

DC conference begins today

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Some also recommended increasing allocations under the Test Relief and Gratuitous Relief programmes for divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to carry out rural infrastructure development activities smoothly.

A couple of DCs proposed setting up a separate court to deal with the drug-related cases.

Briefing journalists at the secretariat, Cabinet Division Secretary (coordination and reform) NM Zeaul Alam yesterday said improving law and order and standard of education, development of infrastructure, coordination in development activities and checking environment pollution would be discussed prominently at the conference.

He said the DCs would get instructions on different policies and the government's future course of action.

Wishing anonymity, a senior officer at the public administration ministry said, "The prime minister's directives will be the most important part of this

year's conference as the next general election is only months away."

The conference will kick off at the Prime Minister's Office in the morning. After Hasina's address, there will be a closed-door session where some selected DCs will raise some important issues or demands before the PM.

Twenty-two working sessions will be held at the secretariat on 51 ministries and divisions. All the 64 DCs, ministers and secretaries will attend the sessions.

Four sessions on the ministries of finance, Liberation War affairs, disaster management and relief, labour, power, primary and mass education, cultural affairs, information and youth and sports will be held.

TIB ON LOCALLY RAISED FUND

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday called upon the government to take "realistic measures" on handling Locally Raised (LR) fund under the supervision of district administrations after reviewing the issue at the DC conference.

The graft watchdog in a statement also urged the government to take similar measures to ensure effective implementation of the National Integrity Strategy 2012 at local level as per the government's promise and policy priority.

The TIB sent a letter to the cabinet secretary on July 22 requesting him to include the above issues in the agenda of the three-day DC conference, said the statement.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "Shedding light and exchanging views on the progress, possibility and challenge to implement the Shonar Bangla Gorar Prottoy: Jatiya Shuddhachar Koushol 2012 during the DC conference and taking the next course of action based on this will play a vital role to ensure good governance."

He also termed a Cabinet Division circular, issued on August 10, 2016, on collecting, managing and using LR fund under the supervision of the district administration a positive step.

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CAMPAIGN ENDS

Major political parties geared up for their final power shows ahead of the ECP's deadline for electioneering activities, which expired at midnight yesterday.

Both the PML-N and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) held rallies in major cities of Punjab, which has more than half of National Assembly seats and will play a key role in determining the winner of the general election, reported Dawn News.

PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif addressed a jalsa in Dera Ghazi Khan -- where he is contesting for an NA seat.

Meanwhile, Shahbaz's son Hamza led a rally from Mochi Gate to Data Darbar in Lahore.

Shahbaz Sharif was earlier also scheduled to address Liaqat Bagh Rawalpindi, but the event was cancelled late afternoon.

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PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari ended his campaign with fateha at the mazaar of the Bhuttos in Garhi Khuda Bux.

Other political parties and candidates also held their final rallies yesterday. Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) hold a jalsa atop the Liaqatabad Flyover in Karachi, while Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA), an alliance of religious parties, hold a jalsa in Islamabad's G-10 sector.

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