



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XVIII No. 315 • DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 2, 2008

AGRAHAYAN 18, 1415 BS • ZILHAJI 3, 1429 HIJI • 28 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: TK 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

JS poll runners barred from contesting upazila race

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Individuals seeking candidacy in the upcoming parliamentary election are not qualified for contesting the January 22 upazila polls as the caretaker government has amended the upazila parishad ordinance to prevent them from contesting both the elections.

President Iajuddin Ahmed on November 25 promulgated an ordinance amending the local government (upazila parishad) ordinance to this end. Election Commission (EC) sources said.

At the end of last week, the EC Secretariat received a copy

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Multiple nomination lands EC in a mess

17 parties told to pick one candidate for a constituency before scrutiny starts tomorrow

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Political parties must settle on their picks for the constituencies where they have more than one candidate, and inform returning officers of the decisions before the scrutiny of nominations starts tomorrow morning.

Citing a provision in the Representation of the People Order (RPO), the Election Commission (EC) has already reminded 17 political parties including Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami to finalise their

polls ticket, said EC sources.

According to a list compiled by the EC Secretariat Sunday night, BNP has more than one candidate in 39 constituencies, AL in 26, JP in 13, and Jamaat in 1 constituency.

Faced with the difficulty of opting for a single contender, the parties have initially selected more than one person to compete in the December 29 general election.

Besides, components of the two major electoral alliances led by AL and BNP have filed nominations in many seats on failing to agree on seat-sharing.

The coalitions however have time to sort things out till December 11, the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

An applicant will not be allowed to be in the race if his party does not inform the ROs of his selection as the nominee. His application will automatically be declared void, says the RPO.

According to the revised electoral laws, the individuals who have filed applications as independent candidates this time will not be able to use a registered political party's election symbol.

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BNP-Jamaat deal stuck in Dhaka-8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discord between BNP and its ally in the four-party combine Jamaat-e-Islami over sharing of seats in the coming parliamentary polls appears to have intensified particularly centring a city constituency as two central leaders of the two parties have filed nomination papers for contesting for the seat.

Intending candidates from both the parties have also submitted nomination papers for contesting from at least 11 other constituencies across the country.

Jamaat sources said the party is trying hard to have Dhaka-8 seat for its central leader Mir Kashem Ali while BNP men are out to get the seat for their central leader Habibunnabi Sohel.

Kashem was allegedly involved in war crimes during the Liberation War.

A BNP leader last night told The Daily Star, "Our supporters will not accept it if the seat [Dhaka-8] is given to Jamaat. Besides this, Jamaat will face difficulties as Dhaka University is situated in this constituency."

Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid last night called on chief of four-party alliance and BNP Chairperson

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Deliver election duties without fear, greed

CA asks govt staff

UNB, Khulna

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday asked the civil bureaucrats to perform their election duties, rising above all sorts of fear, greed, pressure and influence.

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AL confirms JP 50 seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League has confirmed Jatiya Party (JP) 50 seats for contesting the upcoming parliamentary election as a component of the AL-led

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Commotion over nomination brews

BNP men declare Mojahid unwanted in Faridpur

WASIM BIN HABIB

Political parties' picks for the parliamentary polls stirred up discontent and conflict between party grassroots in many constituencies across the country with people barricading roads and burning effigies in different areas.

Many listed criminals, corruption suspects and convicted former lawmakers also submitted nomination papers.

In Chandpur, supporters of two rebel BNP candidates have been separately protesting against the party pick for two days. They demanded cancellation of former lawmaker GM Fazlul Haque's nomination for Chandpur-3.

Supporters of BNP leader Mahbubur Rahman Shahin, who failed to get BNP ticket, set up barricade on Chandpur-Comilla Highway, snapping road communication for around two hours, and burned tyres and an effigy of Fazlul.

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Cattle traders take a nap on a raised platform at Sagarika cattle market in Chittagong yesterday. A huge number of sacrificial animals are being brought to the market for Eid-ul-Azha but the sale of sacrificial animals is yet to get momentum.

PHOTO: STAR

Emergency to be lifted before polls

Hopes CEC after meeting president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday strongly hoped that the state of emergency would be lifted at a suitable time before the upcoming election, as the commission has already made a request to the government in this regard.

"We've given our opinion to the chief adviser during a meeting with him. The CA agreed with us and assured that the emergency would be withdrawn at a suitable time," he told reporters after a meeting with President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

Meanwhile, Commerce and Education Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday said the state of emergency will be lifted before the election.

The withdrawal of emergency is a much-talked-about issue, as all political parties demanded lifting of it before the polls.

"The upcoming polls should not to be held under the emergency rules," the CEC said after the meeting where Election

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Cultural Festival 2008



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**Handicrafts
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