

Khaleda has no formal education
She claims to be 'self-educated'

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

BNP Chairperson and former premier Khaleda Zia has no formal education but is self-educated, according to the affidavit attached with her nomination paper submitted for the Bogra-6 constituency.

But a book published by the Parliament Secretariat on lawmakers of the eighth parliament says she studied at Dinajpur Govt Girls' School and Surendra Nath College.

The book was published under supervision of Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar. Before its publication all the then members of parliament (MPs) were

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EPR convicts' poll hopes over

HC declares 2-yr jail sentence enough for disqualification in polls, rules against Huda's writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday upheld the constitutional provision for disqualifying a person from contesting parliamentary elections if they are sentenced to not less than a two-year term under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

This would imply that some 75 well-known politicians of different parties cannot qualify for the ninth parliamentary election slated for December 29.

But while legal experts are saying this, lawyers of one of these convicted politi-

cians commented that the HC rule does not disqualify his client's candidature.

The HC bench comprised of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Md Rezaul Haque delivered the verdict, disposing of a writ petition filed by detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda, who is convicted in two criminal cases under the EPR.

The court observed that rule 11(5) of the EPR 2007 "is effective subject to the provisions embodied in Article 66(2)(D) of the Constitution".

Article 66(2)(D) of the constitution

says a person will be disqualified from parliamentary elections if they are convicted of a criminal offence involving moral turpitude or sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years unless a period of five years elapses since their release.

On the other hand, the EPR provision disqualifies a convict under its rule from contesting the parliamentary election if their appeals against the conviction remains pending with the appellate court.

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JP manages 50 seats from AL

Consensus follows Ershad's threat to quit alliance; announcement after scrutiny of nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) and Jatiya Party (JP) finally struck a bargain over seat sharing last night after a day of high drama that at times had threatened to break up the electoral union between the parties.

In the end, JP contented itself with 50 seats. At one stage of the talks, JP Chairman HM Ershad had said if his party is not given 60 seats and a pledge of presidency it would quit the grand alliance and participate in the December 29 election on its own.

As speculations ran rife that the former military strongman was parting the alliance, policymakers of both the parties held a secret meeting at AL presidium member Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence.

After a long discussion, they agreed to share 50 seats. The issue whether Ershad would be given presidency if the alliance is

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SQ Chy, other Ctg candidates violate rules
Submit nomination at EC with huge showdown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several nominees of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and a few independent candidates staged big showdowns in Chittagong yesterday by gathering party activists and supporters during submission of nomination papers violating the electoral code of conduct.

The candidates, including Salauddin Quader Chowdhury (Ctg-2 and Ctg-6), Jafrul Islam Chowdhury (Ctg-15) and Mostafa Kamal Pasha (Ctg-16) of BNP and independent candidates Mahfuzur

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PHOTO: STAR

Students of Dhaka University wrap a black banner around Raju Bhaskarya near TSC yesterday demanding punishment to the people who damaged sculptures in the city Saturday night. The broken Balaka sculpture, right, in Motijheel.

6 sent to jail for damaging sculpture in Motijheel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six activists of Ulama Anjuman-e Al-Bayinat who partially vandalised the sculpture 'Balaka' in front of the Hotel Purbani International in Motijheel on Saturday night were sent to jail yesterday.

Earlier, Motijheel police filed two cases against 10 identified and three to four unidentified activists of Al-Bayinat. The police filed one case for vandalising the sculpture and the other for assaulting law-enforcers.

Different socio-political

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4-party yet to strike poll deal

File nomination papers separately

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its allies submitted nomination papers separately across the country on the last date yesterday as the alliance leaders failed to reach an agreement over seat sharing for the upcoming parliamentary election.

The alliance leaders said they would finalise the issue before the December 11 deadline for withdrawal of nomination.

Meanwhile, more than one candidates of the four-party alliance filed nominations for the same seat in many areas including some seats in Dhaka city. Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Kasem Ali and BNP leader Habibunnabi Sohel, for example, filed nomination for Dhaka-8.

The alliance leaders said papers of one of the candidates in these seats would be withdrawn after the issue is finalised.

