

UPCOMING POLLS BNP starts interviewing aspirants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The BNP parliamentary board yesterday started interviewing nomination seekers from Sylhet and Chittagong divisions except two districts to contest the next general election.
The board, chaired by BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, started the interviews with Sylhet-3 aspirants at Hawa Bhaban in the morning.
BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan said last night at a press briefing held in a building across the Hawa Bhaban that a total of 259 aspirants from 53 constituencies of Chittagong and Sylhet division faced the parliamentary board except Chittagong and Chandpur districts. Among the interviewed, 207 candidates were from 38 seats of Chittagong division and another 52 from 15 seats of Sylhet division.
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NOV 30 VANDALISM SC judges start work abstention for culprits' punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday witnessed another unprecedented incident as its judges started refraining from carrying out court proceedings.
The judges started the work stoppage demanding apologies from the SC lawyers who had demonstrated on the premises of the court on November 30, and punishment for the perpetrators of vandalism carried out there on the day.
The SC authorities also filed a sedition case with Shahbagh police accusing 200 people, including noted jurists Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Barrister Tania Amir, of the vandalism and tearing off of the national flag.
Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain on November 30 stayed the proceedings of a High Court bench, minutes before it was to announce a rule on the assumption of the post of chief adviser by the president, following petitions filed by 14-party leaders, triggering a melee among the lawyers and the people present there, leading to the vandalism.
The judges in a meeting yesterday decided to discontinue their work in the High Court (HC) Division also for two days starting today, and to bring sedition charges against the responsible persons for the ransacking and tearing off of the national flag.
Although the judges of the High Court (HC) and the appellate divisions yesterday came to their offices, none excepting two
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No need to call in army

Says Adviser Mashhud
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Power and Energy Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury said he does not think the prevailing situation warrants calling in the army.
Meanwhile, Finance Adviser Akbar Ali Khan, who supposedly received threats recently, said yesterday that he is not afraid of any threats and he will continue telling the truth.
Mashhud made this observation while talking about a news report that President and Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government Prof Iajuddin Ahmed has decided to deploy army to aid the civil administration.
"We're not aware of any such
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Voter list correction starts Friday

EC to engage 1.4 lakh staff to complete job in eight days
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Election Commission (EC) at last decided yesterday to correct the mistakes in the updated voter list in just eight days by sending its 1.4 lakh staffs on door-to-door visits from next Friday. Earlier, it took 22 days for updating the voter roll without checking the authenticity of information with the same manpower.
EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar said they initiated steps to correct the updated voter list. "We sought a budget of Tk 10 crore from the finance ministry for the task," he said at a press briefing after a meeting with the advisers to the caretaker government at Bangabhaban yesterday.
The EC, which is yet to decide on rescheduling the January 21 polls date announced November 27, allocated eight days for the entire task of deletion and inclusion of names in the voter list updated last July-August at a cost of Tk 24 crore.
Around 1.4 lakh staff, who worked for the updating and will now go door to door, will have three days (December 8-10) to detect fake and duplicate names in the updated list and collect applications from eligible voters yet unlisted.
After collecting the information on prescribed forms, they will submit it to the assistant registration officers (ARO) within the next two days, an EC Secretariat circular
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14-party starts sit-in around EC Secretariat

**To continue until EC
reconstitution, voter
roll correction**
STAR REPORT
The sit-in around the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat by the 14-party combine and allies passed off peacefully yesterday with the demonstrators resolving to continue the programme until the commission is reconstituted and the voter roll corrected.
During the first day's demo held between 10:00am and 2:00pm, the participants appeared to be in an upbeat mood. Many of them said they believe they are now close to what they have long been agitating for.
The Awami League (AL) led alliance on Monday declared that it would be staging sit-in outside the
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Police posted on Mirpur Road in the capital prevent a 14-party procession from marching towards the Election Commission Secretariat to stage a sit-in yesterday.

Acting CEC not interested to talk voter list correction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Acting Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mahfuzur Rahman yesterday showed disinterest in talking about correction of the updated voter list and rewriting of the election schedule but defended his continuing the charge of acting CEC.
Justice Mahfuz suggested reporters to talk to the Election Commission (EC) secretary about
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Tough to find anyone to sit at controversial EC, Akbar says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The team of advisers to the caretaker government, which has been negotiating with the rival political alliances, is set to initiate further discussions with them for re-arranging the election schedule and reconstituting the Election Commission (EC), Adviser Akbar Ali Khan said yesterday.
About appointing another commissioner to the EC, he said, "The Election Commission is so controversial that it's very difficult to find a person who will agree to become an election commissioner and at the same time will be acceptable to all."
"We had talks with a number of people, but nobody agreed to work as an election commissioner," he said declining to disclose the
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Tigers clinch ODI series

BISHWAJIT ROY from Bogra
As expected Bangladesh secured the five-match series against visiting Zimbabwe when left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak's career best 5-wicket haul steered the home team to a 26-run victory in the third one-day here at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium yesterday.
Man-of-the-match Razzak claimed five for 33 in his ten overs while pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortuza captured three for 35 in nine overs to wrap up the Zimbabwe innings for 194 in 49 overs to confirm a 3-0 unassailable
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Advisers acting as AL underlings

4-party leaders allege
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leaders of the BNP-led four-party alliance once again blasted the caretaker government (CG) advisers yesterday for their latest move to resolve the political crisis, saying they are acting as underlings of the Awami League (AL) without taking any action for their countrywide blockade programme.
They reiterated that they would not accept crossing the 90-day limit for holding the next general election and any unconstitutional
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Indefinite sit-ins involving '20 lakh people' on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Awami League (AL)-led 14-party coalition is planning to stage indefinite sit-ins around Bangabhaban and the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat within a couple of days by bringing '20,00,000 people' from across the country.
The coalition will sit-in again, for the second day in a row, around the EC today demanding that the caretaker government meets its electoral demands.
"We will bring 20 lakh people from across the country to enforce indefinite sit-ins around Bangabhaban and the Election Commission Secretariat within a couple of days to press home our demands," 14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil told the media late last night.
Jalil, also the general secretary of AL, at a news briefing in AL's Dhammondi office, said their sit-in around the EC Secretariat will
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