

# Quality of voter roll update questioned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Sujan, a civil society platform working for good governance, have questioned the quality of voter list updating as only 30 lakh forms have been sent for the purpose while there are at least 1.21 crore faulty names in the existing voter roll.

Besides, the Election Commission's December 5 circular instructed only omission of names while it did not say anything about incorporation of new eligible voters, they said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital yesterday.

Demanding a permanent voter

list that is to be corrected continuously for following in all elections, they said a draft voter list should be published first for identifying the names that have been dropped.

They welcomed the Election Commission's initiative to update the voter list, but at the same time raised question about the legal basis of such updating after the declaration of election schedule.

"According to electoral law, incorporation and omission of names in the voter lists is not permissible after declaration of election schedule," said Prof Muzafer Ahmed, president of Sujan.

Referring to the Election Commission's decision to send form

Number - 9, which is 'not appropriate' for correction, Ahmed said this does not reflect the 'integrity' of the commission.

He apprehended filing of a number of cases after an election with such an incorrect voter list.

The government earlier wasted Tk 65 crore for updating the voter list and again another Tk 10 crore has been allocated for the same purpose, he said, adding that The Election Commission should follow the directives given by the Supreme Court in this regard.

The Sujan leaders said the voter list could be corrected with the help of political parties and a

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## Father, son killed in 'encounter'

UNMB, Shariatpur

An outlawed party leader and his son were killed in an encounter between their cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Dhanukati village in Damuddya upazila early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Toslim Hawlader, 50, regional leader of outlawed Sarbahara Party, and his son Farhad Hawlader, also a cadre of the underground outfit.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided the house of Toslim

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## BSF kills woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi woman and injured another in Nandial bordering area under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district yesterday morning.

The dead is Jarina Begum, 40, and the injured is Masuma, 35, of Nandial village of the upazila.

Locals said the Indian border guards fired 9 rounds of bullets on the two women while they were

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## Rejoinder

Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, member of the Planning Commission, in a rejoinder to the report "Stress on better data, tailored policies," published in The Daily Star on December 6, 2006, has denied using the word 'rubbish' in the quote describing government initiatives for the poorest.

"I never use even in an informal

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## Mirpur stadium to make debut with 4th ODI

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will go into the fourth one-day international against visiting Zimbabwe today with a whitewash on the back of the mind.

The Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium will make its international debut as a cricket stadium with the encounter. It is the seventh international cricket venue in the country.

The match will start at 9:00am with the state-run Bangladesh Television and Channel i beaming live coverage from the 'Home of Cricket'.

The Tigers confirmed the series

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## 8 killed, 40 hurt in road crash

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Six of the dead are Abdul Malek, 51, forest guard of Cox's Bazar Forest (South) Department and a resident of the town, his wife Sanwara Begum, 45, Azizur Rahman, 30, of Chakoria upazila, Mohammad Selim, 28, coach helper and a resident of Lohagara upazila in Chittagong, Mohammad Ali, 25, of Chakoria upazila and Abul Kalam, 25, of Satkania in Chittagong. Identity of two others could not be known.

The injured are undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Chakoria upazila Health Complex.

Both the buses were badly damaged in the in the accident.



Still in his teens, Aaraj Ali weaves vibrantly coloured miniature umbrellas and hawks the knick-knacks in Chittagong city. He had to let go of his dream of education and start supporting his three-member family which his father deserted.

## Arrest corrupt ex-ministers, lawmakers

LDP asks interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged the caretaker government to arrest the corrupt ministers and the lawmakers of the immediate past 4-party alliance government for holding a free and fair election.

He said this while addressing a meeting at the party presidium office at Baridhara in the city.

The meeting was organised to welcome some 200 activists and

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## Political parties, parliaments most corrupt

AFP, Brussels

Political parties and parliaments are seen as the world's most corrupt institutions and governments are not doing enough to combat the problem, a poll by a respected global graft watchdog said Thursday.

The Transparency International survey, of some 60,000 people in 62 countries, found that many ordinary citizens thought that political parties were the most corrupt,

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# 11 US soldiers killed in Iraq

## 8 civilians also die in attacks

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq faced the implications of the Iraq Study Group report yesterday, which bluntly declared that US strategy is not working, a fact underlined by the deaths of 11 US soldiers in a single day of mayhem.

Baghdad awoke once again to the sound of explosions and sporadic gunfire as Washington digested a 160-page indictment of President George W. Bush's failed plan to save a country where more than 100 people are killed every day.

These victims now include 11 American soldiers killed in four separate incidents on Wednesday, a day in which 45 Iraqi bodies were found scattered around Baghdad. At least eight more Iraqis were killed Thursday.

In the worst attack on US troops, five soldiers from Task Force Lightning were killed in an "explosion near their vehicle" as they conducted a combat operation in northern Iraq's Kirkuk Province, the military said.

No other details have been released on the other American casualties, which brought the US military death toll since the March

2003 invasion to 2,910, according to an AFP tally based on Pentagon figures.

On Thursday, the dull thump of mortar shells exploding in the capital could be heard through a thick dust cloud that had settled overnight. At least four civilians were wounded, a security official said.

Meanwhile, gun and bomb attacks around the country killed eight more Iraqis, six of them members of the beleaguered police force.

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's main foreign ally, arrived in Washington on Thursday for talks on the crises in Iraq and Afghanistan, where US and British troops face open-ended battles against insurgents.

The president and the prime minister "have a number of issues to discuss, including Iraq, the broader war on terror, the NATO commitment to Afghanistan, Sudan, as well as free and fair trade," said Bush spokesman Gordon Johndroe.

Britain's former army chief, General Sir Mike Jackson, said Thursday that "clearly, we're not

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## BNP interviews 207 aspirants from Rajshahi

Reserves 13 seats for allies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP Parliamentary Board yesterday interviewed 207 nomination seekers of Rajshahi division for 43 constituencies reserving 13 seats for other parties of the four-party alliance.

However, the interviews of the aspirants of three districts—Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj—of the same division were not held yesterday.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary board will later decide the names and numbers of constituencies in

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Prayer Timing		
December 8		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation