



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Relatives of people detained in mass arrest drives through the Tejgaon Industrial Police Station in the capital yesterday to see if the law enforcers would release the detainees.

10TH JS POLLS

Ballot papers sent to 59 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday completed sending ballot papers to 59 districts for January 5 parliamentary polls.

The voting will take place at 146 out of 300 constituencies, as 154 candidates were elected unopposed earlier.

However, ballot papers were not sent to five districts, as candidates of all constituencies there were declared elected.

Farhad Hossain, senior assistant secretary of the EC Secretariat, yesterday said: "Ballot papers have already reached at most of the districts. We hope the papers will reach to all the 59 districts by tonight."

The papers were sent from BG Press, Government Printing Press, and Security Printing Press, he added.

India set to become world's 3rd-largest economy by 2028

PTI, London

India will beat Japan to grab the position of the world's third-largest economy in 2028, according to an influential British thinktank, that also forecast China to overtake the US for the top position.

London-based economic consultancy Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) in its annual "World Economic League Table" released here on Friday, indicated that by 2028, the league table will be reordered.

"India overtakes Japan in 2028 to become the world's third largest economy. Abenomics means that Japan is likely to follow a weak currency policy for the foreseeable future which means that its GDP in dollar terms gets overtaken by India earlier than we had previously expected," the CEBR said in reference to India's march up the economic ladder as a result of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's aggressive policies.

In 2013, Canada has overtaken India as a result of the collapse of the rupee to retake its position as the second largest economy in the Commonwealth and the 10th largest economy in the world.

However, India's fortunes will start reviving by 2018 when it will be at the ninth position, followed by fourth in 2023, before grabbing

Meanwhile, candidatures of three candidates, which were cancelled by returning officers, were declared valid on Thursday by a vacation bench of the High Court.

These candidates are Jatiya Party nominated Zafar Iqbal Siddique of Nilphamari-1, independent candidate ASM Quamrul Islam of Comilla-8, and Awami League nominated Mahfuzur Rahman of Chittagong-3 constituencies.

Now the EC would take the final decision in this regard, the EC officials said.

Ballot papers of these constituencies were printed excluding those candidates.

If the commission finally declares them as valid candidates, the ballot papers of these constituencies would have to be printed again, said Mihir Sarwar Morshed, deputy secretary of the EC Secretariat.

the third spot in 2028.

"By 2028, the league table is being reordered. China has moved to No. 1; India to No. 3; Mexico is in the top 10 at No. 9; Korea and Turkey are 11th and 12th and have overtaken France. As symbols of the new world order, Nigeria, Egypt, Iraq and the Philippines break into the top 30," CEBR said in its report, which gives an end-of-year analysis on GDP in the 30 largest economies in the world.

It also forecast the countries that will be in the "Top Thirty" for the next five, 10 and 15 years.

This year's research is updated to take account of the likely surplus of energy and falling oil and gas prices in the 2020s, weaker commodity prices than had previously been expected and the sell-off of some emerging market currencies in mid-2013.

"Our latest forecasts now show China overtaking the US in 2028 to become the world's largest economy. This is later than some analysts have suggested and reflects the continuing performance of the US as the west's strongest economy and the slowing down of the Chinese economy," it added.

There is also some good news for the UK, which will emerge as the west's second best performing economy.

Capital braces for political face-off

FROM PAGE 1

opposition men will be asked to march towards her residence. The BNP chief might instantly announce the next course of action right where she will be barred," said one of the aides. "Madam's reaction will depend on the government attitude."

On the other hand, AL leaders Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Qamrul Islam called upon the party activists to be vigilant at every ward of the city for any subversive activities by the opposition.

Maya, general secretary of the AL Dhaka city unit, asked them to guard the eight entry points of the capital and ensure that not even "an insect can sneak through".

"Even if the devil enters through any of these points, disciplinary action will be taken against leaders and activists responsible for this," he said during an extended meeting of the unit at the AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Qamrul, also state minister for law, said at the meeting, "We will have to fight against Jamaat-Shibir with sticks in hands like we did in 1971. The fight will continue till January 5."

Also at the meeting, AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader said, "As we are involved in politics, we will face the programme politically.

He strictly directed his party men not to do any provocative activities that may lead to violence. "We will neither provoke others nor attack them. But we will have to resist any attack on public lives and properties."

"Besides," he added, "law enforcement agencies will be there to prevent any sort of violence."

Khaleda Zia, also the chief of 18-party opposition alliance, on Tuesday urged people from every corner of the country to march towards the capital today to force the government to postpone the January 5 polls.

She also called on all to gather in front of her party headquarters at Nayapaltan after the protest march.

Yesterday, the BNP chief informed the media through her party's Vice-Chairman Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed that she would join the march on time.

