

Multiple nomination

FROM PAGE 1
One seeking election as a party candidate will have to tag with his candidacy application a nomination letter issued by the organisation he belongs to.

So, those who have filed applications without the letter will have to resign themselves to running on their own.

Meanwhile, the EC Secretariat Sunday asked the ROs to check authenticity of the voters' signatures submitted by the applicants not nominated by the political parties, sources said.

As per the RPO, an individual aspiring to run as an independent candidate will have to collect and submit signatures of one percent of the constituents.

The EC Secretariat directed the ROs also to examine if particulars of 10 randomly selected voters in the candidacy applications are genuine.

Former lawmakers however do not have to submit signatures of voters to be an independent candidate.

According to the EC Secretariat, AL has primarily selected more than one contender for Rangpur 3, Joyprhat 1, Bogra 5 and 7, Rajshahi 5, Natore 3, Meherpur 2, Jhenidah 3 and 4, Jessore 3, Khulna 4, 5 and 6, Satkhira 4, Pirojpur 2, Netrakona 1, 2 and 4, Kishoreganj 2, Manikganj 2, Sunamganj 1, Chandpur 1, Feni 1, Chittagong 10, and Cox's Bazar 3 and 4.

Party's presidium member Matia Chowdhury yesterday told The Daily Star that they are confident of solving the problems before December 4, the day scrutiny ends.

BNP has more than one person to represent it in the contest for Bogra 2, 4 and 5,

Chapainawabganj 1, Naogaon 1, 5 and 6, Rajshahi 1, 4 and 5, Sirajganj 5, Meherpur 1, Chuadanga 1, Jhenidah 1, Khulna 4, Patuakhali 2, Tangail 2, Mymensingh 4 and 10, Dhaka 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18 and 20, Gazipur 4, Faridpur 2, Brahmanbaria 4 and 5, Chandpur 4, Noakhali 2 and 3, Laxmipur 1 and 2, Chittagong 4 and Rangamati.

Its Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said they will settle the issue in time.

Jatiya Party has more than one contestant in Rangpur 6, Kurigram 2 and 3, Gaibandha 1 and 4, Narail 1, Khulna 3, Patuakhali 1, Barisal 3, Tangail 8, Mymensingh 4, Dhaka 18 and Chittagong 11.

On the EC Secretariat's list, Jamaat-e-Islami has multiple candidates in Lalmonirhat 1.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed however claimed the party did not have any such problem.

Besides, Communist Party of Bangladesh has chosen more than one candidate in Naogaon 4, Workers Party in Jessore 4, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh in Bhola 4, Mymensingh 9 and Dhaka 16, Liberal Democratic Party in Chittagong 11 and 13, Krishak Samik Janata League in Tangail 4 and Jamalpur 3, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal in Mymensingh 4 and 11, Khelafat Majlis in Narail 2, Bangladesh Jatiya Party in Bhola 2, Islami Andolon Bangladesh in Pirojpur 3, Khelafat Andolon in Mymensingh 4, Gono Forum in Narayanganj 5, National Awami Party in Habiganj 3, and Islami Andolon Bangladesh in Noakhali 3.

Realise losses due

FROM PAGE 16
Other members of the bench are: educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, journalist Kamal Lohani, columnist Syed Abul Moqsood, Prof Akmal Hossain of International Relations of Dhaka University (DU) and author Selina Hossain.

No representative of any of the lending agencies were present during the hearing although separate notices were served to the heads of the agencies in Bangladesh on November 23 asking them to be present at the hearing.

The judgment came after a national preparatory committee on People's Tribunal, formed on November 3 last year, brought allegations that the country incurred losses because of implementation of these agencies' policies and projects in agriculture, jute, industry, energy and mineral resources, banking, health and education sectors.

The mock court observed that the policies and prescriptions of these agencies have deprived the people of their right to take part in country's development activities, contributed to income disparity and devastated local industries including the jute industry.

Referring to various World Bank projects in agriculture sector, the petitioners said the implementation of the projects has resulted in prolonged water logging and recurrent floods in the country.

They alleged that the World Bank's emphasis on producing high-yield variety rice, which requires increased use of fertiliser and pesticides, led to

VIP security

FROM PAGE 16
The Marriott Hotel in the Pakistan capital Islamabad in September that left several dozens killed.

A top official of a law-enforcement agency says they have already enhanced security following the Mumbai attacks and the SSF has also beefed up the VIPs' security.

