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Scrap Jan 5 elections

Demands new 3-party alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikolpodhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) and Krishak Sramik Janata League have formed a new alliance that demanded scrapping of the upcoming polls schedule and a non-party caretaker government to oversee the 10th parliamentary election.

"People of the country want to see a third political alliance apart from the two major alliances," Krishak Sramik League President Kader Siddique said while announcing the alliance, named National Democratic Front, at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

The leadership of the components of the alliance, however, gave different opinions regarding extending support to the December 29 Dhaka march programme called by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

At the conference, JSD General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan said the new alliance supported Sunday's Dhaka march but, if activists of the BNP-led opposition demanded release of the war criminals at the programme, National Democratic Front would withdraw its support.

Just after Ratan delivered his speech, Quader Siddiki said that what Ratan had said was "his party's [JSD] opinion, it was not the opinion of the alliance."

Both Ratan and JSD President ASM

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Army personnel, deployed for the January 5 polls, set up a temporary camp at the community centre of Azimpur colony in the capital.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Bangladesh set to send troops to South Sudan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is set to send troops to conflict-ridden South Sudan on an emergency basis following the request of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

"Upon the directive of the prime minister following the request, Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force have made all necessary preparations to send troops and aircraft to South Sudan within 48 hours," said a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) yesterday.

On December 24, Ban Ki-moon phoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and requested her to urgently send a battalion of infantry, a unit of military hospital, a cargo aircraft, military helicopters and other necessary equipment for peacekeeping in the UN Mission in South Sudan, which is rife with bloody ethnic strife.

UN officials believe thousands have been killed in the African country since violence erupted on 15

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JAN 5 POLLS Russia too won't send observers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia too will not send any delegation to observe the January 5 election.

"Everything remains closed during the Christmas holidays in Russia. That is why they will not send observers," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad told reporters yesterday.

Russian ambassador in Dhaka Alexander A Nikolaev met the CEC at his office and informed

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Khaleda to be tried for 'terrorism'

Says PM in electioneering of AL candidates; reiterates none can foil Jan 5 polls

UNB, Faridpur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the trial of Khaleda Zia would one day be held for unleashing terrorism and militancy in the name of movement.

Speaking at a public rally at Bhanga in Faridpur, she said, "We believe in justice. The opposition leader will be charged with giving orders for killing and burning people to death."

"Inshallah, her trial will be held on Bangladesh soil to this end, and we will hold this trial."

Hasina, also the chief of the Awami League, was addressing the rally as part of the first leg of her electioneering for the January 5 polls in favour of the party candidate Kazi Zafarullah.

Urging the opposition leader not to play with the fate of people, she said her arch rival would have to shoulder the responsibility for the death of so

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AL vows to resist Dec 29 march

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has vowed to resist the Dhaka March programme of the opposition alliance slated for December 29 and asked its leaders and activists to remain alert to prevent any attempt to create anarchy in the name of the programme.

In a statement issued yesterday, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam urged "all pro-liberation forces to resist the programme called by an evil anti-liberation force."

"The quislings of the Pakistan army during the Liberation War are conspiring to slander our national flag in the month

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If obstructed, BNP to stage angry protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led alliance might stage angry protests across the country if the government tries to obstruct Sunday's "march for democracy".

As part of its strategy, the BNP has asked its leaders in some districts, known as the party's strongholds, to stay prepared for staging massive protests in their areas if the BNP chief or top party leaders are prevented from joining the programme.

Wishing anonymity, a BNP leader told The Daily Star that party Chairperson Khaleda Zia might announce later on Sunday non-stop programmes such as "mass curfew" and "non-cooperation with the government" from January 1 till

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2 AL men killed in Jessore

BNP leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Alleged BNP-Jamaat men stabbed an Awami League leader to death at Monirampur in Jessore yesterday, as he was campaigning for a party aspirant in the upcoming 10th parliamentary polls scheduled for January 5.

Shofi Kamal of Garibpur village in the upazila was vice-president of the district unit of Krishok League, a pro-AL organisation.

Police arrested BNP leader GM Faruque, also

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FEWER EVERY YEAR

As the winter sets in, guest birds have started arriving in Hakaluki Haor and Baikka Beel in Moulvibazar. Locals and experts claim that even a decade ago they had seen a lot more of these birds at the wetlands but with every year there are fewer and fewer birds. They blame shrinking of the marshes and fewer fish in the water for them to feed on for the low number of birds.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA



FEAR OF TROUBLE Cops deployed at Milk Vita HQ

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government yesterday deployed police at the Milk Vita headquarters in Tejgaon to fend off any trouble, two days after its managing director was illegally removed by the dairy's management committee.

A five-member team of Tejgaon Industrial Police, led by a sub-inspector, was stationed there. The deployment is also intended to help Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, the managing director, carry out his administrative duties.

"Police have been instructed to go tough on any unruly behaviour at Milk Vita, as the government has intelligence information that a corrupt syndicate may create unrest to put into effect the committee's illegal move," a high official told The Daily Star.

He added that there is also an intelligence watch on the headquarters of the state-run cooperative dairy.

The Milk Vita management committee, led by its chairman Hasib Khan Tarun, had issued a letter after a meeting

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Finance Minister AMA Muhith that the rise in the wealth of people in power is normal?

Yes (17%)

No (83%)

TOTAL VOTES: 362

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it was justified for the opposition leader Khaleda Zia to ask the voters not to go to the polling centres on January 5 elections?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING			December 27
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat	
5-25	6-00		
Juma	12-30	1-15	
Asr	3-45	4-00	
Maghrib	5-24	5-27	
Esha	7-00	7-30	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

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