

## Cases against Sajeda, Shamsul, Anwar, AKM Mosharraf stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for two months the proceedings against former ministers Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, M Shamsul Islam and MK Anwar, and former state minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain in two corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Upon separate quashment petitions filed by them, the HC issued separate rules on the government and ACC to explain within four weeks why the proceedings against them should not be quashed.

An HC bench comprising Justice Muzammel Hossain and Justice Afzal Hossain Ahmed stayed the proceedings against Shamsul Islam, Anwar and Mosharraf in Barapukuria coal mine case.

The bench also granted interim bail for two months to Mosharraf in the case.

Another bench of the HC comprising Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Farah

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# Govt goes for frantic negotiation on polls

## BNP refuses to budge on 4 demands; advisers rush to AL for talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A talk between a delegation of government advisers and BNP leadership ended inconclusively last night as the two sides failed to reach a consensus over rescheduling the parliamentary election and about a timeframe for lifting the state of emergency.

BNP insiders said the government side proposed deferment of the December 18 parliamentary election by 10 days and lifting of the emergency after all nominations are submitted, but BNP did not concede and neither 'completely snuffed the idea'.

The government side was adamant to hold the election within December but BNP wanted to postpone it at least until mid-January next year.

The government advisers argued, if the parliamentary election is deferred into the next year the political climate might veer into a new direction which

might not be desired by any side.

The military backed caretaker government jumpstarted the fresh parley with major political parties in a bid to hold the stalled ninth parliamentary election with participation of all parties, following a 48-hour ultimatum from BNP-led four-party alliance the night before for meeting its four-point demand to facilitate its participation.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Monday night put forward the demands saying that her party and its allies will take part in the election if the government meets all their demands within the next 48 hours, prompting the government to arrange the parleys with both major politico-electoral alliances.

The four-party demands are total lifting of the state of emergency, suspension of some 'objectionable' clauses in the amended Representation of the People Order (RPO) including repeal of clause 91(e), deferment of the December

28 upazila elections till one month from the parliamentary poll, and rescheduling of the polls ensuring that the hajis will get to cast their votes.

Before last night's talk with BNP, the advisers met Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in his office in the afternoon.

After the inconclusive talk with BNP the government delegation met with a delegation of Awami League (AL) led 9-party coalition and Jatiya Party (Ershad) with AL President Sheikh Hasina leading the politicians in her Sudha Sadan residence at the time of filing this report late last night.

AL-led 14-party coalition got reduced to 9-party coalition recently due to gradual falling out of components.

Briefing journalists separately, both BNP and the government advisers said their meeting was very cordial and amicable despite its failure to reach a consensus. They also said last night's talk was not

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Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad meets Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her residence yesterday.

## JP aboard AL polls boat

### Ershad hands over 'list of 50' for nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday said they will take part in the December 18 national election as an alliance and form government if voted to power.

The announcement came after a meeting between top leaders of the parties at AL President Sheikh Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence.

During the one-and-a-half-hour talks that began at 2:30pm, the JP delegation led by its Chairman HM Ershad handed a list of 50 candidates to Hasina for nomination from the alliance, said meeting sources.

As of filing this report at 9:00pm, JP acting chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud and president Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu were discussing the seat-sharing issue with Hasina.

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## ARMED FORCES DAY War leaders to boycott function over invitation to war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) has decided to boycott the reception ceremony of Armed Forces Day on November 21 since war criminals have been invited to the function.

Demanding cancellation of the invitation to the war criminals at a press conference at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday, they urged all freedom fighters, pro-Liberation War political parties and people from all walks of life to boycott any national programme if war criminals are invited there.

SCF Chairman Air Vice

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Not caring a hoot to safety measures, a three-wheeler with acid loads sputters down a street in Chittagong's Agrabad neighbourhood yesterday. On November 6, 11 passengers died from acid burns when an acid-carrying truck hit their bus on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Comilla.

PHOTO STAR

## Polls to be free of arms, criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chiefs of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday made public announcements promising to make sure that the upcoming elections are unfettered by hooliganism and use of illegal firearms.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad said the existing law and order situation does not require special drives against criminals and illegal arms as criminal activities and the use of illegal arms 'are currently not that prevalent'.

He however added, special drives will be carried out if necessary, but those will be launched unannounced.

Rab Director General Hasan Mahmood Khandakar said his force will take special security measures ahead of the polls, so criminals may not disrupt the electoral environment.

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## Religion exploited to defer elections

### 4-party manoeuvring seen as violation of electoral code of conduct

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The BNP-led four-party alliance is using religion as a political weapon—violating the electoral code of conduct—to force the caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) to reschedule the December 18 parliamentary polls, said legal experts.

The alliance's demand for rescheduling the polls so that hajj pilgrims can cast their votes is a clear violation of the electoral code of conduct, which restricts registered parties and candidates to using religion for political or election purpose, they said.

While an election commissioner told The Daily Star this requesting anonymity, Ghulam Rabbani, former judge of the Appellate Division, also said the electoral code of conduct says no propaganda should be made in favour of a particular party or candidate in election invoking the religious sentiment.