Intelligence agencies are responsible to provide intelligence support required for the SSF to ensure VIPs' security. The special force thinks it is time to increase the intelligence activities of the agencies along with its own intelligence.

"We're very much serious about the issue and holding discussions with the agencies concerned to chalk out necessary tasks in this regard," said Gen Ashraf.

He added they are also scrutinising which tasks should be done immediately.

The SSF is also bringing some changes to its existing standing operating procedures, he said.

Citing an example, he said they used to sweep 500 yards around a venue where VIPs would visit, but now they have decided to sweep one thousand yards.

Despite sweeping system the attackers stored arms and explosives in Mumbai's luxury hotels - the Taj Mahal and the Oberoi. Keeping this in mind the SSF is also planning for stronger sweeping procedures.

In the same way from the experience of the car bomb attack in Marriott Hotel in Islamabad the Force would be more restricted about vehicles near the venues.

Moreover, it would also take some measures keeping in mind the attackers might introduce new styles of attack.

commercialisation of agriculture, affected bio-diversity and depleted underground water spreading arsenic contamination in the 90s.

Referring to jute and other sectors, the petitioners said implementation of Structural Adjustment Policy (SAP) tagged by the World Bank in early 80s led to closure and privatisation of state-owned factories making thousands of workers unemployed.

Besides, trade liberalisation also hit domestic industries badly, the petitioners claimed saying that these agencies suggested for divestment instead of helping solve the problems of the state-owned enterprises.

Prof MM Akash of DU Economics Department, Prof Anu Muhammad of Economics Department of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Muinul Islam of Economics Department of Chittagong University, Gonosanghati Andolon Co-ordinator Zunaid Saki, Centre for Law Research Support Convener Shah Alam, Bazlur Rashid Firoz of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Chikitsak Sangsad Vice President Dr Mustak Hossain filed the petitions with the tribunal.

BNP-Jamaat

FROM PAGE 1
Khaleda Zia at her cantonment home.

Mojaheed and Khaleda talked about the unresolved issue of seat sharing, sources said. Details and outcome of their talks could not be known.

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed (released from jail yesterday afternoon on bail), BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan, former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman also went to Khaleda Zia's home.

A Jamaat central leader said, "We want one of the 15 seats in the capital for our candidate, and we think BNP should consider the matter."

Mojaheed yesterday said the seat-sharing issue will be resolved before the Eid.

According to Jamaat leaders, the party candidates have filed nomination papers for 49 constituencies across the country while BNP kept only 37 seats for its four-party allies including Jamaat, Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP).

Some other sources, however, said leaders of both the parties have already finalised Jamaat candidature for 35 seats, and the party will get two more while it wants 41 seats including Dhaka-8.

And Jamaat policymakers emphasised getting Faridpur-3 seat as the party secretary general have filed nomination papers for the seat.

Both the constituencies are known as BNP strongholds. BNP has already kept Faridpur-3 seat for Mojaheed but the party leadership expressed annoyance over Jamaat's claim for Dhaka-8.

Party insiders also said BNP leaders expressed utter dissatisfaction over Jamaat's selection of Kashem as contender for this seat.

Meanwhile, both BJP and IOJ got three seats each for contesting the December 29 polls, and all of them will run using BNP's electoral symbol sheaf of a paddy.

But seven other IOJ leaders have also filed nomination papers.

Obama

FROM PAGE 16
Obama picked former campaign rival Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state.

At a news conference, Obama also introduced retired Marine Gen. James Jones as White House national security adviser, former Justice Department official Eric Holder as attorney general and Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as secretary of homeland security.

The announcements rounded out the top tier of the team that will advise the incoming chief executive on foreign and national security issues in an era marked by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and terrorism around the globe.

"The time has come for a new beginning, a new dawn of American leadership to overcome the challenges of the 21st century," Obama said as his Cabinet picks stood behind him on a flag-draped stage.

"We will strengthen our capacity to defeat our enemies and support our friends. We will renew old alliances and forge new and enduring partnerships."

Obama said his appointees "share my pragmatism about the use of power, and my sense of purpose about America's role as a leader in the world."

Gates' presence in Chicago made him a visible symbol of the transition in power from the Bush administration to one headed by Obama.