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Bhuiyan, other 'reformists' submit papers independently

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and nine former BNP lawmakers, who failed to get party nomination for siding with him after the changeover of 1/11, filed nomination papers with the Election Commission (EC) yesterday as independent candidates.

Bhuiyan submitted nomination papers to the EC as an independent candidate for the Narsingdi-3 constituency from where BNP district unit General Secretary Tafazzal

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AL, BNP rejects in race as independent

STAR REPORT

Failing to get party tickets, leaders of Awami League (AL) and BNP submitted nomination papers as independent candidates in many constituencies on the last day for filing nomination papers yesterday.

Detained former BNP state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar submitted nomination papers for Netrakona-4 constituency as he did not get the party ticket.

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EC rule barring Ctg mayor from polls stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed until December 3 the operation of the Election Commission's (EC) decision banning Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury from contesting the parliamentary polls.

It also issued a rule on the EC to explain why the provisions of the Representation of People Order (RPO) 2008

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Babar stripped of division status in jail

Mobile seized from his hospital cabin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jail authorities again caught detained former BNP state minister for home affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar talking on a cellphone at a cabin of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

The phone was seized and he was moved to a prison cell around 8:00pm last night as punishment for violating the jail code.

Meanwhile, former BNP lawmaker engineer Manjurul

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RAMNA CARNAGE

Hannan, 13 other Huji men charged

CID yet to track down 8 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over seven and a half years after the Ramna Batamul blast, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday pressed charges against 14 operatives of banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) in two cases filed for the carnage.

CID Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf, investigation officer (IO) in both cases, submitted the charge sheets before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

The bloodbath that took place during Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14, 2001 left 10 people dead and scores injured.

Of the cases filed with Ramna Police Station, one was for murder and the other for possession and use of explosive substances.

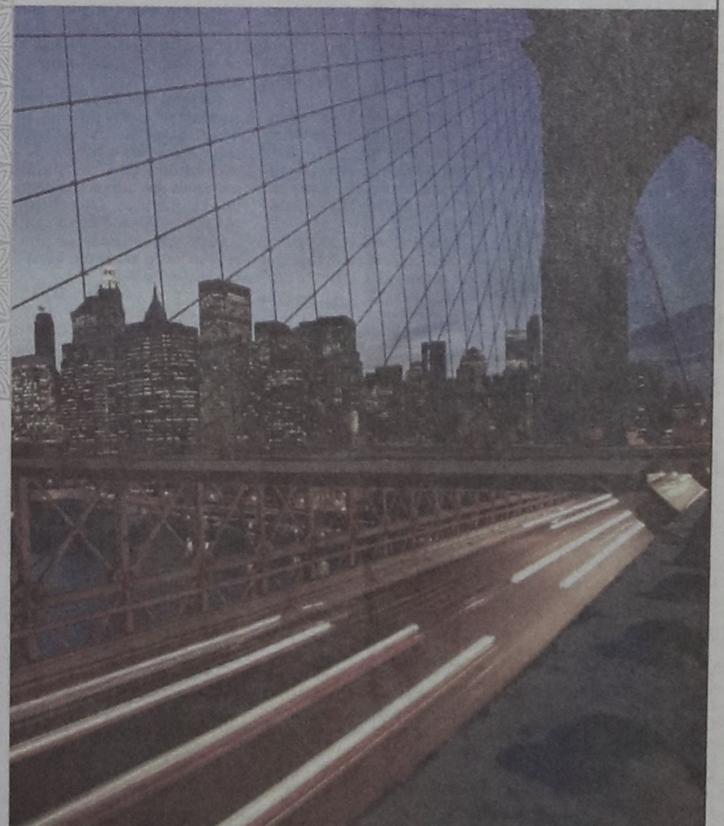
At a press briefing following the submission of charge sheets, CID chief Additional Inspector General Mohammad Javed Patwari said some 22 Huji members were directly involved in the blast. But charges have been pressed against 14 as addresses of the remaining eight were not found.

A supplementary charge sheet, he added, would be submitted against the eight after getting their full addresses.

The charge-sheeted accused are Mufti

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