



# The Daily Star

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## Poll spending started well before campaign

TIB finds 142 candidates spent nearly Tk 3 lakh each before campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 142 candidates from 40 constituencies spent on average about Tk 3.04 lakh each for campaigns before electioneering was allowed as per electoral laws, says Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

The candidates from Awami League, BNP and Jamaat along with independent ones had already spent about Tk 4.32 crore by the time campaigning was allowed 21 days before the national election.

However, this tendency is less this year compared to the cancelled election of

January 22 last year, said TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

Prof Muzaffer said the reduction in illegal expenditure was possible thanks to some stern measures taken by the Election Commission (EC).

He said the candidates spent money illegally by inventing new processes and violating the electoral code of conduct in ways very difficult to identify.

According to the Representation of People Ordinance (RPO), a candidate can spend highest Tk 15 lakh for campaign and is not eligible to start campaigning

before 21 days of election.

The Bangladesh chapter of Transparency International organised the press conference to publish its first survey report on the ninth parliamentary election. The report was prepared based on campaigns in 40 constituencies including 15 in Dhaka.

TIB will publish two more reports after the December 29 election.

Shahzade M Akram of TIB presented the survey report, which covered the time span from Eid-ul-Fitr to December 11, the last day for withdrawal of nominations.

The report says there are candidates

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No threat of organised attack on 2 leaders: IGP Govt pledges highest security measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad yesterday ruled out any threat of organised attack on Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia.

"There is no strong or authentic base of it," he told an emergency meeting on law and order at the home ministry.

The meeting was convened following the recovery of grenades and arrest of suspected JMB cadres in Chandina of Comilla district after the election rally of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a nearby place on Tuesday.

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GRENADERS HAUL

## Mirpur ammo seizure led to Comilla raid

Ex-Habiganj Jamaat ameer leading JMB revival

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Tuesday's busting of two JMB operatives with grenades and bomb in Comilla is another blow at the law enforcers who had a feeling that the militant outfit would not be able soon to organise again after the execution of their key leaders.

To their utter dismay, the law enforcers came to know how the operatives of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh were organising again under the leadership of Maulana Saidur Rahman, the outfit's new ameer after Abdul



Maulana Saidur Rahman

Rahman's execution in March last year.

The recovery of grenades and bomb and arrest of Aiyub

Ansari alias Masud and Abdul Alim alias Nayeem was the outcome of an intelligence move based on information disclosed by recently arrested JMB operatives Mohammad Hanif and Rafiqul Islam, officials of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) said.

Investigators also came to know from other JMB operatives arrested at different times that Saidur is hiding somewhere in the country and leading the regrouping move as the outfit's chief.

Intelligence officials have

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## An avenue all abuzz with polls

ARUN DEVNATH

A poverty-free Bangladesh is the centrepiece of the election agenda by the two major parties. Both make a common refrain in speeches -- they are pledge-bound to lift the poor out of poverty.

The two former prime ministers, Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, promise to repair the ruined lives. Their activists take the

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## No question of polls boycott

Says Khaleda amid assassination claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

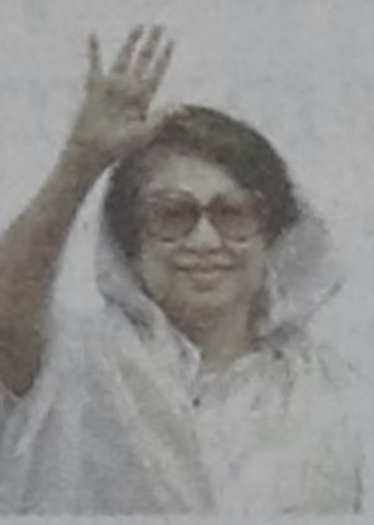
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday ruled out any possibility of pulling out of the December 29 election race.

"We shall surely contest the December 29 parliamentary polls. I believe that BNP and its allies will form the next government getting people's mandate as we did in the last election," Khaleda Zia said while addressing a rally on the Pilot High School ground in her home district Feni.

The former premier also alleged that a conspiracy is being hatched to keep the BNP-led four-party alliance out of the next election.