At a hurriedly called press conference at the Jatiya Pres Club, Hafiz Uddin also said opposition leaders, activists and supporters, will start to gather in front of the Nayapaltan office around 10:00am today.

In a press release, BNP acting secretary general Fakhrul Islam Alamgir warned that the government would be held responsible for any untoward situation as it has put the law enforcers against people.

Khaleda over the phone asked the party leaders of Dhaka city and district and asked them to participate in the march with as many people as possible. She also asked the party's top leaders to be present at the Nayapaltan office by 10:00am today, a BNP leader said.

"She has also instructed us to defy police barricades and proceed towards the venue," another party leader said.

Senior BNP leaders last night held a meeting in Dhaka to finalise their strategy and instructed grassroots leaders accordingly.

Asked, a number of BNP and 18-party alliance leaders claimed over two lakh opposition men already came to the capital and were staying with their friends and relatives.

Moreover, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon, a close ally of Qawmi madrasa-based Hefajat-e-Islam, last night announced it would join the march.

Apart from stepping up security measures in the capital, law enforcers yesterday detained 2,400 men across the country, a top official at police headquarters told The Daily Star last night. He also said usually the number of arrestees varies from 1,500 to 1,700 a day.

Last night, security protocol for Khaleda Zia as leader of the opposition was withdrawn, a staff at her Gulshan residence told The Daily Star.

A BNP leader said: "Khaleda was scheduled to attend a family programme at a relative's house last night. The security men were also asked to escort her. But within a while, they left her residence saying the higher authority has instructed them to do so."

However, a large number of police, both male and female, remained deployed near the BNP chief's house as of 1:00am today.

Besides, four sand-laden trucks were seen parked near Khaleda's residence last night. The trucks, which were on the way from Badda to Natun Bazar, moved here at the instructions of law enforcers, drivers and helpers said.

The purpose of this was not clear but sources said preparations were going on to build barricades with sand bags at the entrances of Khaleda's house.

14 children die

FROM PAGE 16

The number of child patients may rise in the next couple of days.

Nazrul added children were falling sick because of the cold weather.

Local people in Kurigram said the sun could not be seen for the last two days due to dense fog.

The lowest temperature recorded in Kurigram was 11 degrees Celsius yesterday, according to the records of the local agriculture department.

As per Bangladesh Meteorological Department, yesterday's lowest temperature, 8.5 degrees Celsius, was recorded in Ishwardi.

Sources in the Met office said people of the northern districts such as Rangpur and Kurigram had experienced more cold than those of Ishwardi because of the dense fog that prevented sunlight throughout the day.

Dense fog would continue disrupting lives in the next two days, the sources said.

Meanwhile, ferry services on the Paturia-Daulatdia route resumed in the morning after remaining suspended for over 11 hours due to poor visibility in dense fog.

Four ferries, which had to anchor in the middle of the Padma river Friday night, started again for their destinations at 9:30am, said Bidyut Kumar Saha, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation at Aricha in Manikganj.

The disruption of ferry services caused huge traffic jam stretching over eight kilometers on both sides of the route.

Argentina court grants abortion for teen rape victim

AFP, Buenos Aires

A court in Argentina ruled Friday that a 14-year-old rape victim could have an abortion, overturning a lower court decision barring the girl from seeking the procedure which had triggered outrage.

The teenage girl discovered early last month that she was pregnant after being raped by her mother's partner.

The teen and her mother, who live in the city of Salta, one of the most conservative in Argentina, sought an abortion at an area hospital.

But a family court judge in a December 17 ruling denied her petition to terminate her pregnancy, instead ordering the girl to give birth and surrender the baby for adoption.

The lower court decision had provoked an outcry by women's groups which maintained that the judge had exceeded his authority.

Judge Victor Soria ruled that the right to life of the unborn child trumped the rights of the teen -- but Salta's Supreme Court on Friday overturned that decision.

Abortion for the most part is illegal in Argentina. But there are exceptions, including in the case of rape, or when the life of the mother is at risk.

A federal Supreme Court last year issued a ruling that rape victims could not be punished for terminating a pregnancy, and no longer would need a court's permission to get an abortion.

India hardens stance on US

FROM PAGE 16

A government official said on Friday that New Delhi had asked the US embassy to provide details about people working in American schools and other US government facilities to determine if they had permission to do so and if they were paying taxes that are mandatory under Indian law.

Diplomats' spouses who take up work in schools or other embassy facilities are supposed to inform the host country.

Violations of this kind had often been ignored, but now India would not turn a blind eye, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The US embassy declined to comment on the latest steps.

India had also withdrawn some privileges of US diplomats and their families enjoy and would treat them as Indian officials are treated in the United States, the Indian official said.

US ambassador Nancy Powell has been refused special privileges at New Delhi airport.

"We have said all access is on a reciprocal basis," the government official said. "She is not going to get the benefits that the Indian ambassador in the US doesn't get."

