

No compromise over fair polls

Says CEC in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda said that he would not compromise with anyone for the sake of arranging the next general election in a democratic manner.

“We are determined to arrange the upcoming national polls in line with democratic norms and electoral code of conduct. We will not compromise with anyone under any circumstances,” Huda said while addressing a function at Mymensingh town yesterday noon.

The CEC underscored the need for a collective effort from people from all walks of life for holding the next general election in a free, fair and inclusive manner.

“The Election Commission cannot arrange a successful election alone. We will be able to do so if cooperation is given from all quarters,” he added.

The CEC was in Mymensingh to inaugurate the voter list updating campaign held at the Advocate Tarique Memorial Auditorium.

He also called upon the grassroots level officials engaged in voter list updating activities to carry out their duties sincerely and honestly so that they can prepare an accurate voter list ahead of the 11th parliamentary election.

“We will not accept any mistake or negligence in preparing an accurate and acceptable voter list. We will take tough action if anyone’s negligence is found in this regard,” the CEC warned.

2 'muggers'

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acting on a tip-off, went there to nab them. The duo was injured during their fire exchange, Shahabuddin Khan, commanding officer of Rab-10, told The Daily Star.

However, other muggers fled the spot in another car, he added.

The Rab also claimed to have recovered a car with a sticker of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, two pistols and two bullets from the spot.

On July 13, an alleged mugger, Alamgir, 35, was shot dead and another injured in a “gunfight” with Rab in the capital’s Lalbagh area.

Dhaka to seek

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and expressed regret at the “lack of progress” regarding their return.

In an apparent ultimatum, the EU also asked Bangladesh to end the negotiations on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by the end of this month.

Bangladesh maintained its general position about bringing all the people with “irregular” status back. It also highlighted the need for “widening the scope of safe, orderly and regular migration”.

Following the EU warning, Dhaka yesterday finalised the SOPs at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the Foreign Ministry with Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque in the Chair. High officials of the Ministries of Law, Home, Commerce and Foreign Affairs and all law enforcing agencies and departments attended the meeting.

Meeting sources said Bangladesh has been assuring the EU that it will do everything possible to bring back its illegal citizens from Europe.

The EU submitted the SOPs on the return of irregular migrants to the Bangladesh government in June 2016. A Bangladeshi delegation at the July 12, 2017 Joint Commission meeting, submitted the draft SOPs with amendments.

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior government official who attended the meeting, said Bangladesh will not accept any ultimatum or specific timeframe to complete the return of illegal migrants but will expedite the verification process.

Though the EU has not yet given any list or specific number of the irregular migrants, one EU statistic puts the total number around 93,000.

But Bangladeshi officials said there is no concrete or specific figure in regards to the number of irregular migrants, but they suspect that the number could be 20,000 to 30,000.

According to the EU, the first 100 days of 2017 saw 4,645 Bangladeshis illegally arrive in Italy. During the same period of time in 2016, there were only three Bangladeshis making the same trip.

In 2016, a record high 8,131 Bangladeshis national were registered by authorities at landing points in Italy.

“We have sought the lists of the Bangladeshi illegal immigrants living in the EU countries. After we get the lists, we will verify if they all are Bangladeshis. We will then chalk out a plan to bring home the Bangladeshi illegal immigrants and the EU will cooperate with us in the process,” said an official of the Home Ministry



Outgoing Indian president Pranab Mukherjee waves after inspecting a guard of honour during a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Ram Nath

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“Our diversity is the core that makes us so unique... We are so different yet so similar and united,” Kovind said.

After the ceremony, Pranab Mukherjee gave the new President a tour of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In his farewell address as the outgoing President on Monday, Pranab Mukherjee had underscored the need for unity, pluralism and tolerance. “Gandhiji saw India as an inclusive nation, where every section of our population lived in equality and enjoyed equal opportunity. He wanted our people to move forward unitedly in ever-widening thought and action,” he had said.

India’s prime minister wields executive power, but the president can send back some parliamentary bills for reconsideration and also plays a guiding role in the process of forming governments.

Kovind is the second Dalit president after K R Narayan, who held the post for five years from 1997.

The Dalit leader first stepped into politics in 1994 when he was elected as

a Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh. He served for two consecutive terms for 12 years till March, 2006.

He represented India in the United Nations in New York and addressed United Nations General Assembly in October, 2002, reported The Hindu.

During his parliamentary tenure, Kovind emphasised on development of basic infrastructure for education in rural areas and helped in the construction of school buildings in Uttar Pradesh and Uttrakhand under MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development) Scheme.

He has served as a member of several parliamentary committees, including the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes, Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, among others.

