

Cops gathering info on polls candidates

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candidate's party affiliation, political position, criminal and police history, educational background, and other identifiers. Officers were also asked to verify and include each candidate's parents' names, address, phone numbers, and national identity numbers.

According to police sources, the drive will continue until the election and will cover not only candidates but also their close associates and party workers. The data, compiled by the Special Branch at each station, is being sent to the PHQ for use in constituency-specific security planning.

The information will help determine where additional deployment is needed, whether to increase mobile patrols, and if police or Rapid Action Battalion presence should be enhanced. It will also guide individual security measures for candidates.

An officer in charge of a Dhaka district police station,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "A secret cell has been formed to work on this."

"We received a list of possible candidates for the upcoming election around five days ago. We are now conducting investigations and cross checking data as per instructions."

At least six other OCs confirmed the development. However, no PHQ official would comment on record, citing the matter as top secret and confidential.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said police are also preparing a list of individuals involved in asserting territorial dominance, particularly in Dhaka.

He made the remarks after visiting the Dhaka District Police Lines and the Traffic and Driving School at Mill Barrack in Old Dhaka yesterday.

"Political parties also have an important role to play in improving the overall law

and order situation. Their cooperation is essential in this regard," he said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, BNP Standing Committee member Salauddin Ahmed said, "If it [data collection drive] is routine work, then it is okay. But if it is done with any dishonest intention, then there is cause for concern."

Contacted, Dr Tawhidul Haque, associate professor at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research at Dhaka University, said, "Law enforcers can take various steps to ensure a peaceful election."

"However, the initiative may not be well-intentioned, as it effectively places candidates under surveillance. Such steps must be taken with caution to prevent misuse."

He added that candidate information should be maintained solely by the Election Commission. "If a candidate commits any wrongdoing, there are legal provisions to take action."

But if multiple agencies collect information without proper coordination, it could become a tool for abuse."

COPS TO BE TRAINED FOR POLLS

The PHQ has also initiated a first-of-its-kind training programme for police personnel across the country ahead of the upcoming general election.

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said the training is part of the election preparedness plan.

The election date will be announced by the Election Commission, not by us. However, we aim to complete all preparatory work by December," he told reporters after inspecting the living conditions of police personnel at Mill Barrack in Dhaka.

Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general at the PHQ, said, "Initially, the training will be provided to officers in Dhaka and will then be gradually expanded to other districts."

According to the formal charges, Saima Wazed is alleged to have provided

false information about her academic record during her campaign for regional director, violating Section 468 of the Bangladesh Penal Code (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and Section 471 (forging a document).

The ACC also alleges she misrepresented her qualifications by claiming an honorary role at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, which the university disputes, to secure her WHO position. The charges were detailed by ACC Deputy Director Akhtarul Islam, the report said.

Saima Wazed is also accused of having misused her power and influence to collect about \$2.8 million from various banks for the Shuchona Foundation, which she used to head.

The ACC case did not provide complete details on how the money was then used. Those charges include: allegations of fraud and misuse of power under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonesty inducing delivery of property); as well as Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947.

Since the charges were laid, Saima Wazed has been unable to travel properly in the SEARO region as she faces arrest in Bangladesh, Health Policy Watch said in its report. Sheikh Hasina fled the country last August during the mass uprising.

The ACC investigation into these claims began in January.

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Swiatek crushes

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title could have been as easy.

She dropped only two games in her semi-final against Belinda Bencic and was even more ruthless in the final, clinching victory with a backhand winner.

At 4-0 down Anisimova was facing a first-set wipeout but she was powerless to halt the rampant Swiatek, who sealed the first set 6-0 in just 25 minutes.

The American won just six points on her serve in the first set and committed 14 unforced errors.

Anisimova could not stem the tide in the second set, double faulting again in the third game to give her opponent game point and then netting a backhand.

The crowd got behind her but to no avail as Swiatek kept up her level, serving out to win and celebrating before consoling her devastated opponent.

BSF shoots

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faced resistance from BSF personnel."

The BGB official said the Bangladeshi hurl stones at the BSF personnel, prompting the Indian border guards to retaliate with sound grenades. As the group refused to retreat, BSF opened fire, injuring Shafiqul.

He was rushed to Dowarabazar Upazila Health Complex, where he succumbed to his injuries around 2:30am, Zakaria added.

In Thakurgaon, Md Rasel was shot dead by the BSF along the Minapur border of Harlipur upazila early yesterday, said BGB sources.

