

Poll code violation

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would warn him in writing for the violation. He warned the speaker verbally, he said.

In response to a letter, the EC had earlier informed the speaker that he could not use his official vehicle and enjoy protocol during election campaign. But the speaker ignored the EC's advice.

Two parliament officials in uniform, who usually stand behind the speaker's chair when the House is in session, were found standing on two corners of the stage at Sircar's campaign rally at Tunirhat in Panchagarh on Sunday.

These officials were never found with the speaker in any programmes outside parliament even in the capital.

Earlier, Sircar had allegedly used the government circuit house at Panchagarh while submitting nomination papers.

PDP candidate M Delwar Hossain made written complaint to the CEC and the returning officer concerned about Sircar using the circuit house for electioneering.

He also complained that while conducting election campaign the speaker used official staffs and vehicle.

Later, Sircar stopped using the circuithouse.

Meanwhile, a notice in this regard was served yesterday on Sircar and two other candidates for Panchagarh-1 by the Joint District Judge of

Tac winds

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Besides, 24 graft accused who have applied for clemency did not draw application forms while six others did not submit the forms they drew.

"The Tac has brought a relief for those who have faced the commission. Many of them went to perform Hajj after disclosing information about their ill-gotten wealth. They also pledged not to get involved in corruption in future," said Tac Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan at a press briefing yesterday.

Justice Habibur earlier announced to finish all pending work. On November 16, the Supreme Court stayed the HC order that declared formation and operation of the Tac illegal and unconstitutional on November 13.

"We are perturbed about the matter. We will leave the matter for the law ministry," said Habibur Rahman Khan in reply to a query about the fate of the remaining work of Tac.

The unfinished work of Tac includes distribution of clemency certificate, the fate of those who applied through the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on corruption and serious crimes but did not appear, the fate of the graft accused who confessed to having ill-gotten money but did not deposit it, and where to deposit the ill-gotten money of the graft accused as their accounts are still frozen.

Justice Habibur said the law ministry has formed a committee headed by a deputy secretary to take care of the incomplete work after being informed by the Tac about the matter.

He also said files of those graft accused who have applied but did not appear will be sent back to the offices through which they have applied for. Of the 30 graft accused, 17 applied through the ACC while 13 through the NCC.

When asked about the fate of 13 graft accused as the NCC is also going to wind up its activities on December 31, he said, "Then the matter will be looked after by the law ministry."

The Tac completed hearing of 490 graft accused, including 68 females, till December 23 from September 1. It also sent

Iraqi PM holds talks in Turkey on Kurd rebels

AFP, Ankara

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki met with Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara yesterday on a trip centred on the thorny issue of Turkish Kurdish rebels based in northern Iraq.

Maliki expressed support for a committee established between Iraq, Turkey and the United States last month to find strategies to fight the separatist Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) rebels holed up in northern Iraq.

"We support this work. Its main task is the fight against the PKK," he said after arriving in the Turkish capital, according to Anatolia news agency.

"We are here to defend all the interests of both countries," said Maliki, who was accompanied by his trade, electricity and public works ministers.

Maliki met with Gul and was due to meet later with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The two premiers were to chair meetings of cooperation committees.

No question

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Panchagarh AkM Enamul Karim, who is also the electoral enquiry committee officer.

BNP candidates who have been warned are Sujat Mia for Habiganj-1, Abu Lais Mubin Chowdhury for Habiganj-3, SM Foysal for Habiganj-4, Abdul Gafur for Rajshahi-4 and Harun-ur-Rashid for Chapainawabganj-3. The AL nominees are Enamul Haque for Rajshahi-4 and Shahriar Alam for Rajshahi-6.

Besides, two independent candidates -- Sardar Amjad Hossain for Rajshahi-4 and Nur Hossain for Jore萦-1 have been warned.

Abdul Mannan violated the code of conduct by using helicopter in polls campaign, and the others either pasted posters on walls or brought out processions with motorcycles or set up more than one election camp in a union.

MOBILE PHONE NETWORK

Talking to reporters yesterday evening at the EC Secretariat, the CEC said he thinks mobile phone network should operate also on the polling day.