The president-elect, reprising a campaign vow, said he would give the military a new mission as soon as he takes office: "responsibly ending the war in Iraq through a successful transition to Iraqi control." He did not mention his oft-repeated pledge to withdraw most US combat troops within 16 months.

He also appointed campaign foreign policy aide Susan Rice as his ambassador to the United Nations. Obama said he would make her a member of the Cabinet, an increase in stature from the Bush era.

Obama's announcements marked a shift in emphasis, after a spate of appointments last week for his economic team.

He now has selected half the members of his Cabinet, and is doing so at an unusually quick pace during his transition as he seeks to fulfill his goal of being able to "hit the ground running" when he takes the oath of office on Jan. 20.

Obama introduced Clinton first, saying of his former presidential rival, "She possesses an extraordinary intelligence and toughness, and a remarkable work ethic. ... She is an American of tremendous stature who will have my complete confidence, who knows many of the world's leaders, who will command respect in every capital, and who will clearly have the ability to advance our interests around the world."

Hillary Clinton will give up her seat as a senator from New York to join the Obama Cabinet. Her appointment was preceded by lengthy negotiations involving her husband, the former president, whose international business connections posed potential conflicts of interests.

Ramna blast

FROM PAGE 16
Shafiqur Rahman, Maulana Yahya and Mufti Abdul Hye.

Accepting the charge sheet submitted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque issued the arrest warrants against them and orders to attach their properties.

The court directed the officers-in-charge (OCs) concerned to submit their reports within December 29 on the arrest warrants issued against the Hujji men.

The court also granted a plea submitted by the IO for discharging 29 others from the case.

CID Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on Sunday.

The IO also included the names of Hujji Chief Mufti Abdul Hannan Munshi alias Abul Kalam and five others in the charge sheet. They are Arif Hasan Suman alias Abdur Razzak, Maulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel, Maulana Abu Taher and Maulana Abdur Rauf. They were earlier arrested from different places and now in jail custody.

The IO also submitted another charge sheet against the same accused in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

The bloodbath that took place during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14, 2001 left 10 people dead and scores injured.

Of the cases filed with Ramna Police Station, one was for murder and another for possession and use of explosive substances.

During the investigation of the cases, Hannan, Akbar and Suman gave confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.

Meanwhile, the case filed under the Explosive Substances Act was transferred to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday for its trial.

UN meet kicks

FROM PAGE 16
Climate change will only grow stronger, if we do not act now. Therefore, the financial crisis should not lower the priority of the commitment to other urgent issues like the climate change and poverty alleviation, said Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

Turning the economy from high carbon to low carbon does not slow down growth, he said, adding, "We must agree to reduce global CO2 emissions 50 percent by 2050."

Reminding that unmitigated climate change will impose significant cost on the economy, UN Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said, delaying actions now will only make future actions more costly.

Around 9,000 participants including government officials, NGO workers, scientists, and journalists from 190 countries gathered in Poznan to attend the two-week-long conference. The high-level segment of the conference (December 11 and 12) will be attended by around 150 environment ministers.

This part of the conference will be inaugurated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and attended by the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski, President of Guyana Bharrat Jagdeo, Prime Minister of Sweden Fredrik Reinfeldt and Prime Minister of Tuvalu Apisaleleia.

A 16-member delegation comprising Bangladesh government officials and NGO workers are attending the conference. Raja Debashish Roy, special assistant to the chief adviser will act as the head of the Bangladesh delegation.

Even though the Poznan conference is taking place amid global financial crisis and economic recession, it is expected to produce progress on several issues which are important, particularly for developing countries, in the run up to 2012 including adaptation, finance, technology and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

In the context of adapting to the effects of climate change,

parties are expected to put the finishing touches to the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund so that it is ready to roll out projects in 2009.

AL confirms

FROM PAGE 1
grand electoral alliance, apparently bringing an end to hard bargain over seat sharing between the two parties.

After meeting with AL President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday, JP acting Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud told reporters that the AL chief has confirmed them 50 seats.

Replying to a question about the much-talked-about agreement between the two parties to make HM Ershad as president, the JP leader said the grand alliance's main target is to ensure victory in the upcoming polls scheduled for December 29.

JP presidium member Ziauddin Bablu was also present.

On Sunday, there were rumours that JP might quit the grand electoral alliance, as AL was not agreed to give 60 seats to JP and make Ershad the next president. But later both the parties at a joint press briefing said they have resolved the misunderstandings between them.

