we take America in a new direction," McCaIn told the crowd. "The pundits may not know it and the Democrats may not know it but the 'Macis back' and we're going to win this election."

McCaIn wrapped up his speech with his now familiar rallying cry, urging his supporters to "fight" to the very end.

"I'm an American and I choose to fight. Don't give up hope, be strong, have courage and fight," he exhorted.

Obama was set to make a quick trip to Virginia and Indiana before returning to Chicago for a massive rally in Grant Park.

McCaIn's running mate, Sarah Palin, was racing through five Bush states Ohio, Missouri, Iowa, Colorado and Nevada in an effort to boost conservative turnout. The Alaska governor has been a popular draw for many GOP base voters.

Joe Biden, Obama's running mate, was to campaign in Missouri, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Polls show the six closest states are Florida, Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada and Ohio. The campaigns also are running aggressive ground games elsewhere, including Iowa, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Colorado and Virginia.

The final pre-election poll of Gallup-USA Today published Monday gave Obama a yawning lead of 11 points -- 55 percent to 44 for McCaIn.

A new Wall Street Journal-NBC News poll put Obama ahead on 51

56 let off

FROM PAGE 16
The ACC also decided to forward 53 more cases to the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) as the accused applied to make voluntary disclosures of their wealth to Tac.

Former BNP state minister Maj (ret) Kamrul Islam is one of them.

Hanif Iqbal also said the commission is examining whether the allegation of laundering Tk 20.29 crore brought against ACC Chairman Lt Gen (ret) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury by former executive chairman of Board of Investment and Amar Desh Publications Ltd Chairman Mahmudur Rahman is worth taking into cognisance.

He said they are examining "whether the allegation is serving the interest of a person or the state, whether the complainant is affected by the offence mentioned in the complaint, whether the allegation has merit and whether there are any legal obstacles to investigate the chief of a government institution."

On October 16, the commission decided to let off 250 graft suspects including 11 former ministers and lawmakers in 121 cases due to lack of strong evidence.

"Most of the cases were not commission-initiated and lacked evidence and had technical issues," said an ACC source, adding that even witnesses in the cases could not be found.

The cases in which the ACC decided to submit final reports are regarding misappropriation of relief materials, funds, bribery, deception, irregularities, abuse of power, and forgery of land documents.

The case against Tarikul Islam was filed on March 7 last year in connection with misappropriating corrugated iron sheets meant for relief. Shamsuzzoha Khan and Gazi Nazrul Islam were accused of the same offence on September 30 and February 24 last year.

The ACC had to submit final reports in 70 other cases before for the same reasons.

CASES
The ACC will charge Jahanara Begum with concealing information about wealth worth Tk 2 crore and amassing wealth worth Tk 2.34 crore beyond known sources of income.

In another case, former Dhaka City Corporation ward commissioner Nab Ullah Nabi is to be accused of concealing wealth worth Tk 40.49 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 39.04 lakh by illegal means.

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US goes to vote today

FROM PAGE 1
an opponent," he added. "They support their spouse, but generally they really should be bystanders in this process, even if they're campaigning for me. ... I mean that's what you'd expect. And that doesn't make them suddenly targets."

All that's left now is for the campaigns to make sure people vote, unleashing an unprecedented get-out-the-vote campaigns.

Surrogates for both men, including Democrat Caroline Kennedy and one-time Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, hopped from morning show to morning show urging voters to get to the polls if they haven't already cast ballots. More early voting is happening than ever, a process that changes the meaning of Election Day somewhat, with some 27 million votes cast in 30 states as of Saturday night. That's more than ever. Democrats outnumbered Republicans in pre-Election Day voting in key states.

All told, the election will have cost \$1 billion, and the candidates together will have spent about \$8 per presidential vote.

The candidates were sprinting across time zones and states in eleven-hour bids to get to the magic number of 270 electoral votes the total needed to seal the presidency.

McCaIn's journey stretched from Tampa through Tennessee, whose media market reaches into the much-coveted state of Virginia, which is trending Democratic for the first time since 1964.

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percent to 43. CNN's latest poll on Sunday had Obama with a 53-46 percent edge, a Washington Post-ABC News poll gave him 54 percent to 43, and Rasmussen said he was at 51 percent to McCaIn's 46.

Obama also leads by slimmer margins in the battleground states where the election will be won and lost, including in states such as Virginia and North Carolina that have not backed a Democratic hopeful in decades.

A Quinnipiac University poll examining the three states with the largest number of electoral votes -- Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida -- found Obama's lead had narrowed slightly to 51-42 in Ohio and 53-41 in Pennsylvania, while Florida was too close to call.

A separate poll by The Washington Post and ABC said that in six states considered to be up for grabs, support was roughly split with 51 percent support for Obama and 47 for McCaIn.

And a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) survey released Monday said that 59 percent of voters feel Obama can bring "change," while about the same number say McCaIn cannot, the network reported on its website.

Obama exuded confidence Sunday at events in three cities in the bellwether state of Ohio, which voted for President Bush in 2000 and 2004 but is trending Democratic this year as it struggles against an anemic economy.

"We cannot afford to slow down or sit back or let up," Obama told voters at an evening rally in Cincinnati. "We need to win an election on Tuesday."

In New Hampshire, McCaIn held his last town hall meeting of the 2008 campaign something of an exercise in nostalgia, as he conducted dozens of such free-wheeling affairs in the months leading up to his victory in that state's primary.

McCaIn took voter questions on issues like illegal immigration and paying for college while thanking New Hampshire for rescuing his campaign in 2008 and in the 2000 Republican primary, when he briefly upended George W. Bush.

"I come to the people of New Hampshire to ask them to let me