Kovind served as a member of the Board of Management of Dr B R Ambedkar University, Lucknow. He was also a member of the Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata.

Siddiquir

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information officer of the health and family welfare ministry, told The Daily Star.

The government would be paying for his treatment, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim told reporters after visiting him at the National Institute of Ophthalmology in Agargaon.

Siddiquir’s eyes were damaged after a policeman, as seen in a video footage, shot a teargas canister directly at the agitating college students at Shahbagh on Thursday. Siddiquir collapsed on the street instantly.

He cannot see with his right eye. Doctors said there was still a chance, however slim, for the left eye as it responded to light once or twice when the physicians removed the bandage on Sunday.

Siddiquir wants the “policeman who made his entire world dark brought to book”.

“The way police attacked me, I don’t want anyone to be a victim of such attacks,” said the third-year political science student yesterday.

“I just want to work for the people, if I could see again,” said Siddiquir, who comes from a poor family of Tarakanda in Mymensingh.

He had lost his father when he was only three years old.

“Since then [after his father passed away], my brother toiled hard to educate me, he is still doing so ...,” he said.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said, “We will of course find out whose negligence led to the sad incident. If negligence is found, the responsible person will be brought to book.”

A three-member probe committee is investigating the matter. Another committee would be formed if this one failed to come up with satisfactory findings.

Talking to a TV channel last night, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said they had several video clips of the incident and that the probe body was analysing them.

Punitive actions would be taken if the probe body found any policeman guilty. The image of the police force with two lakh personnel cannot be tarnished by a few, he said.

He said he had talked to Siddiquir twice and had seen the injury marks below his eyes. “For arguments sake, if we say that a canister or a brick chunk hit him, there should not be injury marks under both the eyes.”

A person could get injured if he or she was caught in the line of a fired teargas canister, he said, adding that canisters were usually fired at 45 degree angle.

If a policeman had fired the canister

directly at the demonstrators, then he would be responsible for it, he said.

“This is unexpected and saddening. Neither we nor the state can evade the responsibility,” he said, adding that the state has taken steps for his treatment abroad and the police were helping.

The students of seven colleges -- Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government Mohila College, Mirpur Government Bangla College and Government Titumir College -- staged demonstrations at Shahbagh for their eight-point demand that include announcement of their exam dates.

The authorities of the colleges, affiliated with Dhaka University, announced the exam dates after the incident on last Thursday.

The police action on the students, especially on Siddiquir, during an apparent peaceful demonstration sparked huge outcry on social media, with a call to bring the responsible policemen to book.

Siddiquir said, “We had only placards-festoons and banner-posters. No one threw bricks at police. No one can prove anything like that.”

But police that night filed a case against around 1,200 unnamed students of the seven colleges in connection with attempting to kill policemen, rioting with lethal weapons and damaging properties.

The protesting students believe that police filed the case to “misdirect attention from what they did to Siddiquir”.

“On many occasions, different groups staged sit-ins at Shahbagh intersection and clashed with police but we have hardly seen any case filed by police,” said a student of Kabi Nazrul College, preferring anonymity.

Students of seven government colleges yesterday demanded withdrawal of the case. They sought the prime minister’s intervention after Inspector General of Police Shahidul Hoque on Monday said the case would be withdrawn.

Siddiquir thanked the media for its wholehearted support. “Media took up the issue and the government and the people came forward,” he added.

Trump aide

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In the meeting, Curtis appreciated the pluralistic character of democratic Bangladesh and the impressive socio-economic development of this Muslim majority country.

The foreign secretary invited her to visit Bangladesh and Curtis accepted the invitation at that time.

A 'turning point'

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Police say those killed in the operation include five suicide squad members from “Neo JMB”. They also captured Rakibul Hasan Reagan alive after he jumped from the building with another militant named Iqbal, who managed to flee and is still on the run.

Reagan divulged crucial information about the “Neo JMB” leadership, its key members and their targets, CTTC officials said.

Eight of the dead were later identified as Abdullah, Abu Hakim Nayeem, Taj-ul-Haque Rashid, Atiquzzaman Khan and Shazad Rouf Arko, Motiar Rahman, Jubayer Hossain and Raihan Kabir alias Tareq. One still remains unidentified.

Of them, Abdullah, Rashid, Atiquzzaman, Arko and Tareq were the suicide squad members, according to CTTC sources.

After the Kalyanpur drive, police filed a case with Mirpur Model Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act accusing Reagan, Iqbal, Tamim Chowdhury, Ripon, Khalid, Mamun, Manik, Junaid Khan, Badal, Azadul alias Kabiraj.

The accused frequented the Kalyanpur den and supplied explosives, firearms and ammunition to militants. They also advised and trained the radicals, according to the case statement.

