



India's Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi (3L) walks with her son Rahul Gandhi (C) as they leave the District Magistrate's Court in Rae Bareilly yesterday after filing her election nomination papers in her constituency.

NDA has an edge over UPA Shows India TV pre-polls survey

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is likely to get 187 seats in the Lok Sabha - nine more than the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a pre-poll survey by the India TV shows.

"The NDA has a minor edge over UPA, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may win 144 seats - nine more than the Congress. But if the UPA can bring back its former constituent - the Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Lok Janshakti Party - its figure will reach 235," the news channel said Sunday in a release

based on the survey.

"On its part, the BJP (144) may be able to add 43 more seats from existing allies/constituents taking the tally of the NDA to 187. So, if the Fourth Front gets back to the UPA, the key would still lie with the Third Front constituents at 121," it added.

According to the survey, the UPA may then need 37 of them to break away to reach the magical mark of 272.

India TV editor-in-chief Rajat Sharma said this was the first time that a survey was done on-camera.

Sonia owns house in Italy, no car in India

Nomination filed from Rae Bareilly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Rae Bareilly

Congress president Sonia Gandhi owns neither a car nor a house in India but she has an ancestral home in Italy, according to papers she submitted Monday while filing her Lok Sabha nomination here.

She submitted an affidavit to the district magistrate, stating the Italian house was valued at Rs.1.8 million,

(Rs.18.02lakh).

Sonia Gandhi's assets, according to the affidavit, totalled Rs.13.8 million (Rs.1.38 crore), nearly Rs.10 million less than what her son Rahul Gandhi reportedly has. He is contesting from nearby Amethi constituency.

Sonia Gandhi's affidavit says that she had Rs.75,000 in cash and Rs.2.86 million (Rs.28.61 lakh) in bank deposits.

Basu regrets for not joining polls campaign

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) patriarch Jyoti Basu Monday regretted not being able to participate in the election campaign for the Left Front in West Bengal, saying he was 'physically unfit' to do so.

"This time I could do nothing for the Left Front as I have become physically unfit to participate in poll campaign," Basu told reporters at his Salt Lake residence.

Thai PM resists state of emergency for protests

AFP, Bangkok

Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said Monday that he did not need to declare a state of emergency to handle a massive anti-government demonstration planned in Bangkok later this week.

Red-clad supporters of fugitive ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra have blockaded Abhisit's offices in Bangkok for the past 12 days, and say they expect hundreds of thousands of people to attend Wednesday's rally.

But the Oxford-educated Abhisit said after meeting security agencies and the chief of the armed forces on Monday that his nearly four-month-old government was capable of handling the protests.

Pakistan could collapse within six months

Says US expert

PTI, New York

Pakistan could collapse within six months in the face of snowballing insurgency, according to a top expert on guerrilla warfare.

Such dire prediction was given by David Kilcullen, a former adviser to top US military commander General David H Petraeus.

Petraeus also echoed the same thought when he told a Congressional testimony last week that insurgency was one which could "take down" Pakistan, which is home to nuclear arms and al-Qaeda.

Kilcullen's comments come as Pakistan is witnessing an unprecedented

upsurge in terrorists strikes and now some analysts in Pakistan and Washington are putting forward apocalyptic timetables for the country.

In an analysis piece, the New York Times cast doubts about the success of President Barack Obama's strategy offering Pakistan a partnership to defeat insurgency, but the Pakistanis still consider India enemy number one.

Officially, Pakistan's government welcomed Obama's strategy, with its hefty infusions of American money, hailing it as a "positive change", the paper said.

But as the Obama administration tries to bring Pakistan to its side, large parts of the public, political class and the military have brushed off the plan, rebuffing

the idea that the threat from al-Qaida and the Taliban, which Washington calls a common enemy, is so urgent, it added.

Some, including the Pak army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and President Asif Ali Zardari may be coming around but for the military, at least, India remains priority No. 1, as it has for the 61 years of Pakistan's existence, the paper said.

How to shift that focus in time for Pakistan to defeat a fast-expanding Islamic insurgency that threatens to devour the country is the challenge facing Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, and Richard C. Holbrooke, the special envoy to the region, as they arrive in Pakistan for talks later this week, the Times emphasised.

67 more BDR men shown

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list of the fugitive BDR members to different intelligence agencies so that they can be captured," Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam said expressing hope that the fugitive border guards would surrender soon.

After a meeting with Home Minister Sahara Khatun, the BDR chief told reporters that he briefed the minister about his recent New Delhi trip and his meetings with the chief of Indian Border Security Force (BSF), the BDR reconstitution process and developments in the investigation into the Pilkhana carnage.

The DG said the morale of BDR men is now much dented.

Replying to a query about the progress of the BDR restructuring process, the DG said, "It would be better for BDR as well as the country if the process is completed quickly."

Our court correspondent adds: Four BDR jawans who confessed under Section-164 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) are lance nayek Anwarul Islam, nayek Kamruzzaman, sepoy Asaduzzaman and Bazlur Rashid.