According to BGB and local sources, BSF members from Parij camp under BSF-87 Battalion opened fire on a group of 7-8 people who illegally entered Indian territory. Rasel was critically injured but the other members of the group reportedly escaped unhurt.

Rasel succumbed to his injuries while being taken to a local hospital in India, said

Abdullah Al Moin Hasan, BGB 42 Battalion CO in Dinajpur.

BGB held a flag meeting with BSF at the zero line yesterday evening.

At the meeting, BSF admitted to the shooting, stating that a patrol team from Parij camp opened fire around 4:00am when the group illegally crossed the border.

The BGB official said he strongly protested the killing, terming it a clear violation of border protocols.

"We told them [BSF] that the BSF can detain individuals, who cross the border illegally, and later hand them over to BGB for legal action instead of resorting to lethal force," he said.

The BSF will hand over Rasel's body today (Sunday), he said.

Rasel's father Niaz Uddin said his son went out on Friday evening and did not return. On Saturday morning, the family was informed that Rasel had been shot dead by BSF.

[Our] correspondents from Sylhet and Thakurgaon contributed to the report.]

Fuel to engines cut off

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did not do so," it said.

The aircraft quickly began to lose altitude.

The switches then returned to the "RUN" position and the engines appeared to be gathering power, but "one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY'", the report said.

Air traffic controllers asked the pilots what was wrong, but then saw the plane crashing and called emergency personnel to the scene.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu told reporters that investigators probed in a "mature, transparent" way.

"This is a preliminary report. We want the final report to come in, so let us wait for it," he said.

Earlier this week, specialist website The Air Current, citing multiple sources familiar with the probe, reported it had "narrowed its focus to the movement of the engine fuel switches", while noting that full analysis will

"take months -- if not longer".

It added that "the focus of the investigators could change during that time".

The Indian agency's report said the US Federal Aviation Administration had issued an information bulletin in 2018 about "the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature".

Though the concern was not considered an "unsafe condition" that would warrant a more serious directive, Air India told investigators it did not carry out suggested inspections as they were "advisory and not mandatory".

Air India was compliant with all airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins on the aircraft, the report said.

The investigations bureau said there were "no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GEnx-1B engine operators and manufacturers", suggesting no technical issues with the engines (GE) or the aircraft (Boeing).

US and British air accident investigators have taken part in the probe.

Suresh Mistry, who lost his daughter Kinal in the crash, told AFP his family was still coming to terms with the loss.

The UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) stipulates that states heading an investigation must submit a preliminary report within 30 days of an accident.

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Suresh Mistry, who lost his daughter Kinal in the crash, told AFP his family was still coming to terms with the loss.

"We are still saying our door is still open for reforms, not for power sharing. If this door closes, people will never forgive you."

The rally was moderated by NCP Chief Organiser (north) Sarjis Alam, and also addressed by, among others, Joint Convener Tasnim Jara, Chief Organiser (south) Hasnat Abdullah, Joint Chief Organiser (south) Mejbah Kamal, and Sathkira NCP member Moniruzzaman.

BPB Standing Committee Member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, speaking as the chief discussant, said the July uprising was rooted in the people's long-standing struggle to reclaim ownership of the state.

"The core principle of the constitution is the people's ownership. It was for this ownership that people made such sacrifices during the July uprising. We do not want division over this ownership," he said.

"Let us honour the skilled and accomplished people, not just for one day, but for a lifetime -- with respect for their excellence, values of life, values of society, honesty, and dedication," he added.

Concluding the event, the organisation's president Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said Bangladesh must focus more on developing

its economy and industrial base. "Our biggest weakness is the lack of political progress. This is something we all must pay attention to," he added.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, emphasised the importance of skills in national development. "In today's world, skills are of utmost importance. The more skilled a country is, the more developed it becomes," he said.

"In its commemorative souvenir, the Samity listed a total of 181 honourees selected for their excellence and impact. The list included 56 from Mymensingh, 33 from Kishoreganj, 30 from Tangail, 26 from Jamalpur, 20 from Sherpur, and 16 from Netrokona.

Several of the honourees who attended the event also addressed the gathering. Among them, Bangla Academy President Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said Bangladesh must focus more on developing

its economy and industrial base. "Our biggest weakness is the lack of political progress. This is something we all must pay attention to," he added.

Among the honourees were Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Farhina Ahmed; Sonali Bank Managing Director Md Mazibur Rahman; former cabinet secretary ASM Abdul Halim; Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md Rezaul Maksud Jahedi; renowned folk singer Kuddus Boyati; lyricist Shahidullah Farazi; several former members of parliament; and individuals from various other fields.

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