

VANDALISM AT HC  
Contempt rule  
against Kamal,  
Amir-UI, others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued contempt rule against eminent jurists Dr Kamal Hossain, Amir-UI Islam, Rakanuddin Mahmud, Abdul Baset Majumdar and nine others to explain within four weeks why they should not be charged with contempt of court.

The other alleged contemnors are Subrata Chowdhury, Enayetur Rahim, Sheikh Awsafur Rahman, Tania Amir, Khasruzzaman, Abdul Halim, Mostafizur Rahman, Sayeed Ahmed Raja and Nahid Yasmeen Juthi.

An HC bench issued the rule following a contempt petition filed by Assistant Attorney General Atiqul Karim in connection with the November 30 vandalism in the Supreme Court (SC).

Former BNP lawmaker advocate Khandakar Mahabubuddin

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## List righting limps to fourth day

More flaws detected in updated voter roll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of flaws were found in the updated voter list as correction went on for the fourth day yesterday amidst continuing allegation of further irregularities.

One assistant registration officer was withdrawn yesterday for political affiliation when activists of both Awami League and BNP alleged inclusion of fake voters in the voters' list at Agargaon.

Meanwhile, people in other parts of the capital said voter list updating in their area was yet to begin.

Rafiqul Islam, acting assistant registration officer (ARO) for ward 23, also a clerk at the Khilgaon

Girls' High School & College, was withdrawn from his duty yesterday for his political affiliation and for attempting to exert influence during the correction and updating of voter list.

Election Commission (EC) secretary Abdur Rashid Sarker on Sunday ordered to take action against Rafiqul Islam after investigation. Thana Election Officer of Sabujbagh, Jalaluddin, was appointed the new ARO for ward 23.

After making visits in ward 40 near the election commission office, it was found that number of voters jumped up to a great extent on the updated voter list where over

three thousand new names were located.

A number of teachers in the area from Gonobhaban Govt High School, who have been updating the voter list for the EC, said the additional names on the list might have been included as there were a huge number of floating people in the area.

Another official of the school preferring anonymity said gross anomalies have been done during the updating as party men from both Awami League (AL) and BNP filled up the voter forms and forced the school authorities to register those names as voters.

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SOUTH-WESTERN REGION  
Call for sincere  
efforts to check  
waterlogging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The victims of persistent waterlogging in the country's south-western region along with the experts and donor agency representatives yesterday stressed the need for pragmatic measures to resolve the perennial problem permanently.

Over 10 lakh people on around two lakh hectares of land have been facing untold sufferings due to the disaster that resulted in the 60s following construction of sluice gates in the region, discussants told a roundtable organised jointly by the daily Samakal and Uttaran, a Satkhira based NGO, at the Jatya Press Club.

The speakers said that following the construction, sedimentation took place only in river channels that ultimately raised the riverbeds comparing to the adjacent 'beel' (wetlands). On the other hand, the wetlands subsided due to

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PHOTO: STAR

Employees of an unauthorised medicine factory are seen bottling medicine with bare hands when a police team raided a flat at Chandangaon in Chittagong city on a tip-off yesterday.

## Hasina doubts fair polls under lajuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Hasina yesterday was noncommittal about her party's participating in the next election, and expressed doubt over holding of a fair poll under President and Chief Adviser lajuddin Ahmed as both the advisers and people have lost faith in him.

"We have all the preparation for taking part in the next poll. But how will we--and the people--participate in the poll as a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election has not been created in the country?" the Awami League (AL) president said.

Addressing a meeting with leaders of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre in the capital, Hasina said the president has created such a terrible situation in the country that holding of the next election has become uncertain.

The AL chief demanded immediate implementation of the package deal negotiated between the advisers and them.

"We demanded reshuffle in the administration, reconstitution of the Election Commission and correction of the voter list for holding a free and fair election," she said.

"But the president and chief adviser, who himself signed the package proposal, backtracked after getting directions from an alliance leader to give her the chance to steal votes in the upcoming election," she said hinting at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"The president has only been following her directions over telephone," she said.

Hasina alleged that the president deployed the armed forces just when the 14-party alliance postponed its demonstration programmes.

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## Free country from conspirators

Khaleda asks all parties to take part in polls

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all political parties to participate in the upcoming general elections to maintain democratic process in the country and uphold the constitution.

She also called upon all to free the country from the hands of "local and foreign conspirators" through election.

Khaleda was addressing a function at her Hawa Bhaban office where former Awami League (AL) MP from Narail-2 constituency Sharif Khasruzzaman formally joined the BNP.

"All parties should go to election to maintain democratic process and uphold the constitution. Win or loss depends on the people," she

told the function.

The BNP chairperson said Awami League made their own setup in the Election Commission in 2001, but it did not work as people voted the BNP-led four-party alliance to power with two-thirds majority.

Criticising Awami League's "destructive and anti-development politics", the BNP chairperson said negative politics is ineffective nowadays. "Politics which cannot ensure people's welfare, development, peace and security is ineffectual," she added.

Khaleda urged the old and new guards of the party to work together to further strengthen the BNP

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The resignation  
not a good sign  
for Bangladesh  
Says British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury yesterday said resignation of the four caretaker government

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AIDS PREVENTION  
Bangladeshi  
group gets  
UN award

REUTERS, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi women's group was awarded a cash prize of \$20,000 on Monday for its work in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, the

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## 4 US troops killed in Iraq attacks

21 civilians also die in violence

AFP, Kirkuk

Some 21 people were killed in violence across Iraq yesterday including a pregnant woman and three of her children who were savagely gunned down in the north of Iraq.

The US military also reported that two powerful roadside bombs had killed four soldiers Sunday as December is on track to be one of the deadliest months for US soldiers so far this year.

Armed men burst into the home of a pregnant Shia woman of the Turkmen ethnic group and sprayed her and her children with bullets in the town of Salaja, 75km south of Kirkuk, Iraq's northern oil city.

Three of her children, aged

between five and 13, were killed while two other daughters survived the fusillade.

Police could give no motive for the attack, but noted that her husband was a Kurd and a member of the old army.

The area around Kirkuk, a fragile mix of Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen, both Sunni and Shia, experiences occasional flare-ups in sectarian violence driven by Sunni militant groups.

Nine people were shot dead in the restive province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad, including three policemen, in a series of incidents, police said.

Just north of Baghdad, in the town of Dujail, gunmen hijacked a

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Telenor urged to cede control of GP

AFP, Oslo

Norway's speaker of parliament yesterday sided with Nobel Peace Prize laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in a dispute pitting him against Norwegian telecoms operator Telenor over control of their

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

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

An enumerator goes door to door in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital yesterday checking with local residents if their names are on the updated voter list.