Nizami claims

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house rent, and Tk 14,367 for deposit, share and other sources.

Nizami also estimates his election expenditure to be around Tk 14 lakh. He says Tk 1.5 lakh would be spent from his deposit and his wife and other persons would bear the rest.

He also shows in his papers that he has 56 decimal of agriculture and residential land worth about Tk 65.36 lakh.

The papers also show the Jamaat ameer has cash Tk 28,716, his wife Tk 65,828, bank deposit Tk 251,055, bond of Tk 44,000 in Islamic Bank, his wife's Tk 300,291.

Besides, he has a vehicle worth about Tk 10.35 lakh.

Emergency

FROM PAGE 1
Commissioners Mohammad Sohul Hossain and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawath Hossain were present.

Asked about nominating convicted leaders by political parties, the CEC said it is not their concern. "We're playing as referees, we can't decide which player will play and who won't," he said.

He said: "If any intended candidate fails to qualify as an eligible participant of the election as per law and regulation, his nomination paper will be cancelled."

During the meeting with the president, the CEC apprised him about the EC's latest state of preparation for the election, as the last date for submission of nominations expired on Sunday.

Secretary to the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Mohammad Ruhul Amin, President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Hlawader and Election Commission Secretary Mohammad Humayun Kabir were present.

A report from Bandorban adds: Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman has said the

state of emergency will be lifted before the election, as the government and the Election Commission are heading towards holding a credible national election on December 29.

Addressing a function on the occasion of nationalisation of Bandorban Women's College here yesterday, the adviser said the government will take all-out measures to enable the voters to cast their votes without any hassle.

Replying to a question, Zillur said there is no doubt about holding upazila elections. "The date for upazila election has been announced and it will take place in time," he said.

About the nationalisation of Bandorban Women's College, he said the government has taken such an initiative with a view to removing regional discriminations at all levels.

Presided over by Bandorban Hill District Council Chairman Prof Thanjama Lusai, the programme was attended by CA's Special Assistant Raja Debashish Roy, DG of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Khan Habibur Rahman and DC Moudud AK Qayum Chowdhury.

Deliver election

FROM PAGE 1
Addressing a meeting of the top-ranking officials of Khulna Division in DC's conference room here, the head of the caretaker government categorically said any partisan role or any small lapses in discharging assigned duties will not be tolerated.

"I have firm belief that none of you will make any such mistake or take risks," the CA told DCs, SPs, UNOs and election officials.

Home Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin, Home Secretary Abdul Karim and Khulna Divisional Commissioner Yunusur Rahman were present.

The CA said all necessary steps will have to be taken so that the voters can go to the polling centres and cast their votes without any fear and impediment.

He called for executing all legal steps to present the nation with an acceptable election free from corruption, black money, terrorism and muscle power.

The CA said the officials concerned must ensure that the entire process of polling and counting ballots are cent percent correct, transparent and completely credible.

He said all steps will have to be taken with the highest priority to resist post-election violence, attacks on rivals or any victimisation.

The CA called for foolproof measures to ensure security

and law and order in each area so that the people can participate in the election and cast their votes in a festive mood.

He also spelt out guidelines to be followed before election, during the election and after the election.

He said steps will have to be taken to ensure that terrorists, hardcore offenders or branded miscreants cannot create chaos during the election campaign that will start soon. He directed the officials concerned to arrest all those accused in serious cases.

The CA called for stepping up intelligence work to collect information in advance about any possible clash or violence between the political parties.

He said BDR must be put on alert on the border so that terrorists who are hiding abroad cannot sneak into the country.

Fakrudin said BDR, coast guard and navy will be put on special duty to prevent entry of illegal arms, ammunition and explosives designed to foil the elections.

On the election day, the CA said, a three-tier security bulwark will be in place to ensure full security at the polling centres. Apart from police, mobile and strike forces will also be posted.

The CA said necessary steps will have to be taken to ensure that supporters of winners and losers do not get involved in clashes or violence.

HC stays EC rule barring Khulna mayor from JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) bench yesterday stayed until December 3 the operation of the Election Commission's (EC) decision banning Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque from contesting the parliamentary polls.

It also issued a rule on the EC to explain why the provisions of the Representation of People Order (RPO) 2008, debarring the city mayors from contesting the general election in three years after expiry of their tenures should not be declared illegal.

The bench comprised of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Farah Mahbub passed the stay order in response to a writ petition filed by Talukder Abdul Khaleque.