Their confessional statements were recorded after the investigation officer of the case Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Kahar Akand (ASP) CID had submitted separate petitions in this regard.

Following the petitions, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Enamul Haque assigned magistrates Moazzem Hossain, Abdul Rahim, Rahed Kabir and Abdul Majid to record their confessional statements.

The four were then sent to jail. With yesterday's four, a total of 23 BDR jawans made confessional statements in connection with the case.

The 12 BDR jawans who were placed on seven-day remand each are havildar Jalal Uddin, nayek Sheikh Shahidur Rahman, sepoy Mohammad Obaidul, Pulok Kanti Mallick, Riyun Ahmed, Jakir Hossain, Raqibul Hassan, Rafiqul Islam, Rafiqul Islam (2), Fazlur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman and Hassan Yusuf.

So far 163 BDR jawans have been placed on remand in the case.

A total of 918 BDR jawans had been shown arrested in the case filed with Lalbagh Police Station on February 28.

Senior ASP Abdul Kahar Akand told The Daily Star that they arrested the BDR men at Pilkhana after being confirmed about their involvement in the carnage and verifying information they received about them.

87pc candidates exceed

FROM PAGE 1

by Zaker Party, and 7 were independents. Forty of the surveyed candidates became MPs, whose names TIB did not disclose.

"The surveyed candidates on an average spent Tk 44,20,979, while the EC's average stipulation was Tk 13,15,120," said Shadhan Kumar Das.

The highest spending by a single candidate was Tk 2.81 crore while the lowest was Tk 4.34lakh, the report says.

On an average, AL candidates spent Tk 35,67,321, BNP candidates Tk 52,11,020, Jamaat-e-Islami candidates Tk 56,15,961, Jatiya Party candidates Tk 51,31,750, and independent candidates spent Tk 40,74,300.

Many cases are still pending with the appellate division of the Supreme Court against some elected MPs, said Prof Muzaffer, suggesting that the cases should be adjudicated soon and if any elected MPs candidacy is found to be illegal that election should be cancelled for a re-election before the budget session of the parliament.

According to the TIB report, 11 surveyed candidates, who won the polls, spent within the EC set limit, six of whom were AL candidates, four were BNP's, and one was an independent. But, TIB did not disclose their

names either.

Fifty five percent of the 88 surveyed candidates had criminal cases against them at one point or the other of their lives, while 50 percent of them are still facing such cases. The number of cases against any one of them ranged between 1 and 15, Shadhan Kumar Das said.

At least three of the 88 surveyed candidates whitened black money, and three were accused of war crimes, he noted.

Many candidates also violated electoral rules by using megaphones for longer hours than stipulated by the EC, by pasting on walls large coloured posters, by bringing out motor cycle or bus processions, by distributing money among voters, by setting up more than 20 camps in a constituency, by using religion in campaigns, and even by coercing the minority population to vote for them through threats, says the report.

In the aftermath of the poll a total of 79 violent incidents took place including beatings, lootings, forceful occupation of buildings and other establishments, extortion, vandalism and murders.

The report says the EC tried to ensure participation of all political parties in the poll, took some actions against the violators of rules, but failed in applying the rules equally for all.

The caretaker government brought some important political and institutional reforms and created a peaceful poll environment, but allowed loan and bill defaulters to contest in it, the report notes.

"In most of the cases we found violations of electoral rules. But there were however more positive things than ever in the last parliamentary poll," Prof Muzaffer told reporters.

The political parties, who were consulted for framing the electoral law, themselves failed to prevent their own nominees from violating the rules, he said, adding that the media played a critical role for the election, but more investigative reporting on poll expenditures were necessary.

The EC set an example by not deploying the army in the by-elections, which should continue, Prof Muzaffer noted.

To enforce the electoral code of conduct, the EC should regularly monitor expenses of the candidates, make the expenditures public, prepare reports on the expenses, create a database of news reports published in the media and upload them on its website, and should hold weekly discussions on those, TIB recommended.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekaruzzaman, and senior researcher Shahzada M Akram were also present.

Social Development Foundation (SDF)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL CONSULTANT FOR DRMU, BARISAL

Government of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to implement two new programs under Social Investment Program Project (SIPP) through Social Development Foundation (SDF) to help restore the livelihood of rural communities affected by the 2007 floods and by Cyclone Sidr. SDF is a pro-poor organization that aims at social and economic empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged people in Bangladesh by addressing the poverty, livelihoods and empowerment issues of the rural poor. SDF is looking for motivated and innovative professionals for the following positions in its new Disaster Risk Mitigation Unit (DRMU) to be set up as a Regional Branch of SDF, in Barisal. The DRMU will be responsible for managing the implementation of the new programs. Successful candidates have to respect the poor, open to learning and should have an aptitude for community driven development. The work involves extensive travel to the affected areas and working in the field.