"If the network remains in operation, it will be easy for us to communicate with the polling personnel," he said.

Huda however said there are differences of opinion in this regard among political parties, the home ministry and intelligence agencies. "We will take a decision on it by December 27."

Public investment

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"If any attempt is made to change the election results, the consequences will be disastrous," she said at the rally in Feni-1, one of three constituencies the BNP chief is contesting from in the upcoming election.

"I would like to make it clear that there is no reason for BNP and its allies to quit the election race," said the BNP chief.

"Noticing the popularity of the BNP-led electoral alliance, a certain quarter is propagating that we shall not contest the elections," she said.

"BNP is the largest political party in the country and no election can be held without it," Khaleda said.

"Those who want to turn the country into a 'failed state' and form a 'puppet government' are planning to foil the next election like they scotched the January 22 polls," she added.

"Some quarters do not want BNP to contest the elections. They also did not want the emergency to be lifted. It is the BNP that mounted pressure on the caretaker government to withdraw the emergency and meet the people's demand," the BNP chairperson said.

Referring to the 'attempt to assassinate' her in Comilla on Tuesday, Khaleda said, "I will not stay away from electioneering. We shall continue the movement to establish people's rights."

"There was an attempt to assassinate me at Chandina. But the conspirators could not be successful because if Allah wants to keep someone alive, none can harm that person," she said.

Terminating the lifting of emergency 'a victory for BNP and its allies', she said the government withdrew the emergency bowing to their demand.

She said the BNP-led government during its tenure curbed terrorist activities in Feni and if voted to power, they will take necessary measures to root out terrorism in the country.

The BNP chairperson sought vote for her party candidate VP Joynal in Feni-2 constituency.

Khaleda also addressed street rallies at Fulgazi Bazar, Munshirhat, Chhagalnaiya, Parshuram, Choudhram and Narayanganj before returning to the capital.

She was expected to attend a Christmas programme in the capital's Kakrail Church late at night.

2 killed

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The dead are Mohiuddin, 14, and Selim, 26. Of the injured, four were admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital while the rest to Kamal Nagar hospital.

Angry processionists set the bus on fire but none of the passengers was injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Witnesses said a bus of Esha Enterprise ploughed into a procession of the supporters.

Bikalpadhara candidate Maj (rtd) M A Mannan at Kamal Nagar while it was heading for a public meeting on Upakul College ground.

No threat

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After the meeting, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Director General Hasan Mahmud Khandaker said special measures will be taken to ensure foolproof security for the two prime ministers.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday said an investigation is underway to find if the suspected JMB activists arrested on Tuesday in Debidwar of Comilla district had planned to carry out any sabotage at the election rally of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

"It is being examined if there has been any link between the possible acts of the arrested militants and the deterioration of law and order at Begum Zia's rally," said an official statement referring to Tuesday's incident in Comilla.

It said the government is pledge-bound to ensure "the highest security measures" for the two former prime ministers while the law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the SSE, are taking all-out measures instantly on receiving any information regarding their security.

The statement, issued in view of media report, said on the basis of intelligence reports Rab on December 23 arrested JMB members Abdul Alim alias Naim and Ayub Ansari alias Masud in Narayanganj area of Debidwar along with five grenades and a bomb.

It also said Rab action came as part of an intensified security vigil in and around the areas where Khaleda Zia was scheduled to address rallies.

Abul Khair, a middle-aged voter and resident of Shankar area, said, "Taposh is a young candidate and looks good as an emerging leader. I think he should be given a chance."

"The area has been free from crime during the past two years and whoever gets elected we want this situation to prevail," Mohsin said.

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EC backtracks

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Sheikh Hasina, who leads AL-led grand electoral alliance, and Khaleda Zia, who leads BNP-led four-party alliance, have been touring the country in a whirlwind speed.

Foreign Secretary M Touhid Hossain was present on the occasion, said a foreign ministry release.

"The MoU will provide a framework for cooperation between the two countries in combating international terrorism," it said.

The areas of cooperation include cooperation in combating organised transnational crimes, preventing and investigating acts of terrorism and bringing the perpetrators to justice, sharing best practices and procedures and capacity-building initiatives in terms of specialised training and technical assistance.

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