Terming Awami League 'traitor', the BNP chief alleged, "They want to go to power as a 'puppet government' handing over the country's sovereignty to another."

Khaleda also cautioned the caretaker government and the Election Commission against any bias towards a certain quarter.



Khaleda Zia

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## Community hospital for every 6,000

Pledges Hasina to northern voters

HASAN JAHID TUSHER from Dinajpur

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday promised to voters of the northern districts that if her grand electoral alliance is voted to power, her government will establish a hospital for every 6,000 residents of the region.

During her campaign tour of the northern districts, she also pledged food security, creation of jobs, bringing down prices of essentials within the reach of the people, and making education free up to the level of the bachelor's degree, if voted to power.

At a street rally in Sirajganj, Hasina introduced to the crowd Jannat Ara Henry Talukder, grand alliance nominee in Sirajganj-2.

At a rally in Dinajpur, she introduced to the crowd the grand alliance nominees in the district and sought votes for them.

The AL chief pledged, if voted to power she will turn Dinajpur Stadium into a stadium of international standard, modernise Hilli land port, turn Dinajpur Medical College Hospital into a 500



Sheikh Hasina

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POLLS EXPENSE

## Saydee looks for voluntary contributions

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

More than a half of the election campaign fund of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh central leader, Delwar Hossain Saydee, is coming from 'voluntary contributions' of 44 persons, according to his wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission (EC).

The donors hail from Pirojpur, Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna.

Saydee, who is contesting in the parliamentary election in Pirojpur-1 constituency, disclosed that he will spend Tk 10.1 lakh for his campaign, Tk

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The lake in Jahangirnagar University is always a favourite destination for migratory birds, which have started coming to Bangladesh this winter.

## Tac winds up activities Dec 31 with its job incomplete

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) is going to wind up its activities on December 31 although much of its work remains incomplete.

Meanwhile, 30 graft accused who have applied to the Tac for making voluntary disclosure did not appear while the commission completed hearing of the graft-accused on December 23.

Sources in the Tac said the graft accused did not appear before the commission in the wake of High Court (HC) order that declared the formation and operation of Tac illegal and unconstitutional.

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## EC backtracks on poll debate plan

Khaleda, Hasina too busy for that

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Voters will not see the top two rival political figures of the country face to face in an electoral debate after all, as the Election Commission (EC) scrapped its plan for arranging the debate due to their hectic electoral campaign schedules, although the commission had everything ready for it.

"Despite all preparations, we can't arrange the electoral debate as the two leaders are too busy," Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakawat Hossain, who made all the arrangements for the debate for the first time in the country's election history, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The election commissioner had several meetings with senior officials of Bangladesh Television (BTV), BBC World Service Trust, and the UK's Department of International Development (DFID), and completed all preparations.

He also communicated with senior political leaders, who are close to the two top leaders leading the two major electoral alliances, and discussed the commission's plan with them.

But the alliances' responses were not satisfactory enough, prompting the commission to scrap the plan altogether, sources said.

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## Public holiday on Dec 29

UNB, Dhaka

The government has announced December 29 public holiday to enable all to cast their votes in the national elections in a holiday mood.

"The day has been declared holiday so that all officials and employees of government, semi-government, autonomous and private organisations, and teachers and employees of government and non-government educational institutions can cast their votes," an official announcement said yesterday.

Besides, public holiday has also been announced for such institutions in Noakhali-1 constituency on January 12, the rescheduled date for JS polls there.

The polling for the seat was put off following the death of Ganotantri Party chief and grand alliance's candidate Nurul Islam.

## 33-member NDI team to monitor polls

UNB, Dhaka

A 33-member delegation of the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI) arrives in Dhaka shortly for monitoring the crucial December 29 parliamentary elections.

The delegation is co-led by former US ambassador to Bangladesh Howard B Schaffer and former member of parliament and ex-leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada Audrey McLaughlin, an NDI announcement said in Dhaka yesterday.

It said the delegation includes political and civic leaders, regional and election experts, media specialists and human rights activists from 10 countries in Asia, Europe and North America.