(1) Procurement Specialist - (2nd Time Advertisement)

Job Description:

The incumbent will arrange all required procurement for the project or as assigned to him/her which may include goods, works and services; for this purpose, the incumbent will prepare procurement plan, tender/bidding documents, REOs/IFTs/IFBs, RFPs, Evaluation Reports, Award Recommendations, Contract Documents, Procurement Progress Reports, etc., as required. The incumbent will also undertake facilitating procurement training at the community level, and will monitor progress and performance of procurement activities at that level, including but not limited to providing appropriate advice/suggestion to the management as required.

Qualification and Experience: Master's Degree in any discipline; practical experience of minimum 8 years in doing procurement including preparation of procurement plan, tender/bidding documents, REOs/IFTs/IFBs, RFPs, Evaluation Reports, Award Recommendations, Contract Documents, Procurement Progress Reports, etc. is a must; sound knowledge in the Public Procurement Rules & Regulations of GoB & WB.

(2) Social Accountability Specialist (3rd Time Advertisement)

Job Description:

The incumbent will facilitate implementation and operationalizing of various downward accountability tools and methods that SDF has developed and ensure that project activities are carried out in a transparent and inclusive way and that they achieve impacts for the poor, hardcore poor, women, and other marginalized stakeholders.

Qualification and Experience: Postgraduate in Social Science; with minimum 8 years practical experience in the relevant field; especially dealing with community institutions and governance aspects.

(3) Information, Education and Communication Specialist (3rd Time Advertisement)

Job Description:

The incumbent will design and implement for the project and oversee the development and delivery of all communication and information messages and products throughout its implementation.

Qualification and Experience: Postgraduate in Journalism/ Mass Communication / Public Administration / Economics or any other discipline in Social Science with minimum 8 years experience in the relevant field, including 4 years in the field of Information and Communication.

For all the posts:

- Attractive remuneration package commensurate with the qualifications, skill and experience will be offered.
- The candidates must have strong computer literacy, high level of interpersonal skill, excellent report writing skill and strong ability in oral and written communication in both Bangla & English.
- Experience with international agencies, donor funded projects and NGO and GoB would be an advantage.
- The tenure of the above position is up to 36 months following satisfactory performance evaluation.
- Only short listed applicants will be called for interviews.
- The incumbents should be willing to travel to remote areas extensively, and will be spending minimum 20 days per month in the project area.

The above mentioned Specialists / Local Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2004) and Public Procurement Regulations dated October, 01, 2008 and recipient's Public Procurement Act 2006).

Interested persons are requested to send their detail CV indicating proposed position, name, address (present & permanent, Telephone /Cell Number), date of birth, nationality, membership in professional societies, education, other training, languages & degree of proficiency, countries of work experience, employment records and work undertaken that best illustrates capability to handle this assignment. The interested candidates are requested to send their applications including copies of all certificates with two passport size photographs to the following address on or before 23 April 2009 during office time. Details will be available in the SDF website: www.sdfbd.org. Candidates are requested to write the position applied for on the top of the envelope. No TA/DA will be provided for attending interview.

Managing Director
Social Development Foundation (SDF)
House # 4, Road # 21, Sector # 4
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH

Social movement against corruption

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is inviting applications for appointment to the following posts for its project titled *Paribartan - Driving Change*.

The goal of the project is to achieve positive changes in policies and practices conducive to accountable and transparent governance in Bangladesh. The specific objectives include strengthening the National Integrity System, reducing costs of corruption and improving citizens' access to entitlements through a strengthened and sustained social movement against corruption.

Working through an intensified national level advocacy and an up-scaled local level citizens' engagement, the project will strive to achieve better enforcement of policies, laws and rules at both national and local level.

Before applying for your intended position, please read further details including detailed job description and download Applicant Information Form from www.ti-bangladesh.org.

Sl. No.	Position	Number	Monthly Gross Salary (Taka)*
01	Senior Manager - MIS	01	67,400.00
02	Senior Manager - Civic Engagement	01	67,400.00
03	Manager - Human Resources	01	49,800.00
04	Manager - Gender	01	49,800.00
05	Manager - M&E	01	49,800.00
06	Manager - Civic Engagement (Youth Engagement & Support)	01	49,800.00
07	Assistant Manager - Accounts	02	30,900.00
08	Associate - MIS	01	21,140.00
09	Associate - Training	01	21,140.00
10	Associate - General Administration	01	21,140.00
11	Associate - Front Office	02	21,140.00
12	Associate - IT	01	21,140.00
13	Associate - Human Resources	01	21,140.00
14	Associate - M&E	01	21,140.00
15	Associate - Outreach & Communication	01	21,140.00

* Other benefits are applicable as per relevant rules of TIB.

In case you have difficulty in downloading the full advertisement and the Applicant Information Form, please collect it from the following address. Last date of application April 23, 2009. Selected candidates are expected to join as soon as possible. All positions are Dhaka based.

Human Resource Unit
Transparency International Bangladesh
Progress Tower (5th Floor), House 1, Road 23
Gulshan 1, Dhaka-1212. e-mail: va0902@ti-bangladesh.org