

Announcement

Our today's Focus Page on Women On the Move has been dropped to accommodate the list of Jamaat nominees for the forthcoming JS polls.
— Management.

Inside Today

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The Ganges Water-sharing: Facts and Fiction

by Prof M Maniruzzaman
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International

Exit poll predicts BJP's victory

8 killed, 40 hurt as bomb explodes in bus in Lahore
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Business

South Asia fastest-growing region: World Bank

Key donor countries set new goals for development aid
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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	857.62 (+2.21%)
Market capital Tk	5891.12 cr
Transactions in volume	242054
Transactions in value Tk	6.34 cr

Supplements

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains one page supplement on the European Union and a 4-page supplement on 50 years reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.
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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Heading for a Sonic Boom?
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NEWS BRIEFS

Pak defence team in city

A 12-member team of the Pakistan National Defence College, led by Maj Gen Khalid Mahmood, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a six-day study tour to Bangladesh. During their stay the Pakistani defence team will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and the chiefs of three Services, said a ISPR press release.

Mir Shawkat BNP Vice-Chairman

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday appointed Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali as a Vice Chairman of the party. Shawkat will continue to head the Dhaka City BNP president, party sources said, reports UNB.

Dr Kamal off to Singapore

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain left Dhaka for Singapore yesterday for treatment, says a press release. His wife Dr Hatima Ali is accompanying him. Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Enaet Peer, and Mahub Elahi Ranju were present at Zia International Airport to see him off.

2 JCD leaders held in S'ganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 8: Two local leaders of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, were arrested today. The arrested are JCD district unit secretary Rashedul Hasan Ranjan and former general secretary of Sirajganj University College Students Union Majnu Shaikh, reports UNB.

BJP may capture most Lok Sabha seats Congress heading for disaster

NEW DELHI, May 8: India's ruling Congress (I) Party conceded defeat today as vote-counting trends from parliamentary polls showed it was headed for electoral disaster, reports AFP.

The fact is that we are losing. There is no question about it. Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, chairman of the Congress campaign committee, told state-run television late today.

Leaders of various political parties began gathering here meanwhile to discuss the formation of a possible coalition government from a divided parliament in which Hindu nationalists are expected to hold the most seats.

"It's clear we are not in a position to have a majority," Pranab Mukherjee, told television as votes were being tallied

from around the country.

Mukherjee was the first senior leader of the 111-year-old Congress Party of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao to admit that it would be unable to win a majority in the 545-seat Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament.

Congress candidates were trailing opposition rivals in 55 seats that the party won during the 1991 general elections as trends from 175 constituencies became available late today.

The Congress is losing nearly one out of every two seats it won in 1991, election analyst Pranoy Roy commented on television.

"It's becoming clear that it's disaster for the Congress," The Congress was leading in 66 constituencies, while the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP), was ahead in 39, a gain of seven seats over 1991, according to partial results.

The centrist Janata Dal was ahead in 19 races with most of its gains coming at the expense of the Congress in the south.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) had picked up five seats while independent candidates and small parties were ahead in the remaining 40 constituencies from where vote-counting trends were available.

Prime Minister Rao, 74, was cruising to victory in his constituency in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, but was coming under increasing pressure to resign as Congress president as signs pointed towards an electoral debacle.

Turn Tagore's dreams into reality

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman opened a national-level *Rabindra Jayanti* (birth anniversary) programme yesterday with a call for translating the dreams of the great poet into reality for building a truly free society, reports UNB.

"Rabindranath is a significant part of our national heritage," he told a function at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium, arranged by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to mark the 135th birth anniversary of the Nobel-laureate.

Adviser for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof M Shamsul Huiq presided over the inaugural function of the two-day programme, where elderly poet Sufia Kamal was the special guest.

Apart from capital Dhaka, programmes were also being held at Fatisar in Naogaon, Sheldah in Kushtia and Shahjadpur in Sirajganj. All the three places in Bangladesh were visited on many occasions by poet Rabindranath Tagore who penned many of his immortal literary works

See Page 12 Col 1

BNP, AL candidates' lists by tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is likely to announce today the list of its nominees for the June 12 parliamentary elections while the Awami League would announce its list of candidates tomorrow.

Jatiya Party may complete interview of its nomination-seekers today and announce the list tomorrow. Jamaat-e-Islami announced its list of all the 300 candidates yesterday.

Top leaders of the BNP and the AL were busy finalising the lists of their respective party nominees until last night.

Sources in the BNP expressed the hope that their list would be announced tonight provided the process was completed.

The BNP standing committee yesterday had a 10-hour meeting at its Kakrail election office in the city to choose the 300 party candidates from among a total of 1122 aspirants.

"The list is being finalised," a party source said late last night.

The meeting, which started at 10 am and continued until 10 pm with a two-hour break from 2 pm, is scheduled to resume this morning.

The committee is expected to come out with a final list tonight. BNP spokesman Nazrul Islam Khan told newsmen at the party's election office at 8.30 last night. He also requested the newsmen to collect the BNP candidates' list

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Trainer aircraft missing

By Staff Correspondent

A trainer aircraft was learnt to have been missing after taking off from Zia International Airport (ZIA) last night.

The plane that reportedly took off at 9:51 pm was supposed to be back at ZIA at around 10:30 pm. The type and details of the aircraft or its flight plan could not be ascertained, police sources said.