Seven of the accused are on the run while two others were killed in anti-militancy raids. Tamim was killed in raid on a Narayanganj den on August 27 last year, while Sarwar Jahan jumped to death while trying to flee during a Rab raid in Ashulia on October 8 last year.

Apart from the accused, four leaders of the Jama’atul Mujahideen Bangladesh faction, “Neo JMB” as officials call it, have been shown arrested in the case.

They are Salahuddin Kamran, a close aide to chief “Neo JMB” coordinator Tamim; Engineer Abdul Rauf Prodhana, a senior organiser of the outfit; its spiritual leader Abul Kashem alias Boro Huzur, and Ahmed Azwad Imtiaz Talukder alias Omi, a young organiser.

Kamran and Rauf have given confessional statements under section 164.

CTTC chief Monirul said detained terror kingpin Sohel Mahfuz, an explosives expert and the bomb supplier for last year’s Gulshan café attack, has been shown arrested in the Kalyanpur case.

He was placed on a three-day remand for interrogation about his links to the Kalyanpur militants.

“We have almost completed the investigation but we still need time to submit charge sheet as we have to arrest seven fugitive accused or get details about them,” CTTC Additional Deputy Commissioner Abdul Mannan, who is coordinating the investigation, told this newspaper on Monday.

He said they have already received the autopsy reports of the dead militants recently. Sources said the nine militants died in shooting.

Saudia flight

FROM PAGE 2

The pilots aborted the take off and shut down the engines on the runway. Airport fire engines were also dispatched.

The aircraft was towed to a hanger where it was inspected and repaired, sources said.

The plane left Dhaka for Jeddah around 1:45pm with the pilgrims.

Pesticide killed

FROM PAGE 1

He said it should be banned immediately.

Contacted, Amitabh Das, director of Plant Protection at the Department of Agricultural Extension, however, claimed that endosulfan has not been imported in the country in the last three years.

He also rejected the journal’s claim that the insecticide was in use in Bangladesh until last year.

However, an official of a multinational agro-input company operating in Bangladesh, said different brands were still marketing endosulfan, which ahas easy access to the country through the porous border with India, one of the few countries yet to ban the pesticide.

Deaths of all the 13 children in Dinajpur, which occurred within 20 hours of the onset of AES symptoms, were linked to exposure to lithis. Similar deaths from AES have been observed near litchi orchards in India, said a press release issued by the journal yesterday.

However, a recent analysis published in The Lancet, a medical journal, said the deaths in India were caused by a reaction to a naturally occurring toxin found in litchi seeds and pulp.

“Our investigation suggested the seeds might not be the cause as the seeds are not eaten in Bangladesh and instead found the deaths in 2012 were most likely due to an exposure to multiple, highly toxic agrochemicals,” said icddr, b Associate Scientist M Saiful Islam, also the lead author of the study published in the journal.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Saiful said, “What we’ve learnt from the Dinajpur tragedy and our study is that Bangladesh needs to monitor applications of all sorts of toxic agrochemicals, stop overuse of pesticides and educate farmers about proper dosage.”

A co-author and immediate-past director at IEDCR Mahmudur Rahman told The Daily Star that the Dinajpur incident was not the first such case.

“We found the role of pesticide toxins in the case of Dhamrai too when three children died and eight others became ill back in 2009. Then such incidents were also reported in Naogaon during 2007-08 and once again in Dinajpur in 2014.”

According to the study published in the journal, 13 of the 14 children lived either right beside or within 10 metres of a litchi orchard. One victim did not live as close to an orchard, but, before becoming ill, he reportedly consumed a large number of litchis collected from the same orchards.

The outbreak occurred around harvest times, when there is typically an abundance of litchis on the ground around the trees.

Locals told the investigators that it was common for children to play in the orchards and eat fruits that had fallen on the ground without washing it, using their teeth to peel the litchi’s skin.

In addition, several of the victims had family members who worked in the orchards, which, the study notes, could have increased exposures via residues on clothing worn into the home.

Several families of victims reported the symptoms began with a sharp,

sudden cry from their children. Loss of consciousness occurred, on average, about two and a half hours after the onset of illness and deaths within about 20 hours or less.

Other symptoms included respiratory distress, froth at the mouth and convulsions.

While it is known that an infection like meningitis can lead to AES, the scientists asserted that the “short duration between onset of illness and death all suggest the outbreak was more likely due to a toxic poisoning than an infection.”

Lead author Saiful said physical evidence collected from the orchards, which included discarded containers of insecticides and other chemicals and interviews with community residents suggested that multiple chemicals were applied to the fruit and in amounts far greater than are normally used by other litchi producers.

