

Iran grapples

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a regime-organised rally, while a correspondent said a similar rally was also being held by supporters of defeated presidential candidate Mir Hosseini Mousavi.

However, foreign journalists could not reach the site of the demonstrations as Iran has banned journalists working for foreign media from covering such events.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the winner and thousands of his supporters are rallying in Tehran.

But his rival Mir Hosseini Mousavi and other candidates are seeking a rerun.

Several people died in a huge pro-opposition rally on Monday and earlier yesterday Mousavi urged his followers not to take part in another demonstration amid fears of fresh violence.

"This headquarters calls on people to avoid the trap of planned clashes," a Mousavi spokesman told AFP news agency.

The new restrictions on foreign media require journalists to obtain explicit permission before leaving the office to cover any story.

Journalists have also been banned from attending or reporting on any "unauthorised" demonstration - and it is unclear which if any of the protests are formally authorised. Press cards have been declared invalid.

The clampdown comes amid surprise and fear among authorities at the show of defiance by opposition supporters who attended Monday's huge illegal rally, insisting the vote was rigged.

The Guardian Council - Iran's top legislative body - said votes would be recounted only in areas contested by the losing candidates. But a spokesman for the council told state television it would not annul the election - as moderate candidates have demanded.

The opposition says millions of ballots may have gone astray.

Hospital officials said eight people died at the end of Monday's protest, in violence which a report on state radio blamed on "thugs".

Monday's protest involved hundreds of thousands of people and was one of the largest since the Iranian revolution 30 years ago.

Razzak to lead JS team to Tipai

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area soon in consultation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina." Abdur Razzak said in a press briefing after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsads Bhavan.

He said the committee members at the meeting expressed their frustration following the comments of experts on the Tipaimukh Dam "without knowing the exact situation".

"We have formed the all-party parliamentary body to let the nation know the exact information," Razzak asserted.

"If the Guardians Council reaches the conclusion that such offences as buying votes or using fake identity cards have been committed... it will order a recount," council spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodai told the news agency IRNA.

Top dissident cleric Grand Ayatollah Hosseini Ali Montazeri, a one-time heir to revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who was later sidelined, called on the youth of the "oppressed nation" to pursue peaceful rallies.

And in a rare criticism, parliament speaker Ali Larjani, a conservative rival to Ahmadinejad, blamed the interior minister for attacks on civilians and university students.

Meanwhile, yesterday, Ahmadinejad himself was in Russia -- a key ally which is helping Iran build a nuclear power plant -- for a security summit. Moscow has described the election as an "internal" affair.

In his latest salvo at the West, Ahmadinejad said the "age of empires" was over, but made no mention of the situation back home.

In his first public comments since the election, Obama called on Iranian leaders to respect free speech and democracy, saying "it is up to Iranians to make a decision about who Iran's leaders will be."

"I think it's important that moving forward, whatever investigations take place are done in a way that is not resulting in bloodshed and is not resulting in people being stifled in expressing their views," he said.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon has called for the will of the Iranian people to be "fully respected."

premier was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad after a visit of Indian high commissioner to India from constructing the dam.

Experts said the downstream Sylhet region would be turned into a desert if the Dam were built on the upstream Indian region.

Razzak also lambasted former water resources minister of BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government Hafizuddin Ahmed for "agreeing" with India on the Tipaimukh Dam.

"The issue of construction of the Tipai Dam was discussed at Bangladesh-India Joint River Commission meeting in 2003. The then water resources minister did not say anything against the dam but now he is getting louder against it," Razzak alleged.

At the press briefing at the media center of parliament, Abdur Razzak blasted 'experts' for commenting on Tipaimukh Dam without 'having necessary information'.

He said Professor Muzaffer Ahmad and many others remained silent when trees at the Subhawardi Udayan were felled indiscriminately, but they are now talking about the dam without knowing the exact scenario.

Muzaffer, on Monday, asked the premier not to stand against people's expectation and told ministers and MPs to step down if they failed to stop the project. And the project is yet to start," he added.

He said Professor Muzaffer Ahmad and many others remained silent when trees at the Subhawardi Udayan were felled indiscriminately, but they are now talking about the dam without knowing the exact scenario.

