

Unofficial Translation

The speech of Election Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Shah delivered in a press conference held at the Media Center of the Election Commission on November 02, 2017.

The Filing of Candidacy Nominations Concluded Enthusiastically in 45 Districts

1) The candidacy nominations for the second phase of the elections to the House of Representatives and Provincial Assemblies under the first-past-the-post-category scheduled for December 7 have completed peacefully with the enthusiastic participation of the political parties in 45 districts. The event has cleared all kinds of doubts related to the holding of the upcoming federal and provincial elections and it has also made clear that the entire country is absorbed in the carnival of the elections. This has guaranteed the process of constituting the federal parliament and provincial assemblies.

2) The Election Commission (EC) would like to heartily thank all political parties and candidates for registering their nominations peacefully and enthusiastically as in the first phase of the nomination process. The time for the candidacy nominations for 128 election constituencies of the federal assembly and 256 election constituencies of the provincial assemblies had been allocated between 10 am to 5 pm at the offices of the Chief Returning Officers and Returning Officers. The Commission had made all possible arrangements to accept nominations from the candidates who entered the nomination locations fixed by the Chief Returning Officers and Returning Officers by 5 pm.

3) According to the details received at 6 pm from the Joint Election Operation Center (JEOC) under the Commission, as many as 4,708 nominations, 1,742 for the House of Representatives and 2,966 for the Provincial Assemblies, have been registered at the offices of the respective Chief Returning Officers and Returning Officers. As per the election calendar approved by the Commission, the offices of the respective Chief Returning Officers and Returning Officers are scheduled to make the lists of the candidate public today. November 3 has been set to register complaints against the candidates, and the respective election offices are slated to investigate the nominations challenged by the complaints and consequently unveil the lists of the candidates on November 4. Similarly, I would like to inform all of you that the respective election offices

will allocate election symbols to the candidates after publishing the final lists of the candidates on November 5. After the candidates get their election symbol, the period of the election campaign will start formally.

4) At the beginning today, independent candidates had registered their nominations while candidates from political parties had filed their candidacy only after 12 noon. Although women were seen in a few numbers to register their candidacy for the federal and provincial elections, their presence was enthusiastic at the offices of the Chief Returning Officers and Returning Officers during the nomination process.

5) I would like to inform all of you that the candidates who filed their nominations today will have to compulsorily follow the election code of conduct. The Commission is also confident that all the political parties and candidates would definitely abide by the election code being enforced since August 30, 2017. The Commission also believes that all the political parties and candidates would help make the elections fair, independent and disciplined by following the election code of conduct that has been formulated on the basis of consensus among the political parties. The Commission has already put a strict ban on the production, sale, distribution and display of wearable materials like caps, T-shirts and shawls bearing election symbols, issuing a directive to the 77 districts. The Commission once again appeals to all concerned stakeholders, including the political parties and candidates, to sincerely comply with the election code.

6) The Commission would like to extend cordial thanks to the Chief Returning Officers, Returning Officers, staffs and security personnel deployed in the elections for concluding the candidacy nominations peacefully.

7) The Commission would also like to appreciate the media and journalists for making the ongoing election campaign a success through their constructive role. Thank You.