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# The Daily Star

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**Code of conduct finalised: Nomination filing by Dec 17**

## JS elections Jan 18

By Staff Correspondent

The next parliamentary elections will be held on January 18, the Election Commission announced yesterday. The last date for filing nomination papers has been fixed on December 17. The nomination papers will be scrutinised on December 18 and the last date for withdrawal of the papers is December 23, according to the schedule for elections of the Sixth Parliament announced last night through a gazette notification issued by the Election Commission.

The Election Commission has finalised a Code of Conduct for all candidates and political parties for the coming parliamentary elections. The EC said in a separate press release last night.

The 34-point Code of Conduct will become effective with the announcement of the Election schedule, the EC said in the press release. The EC called upon all candidates and political parties to abide by the Code of Conduct for holding a free, fair and neutral election.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas dissolved the Fifth Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) on November 24. According to constitutional provisions, general elections are to be held within 90 days of dissolution of the Parliament.

Earlier in the day, Chief Election Commissioner A K M Sadeque told The Daily Star in an interview that his office would go ahead with the announcement of the election schedule even if it did not receive the Ordinance debarring bank

loan defaulters from participating in the elections, expected to be promulgated by the President.

"Even if we do not receive the Ordinance, we will go ahead with the (election) schedule. We still have time until December 17, the last date for filing nominations, for this schedule to be passed," the EC pointed out.

It was learnt last night that the Prime Minister gave her approval to the proposed Ordinance Saturday evening. See Page 12 Col 8

### BNP invites applications

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday invited applications by December 6 seeking the party's nomination for the next month's general elections, a BNP press release said here last night, reports BSS.

The interested persons have been requested to collect the prescribed application forms from the party's central office from 9 am today.

## 72-hr countrywide hartal from Dec 9

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties yesterday announced a fresh agitation programme including a 72-hour countrywide hartal from December 9.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami have taken up almost identical programmes starting on December 7.

The parties have revised their earlier announced programmes which included a road-rail-waterway barricades from December 7.

Meanwhile, leaders of the three major opposition parties held a joint meeting last night at the residence of Awami League leader Abdus Samad in which they agreed upon the next course of anti-government agitation programme.

After the meeting which lasted for over an hour and a

half, Samad Azad said, "the election schedule has been announced unilaterally in a partisan manner." "If elections are held in this manner it will be nothing but a farce," he added.

The leaders who attended the meeting Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Mannan and Mohammad

### AL rejoinder

Awami League yesterday issued the following rejoinder, signed by its Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil:

"Our attention has been drawn to a news item Treaty with India won't be renewed the same way published in the front page of your newspaper on 3.12.95. The statement that has been attributed See Page 12 Col 3

## Certificate cases upto Tk 500 withdrawn

All certificate cases already filed or in the process of filing, involving claims up to Taka 500 for realising land development tax and interests there upon have already been withdrawn, a handout issued by the Land Ministry said here yesterday, reports BSS.

It said: The entire amount of claim up to Taka 500 shall also be commuted.

Interests on land development tax relating to certificate cases involving claims from Taka 501 to Taka 5000 including interests shall be See Page 12 Col 6

## Khaleda's fourth letter to Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Following is The Daily Star translated version of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's fourth letter to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina sent on December 2:

"As per my suggestions a

Editorial on page 4

situation has been created towards solving the persisting political crisis — which you have also acknowledged in your Nov 26 letter — and I earnestly thank you for that. For the sake of the greater See Page 12 Col 7

## Snatcher beaten to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: One alleged snatcher was beaten to death and another critically injured by the mob at Chaktai here today, reports BSS.

The two were caught red-handed while they were trying to flee away with Tk 39,000 from an employee of Khaled Trading.

According to Chandgaon See Page 12 Col 2

## Opposition rejects polls schedule

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties yesterday rejected the schedule for parliamentary elections announced yesterday.

The Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami in separate statements late last night said that the 'unilateral' announcement of the schedule for elections without the formation of a caretaker government was unacceptable to the people.

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, giving her instant reaction to the announcement of election schedule yesterday, said that the Prime Minister did not even make any effort to create a congenial atmosphere for a dialogue with the opposition.

Talking to a group of journalists in presence of

other party leaders at the Awami Foundation office at Dhanmandi in the city last night, she alleged that the EC acted at the behest of the ruling party.

About the PM's fourth letter to her on Saturday, Hasina said it contained nothing new and only a day after the election schedule has been announced, she added.

Referring to the 'violent activities' of the ruling party, she said, if the elections are held in the present situation, the people would feel insecure.

Elections in the present circumstances would be no different from that of 1988, she pointed out.

Meanwhile, the AL Central See Page 12 Col 3

## WB's critical assessment Govt considering revision of jute sector reforms

By R M Titumir

The government is considering revision of the Jute Sector Adjustment Programme (JSAP), relating to closure and downsizing of public sector jute mills, in the 'changed' context.

According to official sources, the Jute Ministry is now reviewing the JSAP before formulating a proposal in this regard.

The review was prompted by the World Bank's critical assessment of the implementation of the programme financed by the WB.

It appeared to the Jute Ministry that if production capacity of the mills under Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) was squeezed further, the export demand

could not be met. The vacuum created by the closure of the BJMC mills would not be filled up by increased production of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) mills, as thought earlier, the sources said.

In reviews by the ministry. See Page 12 Col 1

## Restriction on raw jute export goes

The government has withdrawn all restrictions on the export of raw jute, reports BSS.

The decision was announced yesterday by Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah at a meeting of the represent- See Page 12 Col 8

**POWERVISION II**

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## 3500 Bangladeshis win DV-96 US visa lottery

By Staff Correspondent

Over 3,500 Bangladesh nationals have been sent notification letters under the DV-96 US visa lottery programme, according to a USIS press release yesterday.

About 6,600 Bangladeshi applicants were registered for the visa lottery programme. However, not all the lottery winners from Bangladesh will get visas as only 3,850 visas, including for spouses and children, have been allocated for any single country, the release said.

See Page 12 Col 8

## President should call roundtable confce: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

The President should call a roundtable conference inviting the opposition parties and the ruling party to bring about an end to the present political impasse.

This was stated by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the Jatiya Party, while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

The present constitutional crisis may create a difficult situation, Mizan said.

He added that the PM should avail the discretionary power vested in her office to advise the President to call all the parties to the negotiating table with a mutually agreed agenda.

The ruling party should take the initiative in this regard and there should be some face-saving devices for both the sides, he pointed out.

## 12 JCD activists held Arms recovered from N'ganj BNP office

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 3: Police today stormed a ruling party office and arrested 12 student activists with arms and ammunition, reports UNB.

The joint operation of Sadar thana police and Detective Branch came at about 3-30 am in the wake of continued clashes and bomb

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