"Indian government has informed our foreign ministry and water resources ministry that the Dam will be constructed to generate hydroelectricity not for irrigation purpose. And the project is yet to start," he added.

EC moves to strip SQ Chy

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that he had no educational qualifications. Now it is up to the EC to prove what is wrong with that.

The senior BNP lawmaker left Dhaka on Monday for medical treatment in Singapore, one of his personal staff told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Ruhul Amin has challenged the legality of a letter of the EC dated April 13 that asked him to submit documents of his educational qualifications to the High Court by May 31. The commission has decided to contest the case, EC Secretariat sources said.

The two other lawmakers - Ruhul's wife and Jatiya Party MP Nasrin Jahan Ratna and Awami League MP Shafiqul Azam Khan Chanchal - have been disqualified from remaining parliament members as they were elected members of two municipalities.

The Appellate Division recently dismissed a civil miscellaneous petition against an HC verdict that declared disqualified mayors of city corporations and municipalities from being elected lawmakers, describing their posts as "office of profit".

But Maheshpur municipality Mayor Chanchal contested the parliamentary poll and was elected an MP as the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the effectiveness of the HC verdict at that time.

Ratna - mayor of Bakerganj municipality - was also elected to a women's reserved seat in parliament by obtaining a stay order from the High Court against the EC decision that declared her disqualified.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, who filed the civil miscellaneous petition and obtained a stay order against the HC verdict, was asked to file a regular leave-to-appeal within a specific period.

Chanchal, who was initially not allowed to contest the parliamentary poll, was finally given permission subject to the decision of Khoka's petition, they added.

Later, the Supreme Court extended the timeframe for filing the regular leave-to-appeal petition on several occasions. But Khoka, who lost in the parliamentary poll, did not file any.

Finally, the Appellate Division dismissed his petition, which brought the HC verdict

back in effect, the officials said.

On May 6, 2009, the office of registrar of the Supreme Court sent an office order to the EC Secretariat, saying the period of time to file regular leave-to-appeal against the HC verdict had expired but no step was taken.

The registrar office also said on March 25 the Appellate Division extended the timeframe again for four weeks after which the petition will be dismissed.

On May 28, Zakir Hossain, a citizen of Maheshpur of Jhenidah district, filed a petition with Speaker Abdul Hamid, requesting him to send the matter to the EC to settle if Chanchal can remain an MP if he sent a copy of the petition to the EC.

Meanwhile, the EC has decided to contest the case filed by Jatiya Party MP Nasrin Jahan Ratna, officials at the EC Secretariat said.

CAE OF SQ CHOWDHURY S A L U D D I N Q U A D A R Chowdhury did not submit an attested copy of the certificate of his highest educational qualification to the EC along with his application for candidacy in the December 29 parliamentary polls. But the returning officer accepted his nomination paper.

Salauddin's rival candidate filed an appeal with the EC, challenging the returning officer's decision.

However, during the hearing the EC rejected the appeal on Salauddin's verbal assurance of submitting the required documents soon. But as Salauddin did not do so, the EC in a letter dated April 13 asked him to submit the documents to the commission by May 31. But the BNP lawmaker did not respond to the EC.

The commission then collected information on Salauddin's educational qualifications from the books containing biographies of lawmakers of different parliaments kept at the Parliament Secretariat and found inconsistencies there.

According to the book on the second parliament, Salauddin passed SSC examination from St Placid's High School, Chittagong in 1965. But the books for the seventh and eighth parliaments say he passed matriculation from Sadeq Public School of Punjab, Pakistan.

The book for the second parliament says Salauddin studied Bar at Law at Lincoln's Inn in London in 1973 but the book for the eighth parliament says he studied law at the University of London.

The Parliament Secretariat collected bio-data of lawmakers through a prescribed form for the December 29 polls.

Interestingly, in the column for educational qualification in his affidavit, Salauddin wrote he did not have any educational qualification.

Mobile stays

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A source in the home ministry told The Daily Star that the ministry understanding the severity of the situation asked Rab to investigate the matter and prepare a report with recommendations so that the use of cellphones by inmates could be stopped altogether.