The study also found evidence that the litchi growers were applying an insecticide that had been approved only for use in cotton, not food crops.

“People in the communities told us that sometimes the spraying was so heavy it became difficult to stay in their houses and that the smell would linger for hours,” he said.

The researchers also noted that clinical symptoms seen in the children were similar to what was noted in an outbreak of sudden child deaths in 2009 in Bangladesh that was linked to the carbamate class of insecticides, which were also used in the litchi orchards.

Additionally, the study pointed to a 2015 outbreak in the same region that involved 12 recorded hospitalisations and 11 deaths as further evidence that the 2012 outbreak is likely associated with the use of toxic chemicals in the area.

“This study makes a strong case for the value of solid detective work and community engagement when investigating the causes of a dangerous and tragic public health crisis,” said Patricia F. Walker, president of the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

“By working closely with the affected communities and earning their trust, researchers were able to identify the potential role of agricultural chemicals in this outbreak. Community education and improved oversight of pesticide use will be needed to help reduce the risk of future tragedies”

Published since 1921, the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene is the peer-reviewed journal of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, founded in 1903, and the world’s leading voice in the fields of tropical medicine and global health.

Robbers

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In closed circuit footage of one of the robberies, one of the brothers in a Trump mask is seen covering the surveillance cameras in the lobby of a bank and planting an explosive in the cash dispenser.

He then ducks around a corner after lighting the fuse, just before a violent blast.

The brothers remain in custody pending trial.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
সিভিল সার্জনের কার্যালয়			
মানিকগঞ্জ			
E-mail: manikgani@cs.dghs.gov.bd			তারিখঃ ২৪/৭/২০১৭
স্মারক নং-সিএস/মানিক/দরপত্র/২০১৭-২০১৮/৫৯১৮,			
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
২০১৭-২০১৮ইং অর্থ বছরে সিভিল সার্জন অফিস, মানিকগঞ্জ এর বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ এবং উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, সিঙ্গাইর, হরিরামপুর, শিবালয়, ঘিওর, দৌলতপুর ও সাটুরিয়া স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে রোগীদের পথ্য, মনোহরী/বিবিধ দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ ও লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌত করার জন্য প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হইতে পিপিআর-২০০৬ ও পিপিএ-২০০৮ এবং সংশোধনী ২০১০ অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।			
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।	
০২	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ এর প্রশাসনিক নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ।	
০৩	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।	
০৪	বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অফ ফান্ড	জিওবি রাজস্ব বাজেট।	
০৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।	
০৬	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ক্রপ নং	ক্রপের নাম
		০১	পথ্য
		০২	মনোহরী/বিবিধ
		০৩	লিনেন সামগ্রী যৌতকরণ
			১০০০/- (এক হাজার)
			৫০০/- (পাঁচশত)
			৫০০/- (পাঁচশত)
		দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ উল্লেখিত টাকা নগদ প্রদান সাপেক্ষে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।	
০৭	দরপত্র জামানত/আর্নেস্টমানির পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের শর্তাবলীতে উল্লেখ করা হইয়াছে।	
০৮	দরপত্র দলিলাদী প্রাপ্তির স্থানসমূহ	১) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ। ২) সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ। ৩) উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্সসমূহ সিঙ্গাইর, হরিরামপুর, শিবালয়, ঘিওর, দৌলতপুর ও সাটুরিয়া।	
০৯	দরপত্র দলিলাদী গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	০১। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ। ০২। সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।	
১০	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	পরিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ২১ (একুশ) দিন অর্থাৎ ১৭/৮/২০১৭ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	
১১	সিডিউল জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২০/৮/২০১৭ইং বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১২	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২০/৮/২০১৭ইং বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকায় সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ এর অফিস কক্ষে।	
১৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সত্তার নাম ও ঠিকানা	ডাঃ মোঃ খুরশীদ আলম, সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জ।	
১৪	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী সত্তার পদবী	সিভিল সার্জন।	
১৫	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	দরপত্রের যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সংযুক্ত করা হইয়াছে। কোন শর্ত/ব্যাখ্যা বুঝিতে অসুবিধা হইলে দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে কর্মরত সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীর নিকট থেকে তাহা বুঝিয়া নেওয়া যাইবে।	
১৬	নির্দেশনা	ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। খ) অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র বিক্রি/গ্রহণ/খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে তাহা প্রযোজ্য হইবে। গ) দরপত্রদাতা কর্তৃক সিডিউলের কোনরূপ পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্তন করা যাইবে না।	
ডাঃ মোঃ খুরশীদ আলম			
সিভিল সার্জন			
মানিকগঞ্জ			
জিডি-১৫০২			