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EC not worried about JP U-turn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is not worried about Jatiya Party's announcement on boycotting the next general elections, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said yesterday.

"It involves a political party and the party itself will take a decision about this. We will have to hold the elections within the time frame specified by the constitution," he told reporters at the EC Secretariat.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad had announced on Tuesday that his party would not contest the polls since they are not going to be inclusive, and asked his party aspirants to withdraw their nominations.

About the current political stalemate, the CEC said, "It is a political crisis, and should be resolved politically. There is no way the crisis could be resolved administratively."

Rakibuddin added, "We cannot yet see any progress towards a political consensus. What can we do if there is no political development?"

Asked whether a consensus can be reached after the JP announcement, he said it is definitely possible.

It is the responsibility of all political parties to take initiatives to reach a consensus and end the violence, he observed.

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A child throws radishes and cauliflowers into a pond in Mahasthangarh area of Bogra yesterday. Wholesalers, who bought the vegetables, had to dump their goods being unable to sell or ship them to the capital during the opposition called 131-hour blockade.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

HRW calls for calm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has urged the government and the opposition to put an end to the ongoing political violence centring the 10th parliamentary election scheduled for January 5.

The BNP-led opposition alliance has held large-scale and often violent protests throughout the country for weeks, and security forces have at times responded with excessive force, said the New York-based rights organisation in a report published yesterday.

The report suggested that the ruling Awami League and opposition leaders act to prevent violence by their supporters, including against the security forces.

It urged the government to publicly order the security forces to follow the UN basic principles on the use of force and firearms.

"The leaders of the Awami League and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) need to take urgent steps to avoid

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

ACC appeals against Tarique's acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed an appeal with the High Court, challenging the acquittal of Tarique Rahman, the elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in a money-laundering case.

Giasuddin Al Mamun, Tarique's friend, was awarded seven years' imprisonment and fined Tk 40 crore in the same case.

ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan submitted the 121-page appeal urging the HC to scrap the lower court judgment on Tarique, BNP senior vice-chairman.

The anti-graft body will seek a date for hearing soon, Khurshid told The Daily Star.

ACC Commissioner Mohammad

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Review or no review?

Confusion rules as full verdict on Mollah's war crimes released

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Supreme Court yesterday released the full judgment on the appeals against war crimes tribunal's verdict on Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Abdul Quader Mollah.

Throwing out the sentence of life imprisonment passed by the tribunal, the apex court said the offences committed by Mollah during the Liberation War were so horrid that the death penalty was the only proper sentence for him.

A judge of the SC's Appellate Division bench dealing with the case even said the culpability of Mollah was no less than that of any of the people hanged by the Nuremberg Tribunal in 1946, for war



Quader Mollah

crimes committed during the World War II.

The release of the full text of the judgment has arguably cleared the way for the execution of the Jamaat leader, known as *Mirpurur Kasai* (Butcher of Mirpur) for his brutality during the war.

Mollah was moved to Dhaka Central Jail from Kashimpur Jail-2 yesterday afternoon. He is still in a regular prison cell but will be taken to death row once a copy of the full judgment reaches the prison.

However, there seems to be a debate among lawyers on whether Mollah has the right to move a review petition before the apex court.

His lawyer Abdur Razzaq was adamant that

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

AL SEAT-SHARING JSD to get 4; Tarikat, Workers Party 2 each

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League yesterday "initially" agreed to give four seats to Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and two each to Workers Party and Tarikat Federation in the general election scheduled for January 5.

The ruling party will finalise the seat-sharing with its 14-party alliance and like-minded parties in a day or two.


AL chief Sheikh Hasina will make the final choice and the final seat-sharing will depend on Jatiya Party's decision on participating in the election, sources said.

Yesterday's decision came at a meeting with some partners of the AL-led 14-party alliance and Tarikat Federation, which is not in the alliance.

From the JSD, Hasanul Haque Inu will run from Kushtia-2, Mainuddin Khan Badal from Chittagong-7, Shah Jikrul Ahmed from Brahmanbaria-5 and Shirin Akter from Feni-1, according to the decision.

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think FBCCI will succeed in convincing political parties to leave the path of violence?

Yes

No

(08%)

(92%)

TOTAL VOTES: 293

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think major political parties are sincere to solve the political crisis?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

December 6

Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:15	5:50	
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:19	5:22
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Gridlock on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday evening as city dwellers finally get to go out on their business for the first time in the week since the opposition's blockade began on Saturday morning. The blockade ended at 5:00pm yesterday.

জমি বিক্রয়

পঞ্চগড় জেলার আতোয়ারি থানার ধামুর ইউনিয়ন পরিষদে অবস্থিত শিল্প কারখানা নির্মাণের উপযোগী এক মালিকানাধীন ৯০ একর জমি বিক্রয় হইবে। শুধুমাত্র আগ্রহী মালিকগণ / প্রতিনিধি যোগাযোগ করুন।

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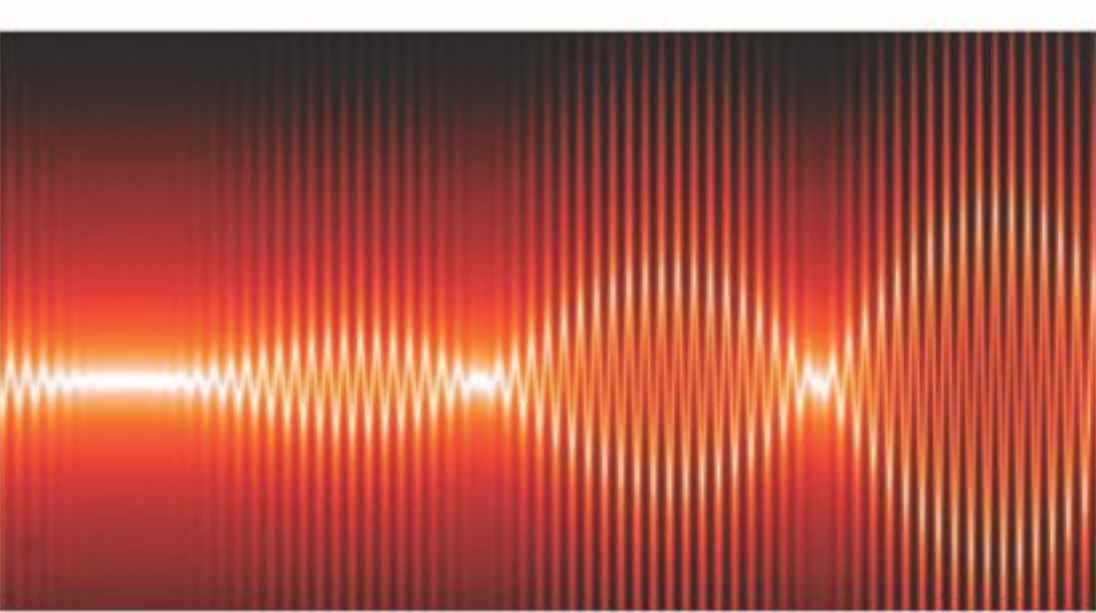
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Soundwave hacking!

MAIL ONLINE

In the future, computer hackers could steal sensitive data from people's computers using nothing but soundwaves, experts have warned.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4





Ashiyan Medical College

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1st Year MBBS Course Admission Circular (2nd Batch)

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- Nationality certificate from the competent authority.
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