



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



IMAGINE & LENNON LEGACY

Yoko Ono allows anti-hunger group to use her husband's iconic song

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THE LOSS OF DEC 14

The nation remembers the intellectuals massacred by collaborators in 1971

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Violence kills 11

Jamaat men continue rampage; 5 killed as motorcade of AL MP Noor attacked in Nilphamari; 6 Shibir men killed in Noakhali; Jamaat's nationwide hartal today

STAR REPORT

At least 11 people were killed in Noakhali and Nilphamari yesterday, as Jamaat-Shibir men clashed with law enforcers and ran riot in several parts of the country to protest the execution of their leader Abul Quader Mollah.

Meanwhile, a Jamaat leader died early yesterday when law enforcers raided his house in Laxmipur town.

A total of 21 people have died in political violence since convicted war criminal Mollah was hanged on Thursday night.

The Jamaat-e-Islami enforces a 12-hour shutdown from 6:00am today across the country to protest the hanging of its assistant secretary general.

test the hanging of its assistant secretary general.

Unlike previous blockades and hartals, today's shutdown has been called by Jamaat alone without the backing of any other party in the BNP-led opposition alliance.

The Islamist party has unleashed a wave of violence over the last two days, disrupting normal life in many parts of the country.

In Nilphamari, the motorcade of Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor came under attack from Jamaat-Shibir men yesterday afternoon. Noor, however, escaped unhurt.

An arson attack was made, allegedly by Jamaat men, on the Pabna regional passport office early in

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A post office burned down by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Companyganj of Noakhali yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

AL shared seats with parties thru 'compromise'

Says Hasina

UNB, BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party has reached a compromise with the other parties in the "polls-time government" over sharing parliamentary seats.

"We've withdrawn candidatures from some seats in liaison with other parties,"

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TO BE ELECTED UNCONTESTED

AL 127

JP 18

JSD 3

Workers Party 2

JP (Manju) 1

No voting in half the country JP leaders split on joining polls

151 candidates in JS polls to be elected uncontested

SHAKHAWAT LITON AND PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The fate of more than half of the 300 parliamentary constituencies has already been sealed without a single vote cast, denying one half of 9.19 crore people voting rights in the January 5 polls.

As many as 151 candidates, including 127 nominated by the Awami League, are being elected unopposed in the 10th national polls amid a boycott by the main opposition BNP and some other parties.

According to the Election Commission list available last night, 18 of the uncontested candidates are from Jatiya Party, three from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal,

two from Workers Party and one from JP (Manju) Manju. They all are backed by the ruling AL.

A party or an alliance needs at least 151 seats to form a government.

The BNP says the uncontested election of a record number of candidates is "destructive to democracy". Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Nazrul Islam Khan, two standing committee members of the party, yesterday demanded the government refrain from holding the "one-sided" election.

However, Election Commissioner Abu Hafiz

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SEE EDITORIAL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad is at the Combined Military Hospital, the party's leaders made contradictory statements yesterday over contesting the parliamentary polls.

Claiming to be the spokesperson of the JP chief, Bobby Hajjaj, special adviser to Ershad, said the party chairman would not budge from his decision to boycott the January 5 polls.

"I and the Jatiya Party will not contest the election as it won't produce a democratic government," Bobby quoted Ershad as saying.

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STOP THIS POLITICS

The Daily Star SPECIAL

POLITICS FOR PEOPLE?

No way

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

Politics in Bangladesh seems to have been possessed by the devil of late.

It looks as though both Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia have lost their grip on the goings-on. The two, who have ruled the 42-year-old country for 20 years, have rendered our democracy demo-crazy. Politics is no longer for the welfare of the people.

Sheikh Hasina, as the prime minister, has failed to protect people and their properties. And Khaleda Zia, as the leader of the opposition, has failed to stop her movement for a caretaker government from resorting to what one can perhaps call acts of terrorism.

