

AL suspends 40 rebel candidates

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party had taken such a harsh decision keeping in mind the next polls to local bodies. They said the grassroots leaders would now follow party decisions after seeing the consequences of not doing so.
"If we spare them now, they may create problems again in next polls," Hanif told The Daily Star.
Kamrul Huda Selim, former Manikganj district AL general secretary and an AL rebel mayor candidate in Manikganj municipality, said he did not know how the party nominated its candidates and the process of selecting candidates.
Another AL rebel in a municipality in Dhaka division, who has been suspended, raised questions about the party's nomination process too.
The candidate said, "I think such a decision will never bring any good to the party."
Kamrul said he did not get any party order on suspension.
"I have been with the party for the last 25 years and I was the general secretary for Manikganj district unit for the last 12 years. Now, if party expels me, I have nothing to do. I think the Awami League does not need activists like us and that's why it has decided to expel us," he said in an emotionally

choked voice.
However, many Awami Leaguers quit the race following party directives.
"Despite support from the party's grassroots activists, I could not get the party's nomination due to conspiracy by a vested quarter. So, I wanted to run as an independent," said Abul Khayer, who was a rebel candidate at Faridganj municipality of Chandpur.
"But Sheikh Hasina has asked me to quit. Respecting her wish, I have withdrawn," he told reporters after quitting yesterday.
However, Suraiya Sultana, wife of AL rebel candidate Abul Bashar at Vedarganj municipality of Shariatpur, alleged that some people picked up her husband from home identifying themselves as members of law enforcement agencies.
Sultana alleged before reporters that Bashar had been taken to the home of the local lawmaker. The lawmaker himself took Bashar to the office of the returning officer and forced him to withdraw.
AL archrival BNP, however, has taken a softer stance to deal with its dissidents. It would try to convince them to become inactive and work for party-nominated mayor aspirants.
Around 18 rebel BNP candidates out of around 40 withdrew nomination

yesterday, said party sources.
BNP senior party leaders made the dissidents understand that the party was in dire straits and that all should work together forgetting everything else to ensure victory of BNP-nominated candidates.
In Madarganj municipality of Jamalpur, BNP-nominated mayor aspirant Mosharaf Hossain Talukder withdrew saying he was sick. AL-nominated mayor aspirant Golam Kibria Kabir is now on the verge of becoming elected unopposed as a result of this.
In Chatkhil municipality of Noakhali, AL's mayor candidate Mohammad Ullah Patowary is now going to be elected unopposed as BNP's candidate Mostafa Kamal and independent Saifullah have quit.
However, BNP has alleged that Mostafa was kidnapped by AL men and forced to quit the race.
Mostafa is missing. The party demands the cancellation of his withdrawal and restoration of his candidature, BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said during a press briefing at BNP Nayapaltna office last night.
Election Commissioner Zabeed Ali has said the Election Commission would look into allegations of forcibly

No IS presence

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The PM made the comment when an US delegation, led by US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs designate Thomas Shannon, met her at the Gono Bhaban in the afternoon.
The delegation included US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal, Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asia Manpreet Singh and US Ambassador Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat.
PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.
Expressing satisfaction over the friendly relations between Dhaka and Washington, Hasina said Bangladesh values its ties with the USA.
On climate change issues, she said Bangladesh has pledged to spend more than one percent of its GDP every year to address the impact of climate change.
Thomas Shannon, currently a counsellor at the US Department of State, emphasised further strengthening cooperation between the two countries in combating terrorism.
When Hasina raised the issue of extradition of Bangabandhu's killers from the USA, Shannon said he would discuss it with his colleagues after returning to his home.

Pro-govt teachers sweep Duta polls

DU CORRESPONDENT
Pro-Awami League Blue panel teachers swept the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) election yesterday.
The panel bagged 14 posts of the 15-member executive committee, while its rival pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami White panel won one post.
The left-leaning Pink panel, which contested only eight posts, could not win any. The left-leaning group joined the election after a gap of nine years.
Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed of economics from the Blue panel was elected president defeating Prof Serazul Islam of the White panel. Farid got 917 votes while his competitor 457 votes.
Prof ASM Maksud Kamal from the Blue panel won the general secretary post beating his White panel rival Prof Siddiqui Rahman Khan and independent candidate Sheikh Hafizur Rahman. Maksud, teacher of disaster science and management, obtained 866 votes while his nearest rival Siddiqui got 374 votes.
Prof Lutfor Rahaman, of statistics, biostatistics and informatics department, was elected the lone executive member from the White panel.
From the Blue panel, Prof Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam won the treasurer post, while associate Prof Neelima Akhter the post of joint secretary.
The post of vice-president was won by Blue panel's Prof Imdadul Hoque who defeated White panel's Akhter Hossain Khan and Pink panel's Nehal Karim.
Nine other executive post winners from the Blue panel are Prof Aftab Ali Shaikh of chemistry, Prof AJM Shafiq Alam Bhuiyan of television and film studies, Dean of Arts Faculty Prof Akhtaruzzaman, Criminology Department Chairman Prof Ziaur Rahman, Prof Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan of Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, Prof Rahmat Ullah of law, Prof Sabita Rezwana Rahman of microbiology, associate Prof Chandranath Podder of mathematics and associate Prof Laffa Jamal of computer science and engineering.
Prof Masudur Rahman of marketing was the only one from the Blue panel to lose.
Sharifullah Bhuyan, Prof of history, conducted the election, which was held at the university teachers' club between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Sharifullah announced the results in the afternoon.
A total of 1,467 teachers out of 1,923 cast their votes in the election.
Last year, the pro-AL panel won all 15 posts.