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## EU to send 150 poll observers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Commission (EC) has decided to deploy election observers for the December 18 general election, a European Union (EU) announcement in Dhaka yesterday said.

Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, member of the European Parliament, will lead the 150-member EU Election Observation Mission (EOM), it said.

The commission made the decision after the government repealed elements of the emergency power rules early this month.

In January last year, the EU had suspended its observation mission after serious political turmoil centring the stalled January 22 polls brought the country to a standstill.

European Commissioner for External Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner

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## 50 more get AL ticket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League yesterday issued letters of party nomination for the upcoming parliamentary election to around 50 candidates.

Following is the list of the candidates:

**Rangpur:** 2-Anisul Haq Chowdhury, 3-Chapainawabganj: 2-Ziaur Rahman, 3-Abdul Wadud Biswas, Rajshahi: 3-Merajuddin Mallick, Sirajganj: 3-Ishat Hossain Talukder, 4-Shafiqul Islam Shafi, Kushtia: 1-Afaz Uddin Ahmed, 3-Khandaker Rashiduzzaman Duda, 4-Sultana Tarun, Magura: 1-Prof MS Akbar, 2-Biren Sikdar,

**Jessore:** 4-Ranjit Roy, Satkhira: 3-Prof AFM Ruhul Haq, Barisal: 4-Maidul Islam, 5-Colonel (retd) Zahid Faruk, Bhol: 3-Maj (retd) Jasimuddin, 4-Abdullah Al-Islam Jacob, Tangail: 1-Dr Abdur Razzak, 4-Latif Siddiqui, Jamalpur: 3-Mirza

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## Mosharraf gets nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League has nominated Engineer Mosharraf Hossain for contesting the upcoming parliamentary election from Chittagong-1 constituency.

The Daily Star mentioned his name on the list of party bigwigs left out, but he got ticket late Monday night.



## Massive hunt for killers of 3 indigenous leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Security forces yesterday started a special drive at bordering Thanchi upazila in the district following killing of 'mouja headman' Pai Thoi U and two other tribal men by the armed criminals at two points within a short span of time Monday night.

In the drive, two indigenous people were arrested on suspicion of their involvement with the killings. An army helicopter hovered over the area to keep watch, an unconfirmed source said.

A source at the police station said, Singapa 'mouja headman' Pai Thoi U (45) was gunned down in a brush fire by the armed terrorists in Modok area at about 7:00pm Monday.

After a few minutes, the gunmen attacked Mra Wa Para, some seven kilometres away from the spot, and gunned down 'Karbari'

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## BRANDS WITHOUT REGISTRATION Warrant issued to arrest 2 Chinese milk distributors

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed two separate criminal cases against two local distributors of Chinese powdered milk Yashili-1, Yashili-2 and Sweet Baby-2 on charges of importing and marketing those without approval of the authorities concerned.

The accused are MA Rahim, proprietor of Mou Enterprise at Station Road, Chittagong, and Belal Ahmed Sharif, managing director of M/s Allway Trading Limited at Lalbagh in the capital.

After hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Abdul Majid recorded statements of the complainant, took the charges into cognisance and issued arrest warrants against the distributors.

Public Health Nutrition Institution Director Prof Fatema Parvin Chowdhury filed the cases with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

In her complaint, Fatema mentioned that the Mou Enterprise had been marketing Chinese powdered milk Sweet Baby-2 as local distributor, violating the rules and regulations of the Breast Milk Substitutes Ordinance, 1984. The company does not have any registration and shows no manufacturing and expiry dates on the containers, she said.

"Melamine was found in some powdered milk recently. Following the development, a market monitor committee started conducting inquiry into matters in Dhaka and its adjacent areas," Fatema said in her complaint.

She went on that the committee, during its inquiry in

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স্বাদের ভিত্তি আছে বলেই  
আমরা আছি সবসময় ...

মাসিক সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প  
৫, ৮ ও ১০ বছর মেয়াদে মাসিক কিস্তিতে সঞ্চয় করা যায়  
কিস্তির পরিমাণ ২৫০, ৫০০, ১০০০, ১৫০০, ২৫০০ ও ৫০০০ টাকা

ক্যাশিফি বৈদেশিক ডিপোজিট ফান্ড  
আমানতের পরিমাণ ৫০ হাজার টাকা বা তার তুলনিক  
প্রতি ৫০ হাজার টাকার মাসিক মুদ্রা ৫০০ টাকা  
প্রকল্পের মেয়াদ ৫ বছর

বিত্তন বৃদ্ধি আমানত প্রকল্প  
আমানতের পরিমাণ ১০ হাজার টাকা বা তার তুলনিক  
আমানত ৬ বছরে বিত্তন হয়

দেড়জন বৃদ্ধি আমানত প্রকল্প  
আমানতের পরিমাণ ৫০ হাজার টাকা বা তার তুলনিক  
আমানত ৩.৫ বছরে দেড়জন হয়

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প্রকল্পের মেয়াদ ৩ বছর

অগ্রিম মুদ্রা আমানত প্রকল্প  
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বিত্তীয় বছরের মুদ্রা মেয়াদোত্তর প্রদেয়

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