US consular officials and their families have been asked to surrender identity cards that gave them a degree of immunity. Under a new regime, consular officials -- but not their families -- will be given identity cards with fewer privileges.

"Spouses and children have no more immunity. So if there is a parking offence or ... something else happening in Bangalore etcetera, they would be held liable," the Indian official said.

Devyani was released in New York on \$250,000 bail after giving up her passport and pleading not guilty to visa fraud and making false statements about how much she paid her housekeeper. She faces a maximum of 15 years in prison if convicted on both counts.

Yemen tribesmen blow up major oil pipeline: officials

AFP, Aden

Tribesmen yesterday blew up a major oil pipeline in southeastern Yemen operated by foreign companies, bringing production to a halt, government and industry officials said.

"Gunmen belonging to an alliance of Hadramawt tribes blew up the oil pipeline linking Masila oilfield to Al-Daba port in the town of Shahr" on the Gulf of Aden, a local government official said.

The gunmen had planted an explosive device under the pipeline in Hadramawt province, the official said, adding that production had been halted.

An industry official confirmed the attack and that the flow of oil had ceased.

The pipeline, which is operated by "several foreign companies", usually pumps around 120,000 barrels per day, the official said.

The attack comes amid rising tensions between Yemeni authorities and southern secessionists, allied with a group of tribes from Hadramawt, an Al-Qaeda stronghold.

WE DEEPLY MOURN

Alhaj Rokeya Begum

Birth: 15 January, 1950

Death: 28 December, 2013

Alhaj Rokeya Begum, sponsor shareholder of M.I. Cement Factory Ltd. (Crown Cement), passed away yesterday at 4:45 AM at Apollo Hospitals, Dhaka (Inna Lillahi Oa Inna Ilahi Rajiun). She was wife of Alhaj Md. Khbiruddin Molla, Managing Director of Crown Cement and mother of Mr. Molla Mohammed Maznu, Additional Managing Director and Mr. Mizanur Rahman Molla, Director of the company.

We pray to the Almighty for eternal peace of her departed soul.

Board of Directors, Sponsors and Employees of Crown Cement Group

CROWN CEMENT
FOR SOLID FOUNDATION

**SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY (SMC)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed Tenders containing "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer" in 2 (two) separate envelopes are hereby invited by the undersigned from reputed and experienced Contractors for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of three numbers of Passenger Lifts (capacity 1600 kg each) with 20 stops for SMC Tower at 33 Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213. The Passenger Lifts shall be manufactured from USA/ UK/ Germany/ Switzerland/ France/ Japan with brands: Otis/ Schindler / Mitsubishi/ Lift material (LM).

1. Tender documents shall be issued only to those firms who have proven experience in successful supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Passenger Lifts manufactured from USA/ UK/ Germany/ Switzerland/ France/ Japan with brands: Otis/ Schindler/ Mitsubishi/ Lift material (LM). The intending Tenderers shall apply in their letter heads to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their primary eligibility for issuance of the Tender Documents:

- a. Photocopies of Documents evidencing minimum 5 years General Experience of the Tenderer in the work of supply and Installation of Passenger Lifts.
- b. Photocopies of Documents evidencing Experience of supplying & installing at least 02 Passenger Lifts for minimum 10 storied commercial building.
- c. Photocopies of valid Agency Certificate/Agreement/Distributorship Certificate or Authorization from the respective manufacturers of Passenger Lifts the Tenderer intends to offer for this particular Project.

2. The Firms without having the primary eligibility as stated above need not apply for issuance of the Tender Documents

3. Tender Documents (Volume-I : Technical Offer and Volume-II : Financial Offer) will be issued from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Tk. 500.00 (Taka five hundred) only (non-refundable) per set from **30.12.2013 to 19.01.2014** during office hours. No Tender Document shall be issued after **19.01.2014**.

4. The Tenderers shall have to submit an Earnest Money of lump sum amount of BDT 7,00,000.00 (BDT seven lac) only in favor of Social Marketing Company in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh along with the Technical Offer. Tenders submitted without the Earnest Money shall be rejected outright.

5. Tender must be dropped on or before **20.01.2014** between 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM in the Tender Box kept in the 1ST Floor of SMC Tower, 33, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213 and only the Technical Offers will be opened at 3:15 PM on the same day in presence of the Tenderers who wish to be present.

6. For any clarification regarding preparation and submission of tender, the Tenderers may contact the office of the Consultant, Dexterous Consultants Ltd. 6/3, Block-D, Lalmatia, Dhaka -1207. Telephone- 9123154, 9130362 or Manager, Civil Works, SMC (Cell # 01713215121).

7. Social Marketing Company (SMC) reserves the right to accept any Tender or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Lutfur Rahman)
Manager, Procurement

SMC
Helping you live better