Larry Garber, former director of US Agency for International Development (USAID) mission for West Bank/Gaza, and Peter

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POLL CODE VIOLATION

## Sircar among 13 candidates warned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has warned Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar and 12 other parliamentary contenders for violation of electoral code of conduct in their electioneering.

The commission will take actions as per law if they violate the code of conduct further, EC sources said yesterday.

The 12 others include Bikalpadhara Bangladesh Secretary General Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, and five from BNP and two from Awami League.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda talked to Sircar, who is BNP-led four-party candidate, over telephone and asked him to abide by the electoral code of conduct. And the EC Secretariat sent written



Jamiruddin Sircar

warning to others through the returning officers concerned.

Asked whether the speaker violated the code of conduct by engaging his official staffs in uniform in an election rally on Sunday in his constituency in Panchagarh, the CEC said he violated the code. It was however a minor violation.

Huda replied in the negative when asked if the EC

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## PUBLIC SERVANTS Retirement age extension proposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary committee on administrative development affairs is preparing to submit the final draft to the next meeting of the council of advisers on Sunday, proposing extension of service age of the public servants.

A public servant, as per the existing rules, goes on leave preparatory retirement at the age of 57. As per the proposal, the retirement age of freedom fighter civil servants will be 62, while others will retire at 60.

With another such attempt initiated by a group of top bureaucrats went futile in August, they have become active again as secretaries would be the ultimate beneficiaries if the government approves the proposal, sources in the administration said.

They said the administration would be rife with huge

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**ঢাকা কমিউনিটি মেডিকেল কলেজ**  
(ঢাকা কমিউনিটি হাসপাতাল ট্রাস্ট দ্বারা পরিচালিত একটি সেবামূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান)

১৯০/১ ওয়ার্ল্ডস রেলগেট, বড় মগবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৭  
ফোন: ৯৩৫১১৯০-১, ৯৩৫২৭৬৮-৯, ৮৩১৪৮৮৭, ইমেল: dcmc@bangla.net

**এমবিবিএস কোর্সে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার অনুমোদিত, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অধিভুক্ত ও বিএমডিসি কর্তৃক স্বীকৃতি প্রাপ্ত

বাহ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্মারক নং: স্বপকম/চিশিজ/বেসমেক ও ডেকহা-১/২০০৮/৭৬৬, তারিখ: ২৬.১০.০৮ ইং ২০০৮-২০০৯ শিক্ষাবর্ষে এমবিবিএস কোর্সে সরকারী নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী ভর্তির দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাইতেছেঃ

ফরম বিতরণ শুরু	২৪.১২.০৮ ইং	ফরম প্রকাশ	৩১.১২.০৮ ইং
ফরম জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ	৩০.১২.০৮ ইং	মোহা তালিকা হতে ভর্তি শুরু হবে	০১.০১.০৯ থেকে ০৭.০১.০৯ পর্যন্ত
ভর্তি পরীক্ষা	৩১.১২.০৮ ইং	অপেক্ষমান তালিকা হইতে ভর্তি (আসন বাকী সাপেক্ষে মেধাক্রমানুসারে)	০৮.০১.০৯ই থেকে ১৪.০১.০৯ ই পর্যন্ত
সময়	সকাল ১০টা হতে সন্ধ্যা ১১টা পর্যন্ত		
স্থান	কলেজ ভবন		

প্রসঙ্গটিসহ আবেদন ফরম প্রত্যহ সকাল ৮ টা হতে বিকাল ৪ টা পর্যন্ত কলেজ অফিসে ১৫০০/=(এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা নগদ মূল্যে (অফেরৎ যোগ্য) পাওয়া যাবে, ভাট প্রজোষ। আরও বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য কলেজ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত অথবা মোবাইলের মাধ্যমেও জানা যাবে। মোবাইল: ০১৭১৫৮৫১৫৭৯

**বিজ্ঞঃ সরকারী ও সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিনও ফরম বিতরণ করা হবে।**

অধ্যাপক ডঃ আব্দুল ওয়াদুদ খান  
ঢাকা কমিউনিটি মেডিকেল কলেজ