Earlier, upon separate writ petitions filed by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury the HC stayed operation of the EC's decision banning them from contesting the parliamentary polls.

The court also issued rules on the EC to explain why its decision debarring the city mayors from contesting the general election while in office should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench fixed December 3 for hearing the rules of Khoka, Mohiuddin and Talukder case.

On November 17, the EC made the decision with the RPO by declaring the city corporation mayors not eligible for contesting the general elections. Later, the city mayors challenged the decision in three separate petitions.

The mayors can be candidates in the parliamentary polls if they resign from their office of profit before filing of nominations, the decisions says.

Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan appeared for Talukder.

Dec 29 election

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by fundamentalist groups.

Gen KM Shafiuallah, commander of S force in the liberation war, said the people must not let the war criminals make it to the parliament.

Maj Gen (ret'd) GR Dutta, sector-4 commander in the liberation war, said the war criminals in the country have not been tried because of a split within the freedom fighters.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said although pro-liberation war political parties had been in power several times, the war criminals were not brought to book. If they are voted to power this time, they should try the war criminals, he added.

Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) President Rashed Khan Menon said the war criminals and their accomplices must be defeated this time.

Sector commander Lt Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, SCF Chief Coordinator Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-ur-Rashid, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Shangsad Chairman Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad president Ayesha Khanam, among others, spoke.

Meanwhile, various freedom fighters' organisations and political parties observed the Freedom Fighters' Day reiterating their demand for trial of the war criminals.

WPB, Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad, Muktiyoddha Dabi Bastabayan and Muktiyoddha Dibosh Udjanon Jatiya Committee, Jatiya Ganotantrik League, Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Ainjibi Parishad placed wreaths at the martyred intellectuals' memorial at Mirpur at around 8:30pm and at the Shikha Chirantan at around 11:30pm.

Anti-graft drive

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Replying to a query, Hasan Mashud said if the new government must clip the ACC's wings, it would have to do so at its own risk.

"I think it won't be easy to curtail the ACC's authority since people now are very aware,"

The anti-graft drive, he continued, would strive to maintain a good working relationship with the government. It would continue to deal with the corruption cases with assistance from the law ministry.

Mashud, also former army chief, noted that if the new government adheres to the democratic values and allow the judiciary real independence, the anti-graft drive will not have much difficulty making progress.

On a question about some persons getting party nominations despite their conviction for graft, he said the anti-corruption measures have been open to all. Hopefully, those concerned with picking contestants and scrutinising candidacy applications will consider the ACC's work in the last two years.

Commotion

FROM PAGE 1
On Sunday, supporters of BNP leader Sheikh Farid Ahmed Manik, another BNP ticket aspirant, locked the party office at JM Sengupta Road and burnt an effigy of Fazlul.

In Faridpur, BNP and its front organisations declared Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed unwanted and vowed to prevent all anti-Liberation War forces in the district.

During a press conference at Faridpur Press Club yesterday afternoon, the leaders said Mojaheed is a controversial and a hated figure.

They will observe a hunger strike at Faridpur Press Club today in protest.

Meanwhile, the divide between BNP and Jamaat is widening in Kushtia after Jamaat leader Abdul Wahed expressed his determination to contest the poll in Kushtia-2 even though BNP nominated its former lawmaker Shahidul Islam there.

Wahed, who filed his nomination papers as an independent, has already started his campaign.

Internal row in Magura Awami League (AL) developed after the party nominated MS Akbar or Magura-1. Rival party men in Sreepur upazila formed six teams under the banner of "Akbar Resistance Committee" to prevent him from visiting the upazila.

They also declared 12-day

long agitation programmes including hunger strikes and protest processions.

The BNP-led four-party alliance's nomination of Jamaat candidates in three out four constituencies in Satkhira triggered discontent among local BNP rank and file.

Two aggrieved BNP leaders submitted nomination papers in two Satkhira constituencies as independents.

Meanwhile, two absconding convicted former lawmakers of BNP - Hafiz Ibrahim and Nurul Islam Moni - submitted nomination papers as independent candidates for Bhola-3 and Barguna-2 constituencies.

Moni was awarded 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for embezzling government relief materials while Hafiz was sentenced to 13 years' rigorous imprisonment for corruption.

Convicted former BNP state minister for home affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar submitted nomination papers for Netrakona-4 failing to get the BNP ticket.