

Falu stripped of division for hospital meet  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities yesterday cancelled the division status of detained former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu on charge of holding a meeting with Islami Oikya Jote leader Mufti Shahidul Islam at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A jail guard was also suspended for his negligence in duty, a high jail official said. Sources said Falu met the IOJ leader, also a former lawmaker, at the chamber of a DMCH doctor on Saturday and the jail authorities found the matter to be true through an investigation. Falu is now taken to an ordinary cell of Kashimpur jail. The authorities gave him

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## Appeals of rivals wear EC out

EC to hear complaints against 81 nominations on Dec 10; loan defaulters' appeal hearing today; 37 rejects reinstated as candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is facing tremendous difficulties in resolving a plethora of problems regarding finalising parliamentary candidacies within the deadline, as rival candidacy seekers lodged complaints with it against acceptance of 81 party nominations. With the commission yet to complete hearing the appeals against rejections of applications for candidacy, it now has to

hear for the first time the complaints filed against the acceptance of nominations. Sources in the EC said candidacies of the 81, most of whom are nominees of the two major electoral alliances led by Awami League (AL) and BNP, have become uncertain due to the challenges from their rivals as well as their own party colleagues. "The commission has decided to hear the complaints against the candidacies on December 10," EC Secretary Humayun

Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday. Another EC official said the commission is facing tremendous hurdles in maintaining all protocols regarding awarding of candidacies. "We must resolve all problems by December 10 as the following day is the last date for withdrawing applications for candidacy," he added. BNP's Ekhlaq Hossain filed a complaint with the EC against his own party

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35pc aspirants pay no tax or lack TIN  
NBR shocked at their claim of no taxable income

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 865, or 35.22 percent, of the people who filed nomination papers for the upcoming parliamentary polls neither pay income tax nor have any Tax Identification Number (TIN). The total number of people who filed nomination papers for this year's general election number 2,456. A high official of National Board of Revenue (NBR) said, "It is unbelievable that those who spend lakhs of taka for election do not have the minimum taxable annual income of Tk 1.65 lakh." Ahmed Ali, a member of the NBR, told The Daily Star, "We are examining these again. If anybody does not submit income tax return despite having taxable income, legal action will be taken against them." Of the 865 without TIN, 236 are in Dhaka, 187 in Chittagong, 122 in Khulna, 100 in Rangpur, 98 in Rajshahi, 63 in Barisal and 59 in Sylhet. The number of Awami League and BNP candidates among

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Eid Greetings  
The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a very happy Eid.

HOLIDAY  
The Daily Star offices will remain closed on December 8, 9 and 10 on account of Eid-ul-Azha and there will be no issue of the newspaper on December 9, 10 and 11. Lifestyle and Rising Stars will not come out this week. However, our online edition will update the readers round the clock during the holidays.

## All roads lead to home

People in thousands leave city for Eid tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of home-goers flocked to the bus, railway and launch terminals in the capital yesterday, the last working day before the Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims, to be celebrated tomorrow across the country. Well-off Muslims will sacrifice animals and share the sacrificial meat with their relatives, neighbours and the poor commemorating Hazrat Ibrahim's devotion to almighty Allah as illustrated by his readiness to give up his dearest son Hazrat Ismail. Although the rush of homebound people at the city terminals started on Thursday evening, a good number of employees of government and non-government organisations left the capital after attending office yesterday. Since most of the tickets of trains running on various routes had already been sold, bus operators increased the fares by 30-50 percent. People even risked their lives by travelling on the roof of trains and buses plying different routes.

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PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

People heading home to enjoy Eid holidays overcrowd a platform of the Airport Railway Station in Dhaka as they wait for train yesterday.

## Build economy on Allah's rule

Muslims urged as hajj ends with prayers for humankind

AFP, Arafat

A human tide washed over Mount Arafat yesterday as hundreds of thousands of devoted Muslims performed the key events of the hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. Starting just after dawn, in mild weather, the faithful made their way slowly on foot or by bus onto the hill, also known as the Mount of Mercy, where Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (SM) delivered his last sermon more than 14 centuries ago. So far no major problems have developed, organisers said, although a record number of people have come from outside Saudi Arabia for the

event and media say the total number of participants may reach three million. A highlight came in the middle of the day, when pilgrims joined in collective prayers at the Namera mosque, built on the site where Mohammed prayed while making the pilgrimage. In a sermon before midday prayers at the mosque, Saudi grand mufti Abdul Aziz al-Sheikh said the global financial crisis stems from ignoring Allah's rules and allowing "riba" or usury, prohibited in Islam. "Today we watch as this financial crisis unfolds and some

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May the joy of eid touch every heart



Let no barrier keep us apart on this occasion of staying close.  
Eid Mubarak

Stay Close | grameenphone