The country today is teetering on the brink of a disaster over a contest for power, and only politicians -- both in the ruling and the opposition parties -- are to be blamed for this. The people have neither created this problem nor can they solve it. So, why should they be forced to pay for it?

Khaleda is also a partner in the recent crimes committed by the Jamaat-e-Islami, which unleashed targeted terror attacks on police, public properties, and people, Hindus to be precise, over the war crimes trials. The Jamaat was found most violent during the BNP-called political programmes.

A visit to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the air is thick with groans and outrage of the burn victims and their families begs the question: what is this politics for?

Forty-seven people have been killed, 20 of them from burns, and 364 injured since last month -- all having nothing to do with

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MAHFUZ ANAM

Today we publish a special section comprising of a few news reports and two editorial pages depicting and commenting on the public sufferings caused by the current wave of destructive politics. An appalling number of people have died, and damage to property and business has reached enormous proportions.

Yet the politics of conflagration, which compelled this writer to ask "Are our leaders at war with its citizens?" continues unabated. In these pages, we publish some very graphic pictures of those who have been deliberately

set on fire by activists of the opposition and injured during hartals and other incidents of mass violence. We request parental guidance in allowing these pictures to be seen by children.

Bangladesh has witnessed many tumultuous political events, but never anything remotely similar in terms of violence directed at the common people as it is seeing now. Hurling petrol bombs into a running bus full of passengers, throwing gun powder at people sleeping inside covered vans and setting them alight, overturning CNGs and then dousing the drivers with petrol and setting them on fire, stabbing, assaulting

with iron rods or knives, etc., cannot but constitute deliberate attempts to kill in the name of political agitation. This our people had never seen before.

The shattering blow to our productive capacities, incapacitating our RMG sector through hartals, the significant loss of our international markets and pushing back below the poverty line those who had managed to cross it --- all of these constitute activities that are hurting the common people and cannot be a part of democratic politics.

In the name of opposition politics, the activists of the Jamaat and Shibir are carrying out these killings and destruction which we

as a nation can no longer accept. The BNP must also accept responsibility for these despicable actions as the Jamaat is its political ally and also because we have heard no strong condemnation of these activities by the BNP. There is also a responsibility of the ruling party and the government in so far as they have never seriously tried to engage the opposition in a dialogue or try for a peaceful end to this violence.

Through this special publication we want to raise awareness among the public about the state of our politics and urge our leaders, again and again, to stop this violence and sick politics.

Businesses lie in ashes

INAM AHMED and SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Huq runs a big spinning mill in Bhaluka, Mymensingh. For the last five days his factory has been totally idle. He has run out of raw materials. His cotton is lying at Chittagong port, from which he cannot transport it.

He also owns a few fish projects in the Mymensingh belt. He could not sell his fish because there are no buyers. He is feeding them and the fish are growing bigger. This means a loss for him because after a certain size the Pangas does not sell.

His bank loans are piling up. He knows he will be a defaulter this time. And then he does not know how he will overcome the situation.

This is the situation for all businessmen in Bangladesh today. As we talked to them, we found that most of them have either shut down their operations or have drastically scaled down production.

Bangladesh's economy has today collapsed beyond any measure.

Many businessmen like Parvez are trying to grab at any straw they find to keep afloat. Parvez took the risk of bringing two truckloads of fabrics for his garment factory in Ashulia five nights ago. Both his trucks were burned down at Sitakunda.

He has no answer as to how he will make his American buyer understand his plight.

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FILE PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE

Monir burned and blackened, sits dazed on the road as his father wails. The Daily Star printed this partly pixelated picture a day after the 14-year-old suffered severe burns on November 4 when pro-hartal pickets set fire to his father's lorry. The boy died on November 7.

NONPOLITICAL VICTIMS

DEAD 47

BURNT TO DEATH 20 INJURED 367

NOV-1 TO DEC-14, 2013

NOTE

The images are disturbing, yet we are publishing these as they show how people are being subjected to senseless political violence.

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