Inspector General (prisons) Brig Gen Mokbul Hossain, however, told The Daily Star that he was not aware of the matter or any investigation into the matter.

Measures to stop the use of cellphones in jail were taken on various occasions but those only worked for a few days and after that it was the same old situation again.

A number of gang leaders including Sweden Aslam, Kamal Pasha, Freedom Sohel, Khurshed Alam alias Rashed, Titon, Arman, Moshiur Rahman Kochi, Killer Abbas, Sanjidul Islam Emon, Kalya Palash and Honda Babu are now in Dhaka and Kashimpur jails.

A number of businessmen, traders and hoteliers in Karwan Bazar and Farmgate areas alleged that imprisoned godfather Sweden Aslam made phone calls to them threatening them of dire consequences if they do not pay his men huge amount of toll.

If anyone refuses to pay toll, Aslam himself calls and threatens them of dire consequences, they said.

Kalya Palash, another detained criminal, often makes such calls from jail.

"My uncle called me thrice two months from jail and enquired if everyone was paying toll as usual," Palash's nephew Ibrahim Khan, recently arrested by Rab with a revolver and three bullets, told The Daily Star.

Palash, who was sentenced to life, is the leader of his gang that operates in Rampura and Khulgaon areas in the city.

Muhiith thanks CG

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expenditure in the supplementary budget went for agriculture, to the tune of Tk 1,391 crore.

The finance minister said many lawmakers raised allegations against him for not incorporating in his main budget speech enough criticism of the 'misrule' by the last four-party alliance government and the immediate past caretaker government.

In reply to the allegation he said many moves of the caretaker government were bad, but also did some good.

The caretaker government's bad deeds include attempts to implement the 'minus two formula', attempts to establish a king's party, and allowing corruption in the name of curbing the vice, among others, the minister said.

The finance minister said the original size of the current fiscal year's budget was Tk 311 crore.

Muhiith added: "The caretaker government prepared a correct voter list, using which we have returned to democracy. And for that the people should remain grateful to them, an environment of free speech is prevailing in the country now," he said.

The situation had gotten to such an extent that the country could have plunged into a martial law, but the nation was able to avert that catastrophe, the finance minister said.

"The caretaker government chalked out an ambitious budget for the current fiscal year. And we reaped its benefits. We could spend according to our priorities, because the budget was ambitious," Muhiith added.

The finance minister said the original size of the current fiscal year's budget was Tk 311 crore.

99,962 crore, but it was later reduced to Tk 94,140 crore in the revised budget, saving Tk 5,822 crore. However, some ministries spent more than the allocations, and according to the convention, the extra spending needed to be approved by the parliament through the supplementary budget, he explained.

Muhiith said the additional expenditure was given for agriculture, social safety nets, and for the government stimulus package for businesses in the face of the global economic recession.

The ministries that incurred additional expenditure include housing and public works ministry with an extra spending of Tk 375 crore, planning ministry with Tk 356 crore, defence ministry with Tk 357 crore, and the home ministry with Tk 311 crore.

Ch. ১. বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী। শহীদ পালিশপুর, ঝুলনা।

২. টেস্টিন হেডকোর্টার্ট, বগুড়া সেনানিবাস, বগুড়া।

৩. কাটেট কলেজ সহৃদয় (কেল মাত্র ক্যাডেট কলেজের ছাত্রদের জন্য)।

৪. জেলবালা রোড, বৃহত্তর পুরুষ প্রাচীন মুসলিম মার্কিন প্রাচীন মুসলিম।

৫. ২/৬/১ নং সানকিপাটা, কাটনমুক্ত রোড, মুম্বাই।

৬. পুরুষ প্রাচীন মুসলিম। ফার্মার্স প্রেসার্স প্রাচীন মুসলিম।

৭. বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী। প্রেসার্স প্রাচীন মুসলিম।

৮. পুরুষ প্রাচীন মুসলিম। প্রেসার্স প্রাচীন মুসলিম।

৯. পুরুষ প্রাচীন মুসলিম। প্রেসার্স প্রাচীন মুসলিম।

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