Meanwhile, police said that they had heard about the incident and were carrying a search and rescue operation in and around Dhaka. But they could not trace the aircraft till the filing of this report at 1 am.

When contacted, duty officials at the ZIA control tower said at 12.30 am that they were not in a position to divulge any information "till now".

1 killed as police, gang clash

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man was shot dead and at least seven policemen were injured during a clash between police and a local gang at Shakhari Bazar area in the old part of the city yesterday, according to police and hospital sources.

The victim, Shib Narayan Nag, 28, a conch-shell bangles maker, was caught in the cross fire as the gang started indiscriminate firing on the police force in the narrow lane at

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Dist electoral enquiry bodies

The Election Commission yesterday announced the district level Electoral Enquiry Committees to investigate pre-polls irregularities ahead of next month's parliamentary election, reports UNB.

The committees comprising judicial officials will carry out the investigation as per rules on its own or on the basis of complaints by aggrieved political parties or persons, said a press release of the EC Secretary.

The Electoral Enquiry Committees have been formed according to clause 91A of the Representation of the People's Order, 1972.

See list on page 2



Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at an exhibition on the life and works of Rabindranath Tagore at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

Electoral offences

The Election Commission (EC) announced yesterday a list of electoral offences and punishments thereof under sections 73 and 74 of the People's Representation Order, 1972, reports UNB.

Corruption-related Offences (Article 73):

- A meeting up election expenditure from any other sources other than the source mentioned under Article 44 A.
- Violating the provisions under Article 44 B.
- Taking bribe.
- Using improper influence in the election.
- Imposing or publishing false statement on any other candidate or his relatives to create barrier to his success.
- Making or publishing false statement on symbol of any candidate whether the symbol is allotted to him or not.
- Imposing or publishing false statement over withdrawal of candidature of any candidate.

1. Calling or provoking to or not to cast vote for candidate's affiliation to any religion, caste, creed, nation or religious sect.

- Renting or lending or depositing or hiring or using vehicles and river vessels to carry voters from and to polling centres except for himself and his family members.
- Forcing or trying to force any voter present in polling centre or waiting to cast vote, to leave the centre.

Misconduct (Article 74):

Any person will be held guilty of 'illegal behaviour' if he:

- Fails to fulfil the rules of 44A or 44C.
- Achieves or tries to achieve help of any official appointed for activities of the Republic to promote or hamper election of any candidate.
- Casts vote in any election or applies for ballot paper knowing that he was not fit or unfit to cast vote.
- Casts vote or applies for ballot paper one more time in the same centre.
- Casts vote or applies for

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Party nomination

Money power may play crucial role

By Nurul Kabir and Mizan Ali

The financial strength of aspiring candidates is likely to play a crucial role for getting nomination from the major political parties for the ensuing parliamentary polls, according to sources in the parties.

In selecting the candidates for the polls, the strategists of the main contending parties, however, said that popularity of the nomination seekers in their respective constituencies will also get priority.

The election strategists of the major political parties are expecting the election expenses to be much higher than the limit laid down under the electoral law of the country, which restricts the expenses within Taka three lakh, according to the sources in the parties.

On the other hand, as most of the parties have already prepared their respective nomination lists, it is more of a ritual for them to conduct interviews of the nomination seekers, observed some insiders of the main contending parties.

According to some of them, the interview sessions would, however, help contain the possible resentment and maintain discipline in the party.

Explaining the reasons for stressing on the financial abilities of the candidates, top leaders of the BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party separately told The Daily Star that they were compelled to consider the factor to counter their political rivals preparing with enormous budget.

"We are going to face a very competitive election this time, we cannot afford to lag behind our rivals' preparations — be it organisational or financial," said a top-ranking leader of the BNP on condition of anonymity.

Replying to the same queries, two AL and JP leaders echoed the same sentiments as their BNP counterpart.

"There is no denying of the dedication of the local level of the BNP on condition of anonymity."

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Go ahead with commitment to win polls, Khaleda tells partymen

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon her party leaders, workers and supporters to march forward with a commitment to win the elections, reports UNB.

Addressing hundreds of people in front of the party's Kakrail office when four JP leaders came to join the BNP, the former prime minister stressed the need for bringing the country's under-developed areas into the mainstream of the progress.

Mokhelesur Rahman Jitu Khan, former MP of the Jatiya Party from Kaliganj in Gazipur and former Upazila chairman of the same thana Abdul Aziz

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JP interview concludes: Manifesto today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) parliamentary board in its final round of interview met the nomination seekers for 90 constituencies from Dhaka Division today, according to a party spokesman.

Last night, the board completed the interviews of the intending 424 candidates from Sylhet and Chittagong of the 300 parliamentary constituencies of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), Sylhet and Chittagong divisions

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Jamaat announces list of candidates

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh yesterday announced the names of party nominees for all 300 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies for the June 12 general elections.

Party chief Golam Azam's name was, however, not on the list of nominees.

According to a party press release, the central leaders will contest from the following constituencies:

Senior Ameer Abbas Ali Khan from Joypur-1, Party Secretary General Matlur Rahman Nizami from Pabna-1, Prof Muhammad Yusuf Ali from Gazipur-3, Ali Hasan Muhammad Mujahid from Faridpur-3, Muhammad Qamruzzaman from Sherpur-1, Abdul Kader Mollah from Faridpur-4 and Maulana Muhammad Abdus Subhan from Pabna-5.

Full list on page 8

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