US backs vision for secure Bangladesh

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Shannon arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning with two senior US diplomats on a one-and-a-half-day visit.
Referring to the upcoming municipal elections in Bangladesh, he hoped everyone would make the most of this opportunity to reaffirm Bangladesh's commitment to democracy.
He underscored the need for ensuring citizens' rights and freedom without "fear of harm", and said it must be made sure that all can live together in peace.
In democratic societies, it is essential to protect citizens' ability to exercise their political and civil liberty, especially freedom of peaceful assembly and expression, said Shannon.
"Bangladesh is certainly a global example of the strength of tolerance, inclusiveness and democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms lie at the foundation of stable society and lie at the heart of Bangladesh's struggle for Independence."
The US diplomat put emphasis on peace and stability which he said come from the rule of law and law enforcement.
He thanked Bangladesh's police force for protecting diplomats and their families. "My hats go off to all of those who made it."
The US diplomat did not say anything about Bangladesh's internal politics or the January 5 election last year that the US did not find credible.
He, however, said citizens' ability to exercise political and civil liberty, freedom of peaceful assembly, tolerance and respect for fellow citizens are some of the basis for an open society that defines democracy.
"We have learned that nations achieved their full potentials only

through national debates; even disagreements are processed through peaceful, open and unhindered democratic process.
"Violent extremists and terrorists do not share that vision. They wish for a Bangladesh that is divided, weakened and chaotic. They want to destroy centuries-long traditions of religious tolerance and communal harmony. And they seek to accomplish these ends through savagery and terror."
Referring to extremism and terrorism, he said Bangladesh and the US share a "common vulnerability" to this threat. "...but we also share a firm resolve to defeat it."
On the first day of his visit, Shannon called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, PM's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gower Rizvi and Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali. He also held talks with Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque.
The US diplomat is expected to meet BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and representatives of civil society and labour organisations today morning. He will also talk to the media and leave for Colombo in the afternoon.
At the seminar, Shannon said he was determined to make the best use of his first visit to Bangladesh and then Sri Lanka, keeping in mind US President Barack Obama's strategic focus on South Asia, the Indian Ocean and the Indo-Pacific region.
The US undersecretary said he is here also because of the "important role" Bangladesh would play in US engagements in the region. "We can learn from Bangladesh as we look at ways to improve our relations with countries in the Indian Ocean and South Asia."
He quoted Senator Edward Kennedy,

who visited Dhaka shortly after Bangladesh's independence in 1971, "I have come here to say that America cares."
Shannon said, "I would like to add just a few words to what Ted Kennedy said 44 years ago. America still cares -- about that there can be no doubt. And to his timeless address I would simply add: Bangladesh matters."
"Your country is an example of what is possible when a nation founded on democratic principles leverages its pluralistic and entrepreneurial citizens. This is a country the world keenly listens to, whether on peacekeeping, climate change, or counter-terrorism. And Bangladesh is one of the most resilient, ambitious, and entrepreneurial people on this planet."
Bangladesh is also an example to the world when it comes to fighting climate change. "We hope to work with Bangladesh to build better warning systems and crisis management centres, further reducing the impact of severe storms and extreme weather."
Appreciating the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the US diplomat said Bangladesh has made enormous strides in gender equality and women's empowerment.
Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque, BISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad and its Director General Maj Gen AKM Abdur Rahman also spoke at the seminar.

China navy carries out more drills in South China Sea

REUTERS, Beijing
China's navy has in recent days carried out more exercises in the disputed South China Sea, the Defence Ministry said yesterday, calling them routine drills.
China claims almost all of the energy-rich waters of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of maritime trade passes each year. The Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims.
"The People's Liberation Army Navy in recent days organized a fleet to go to relevant seas in the South China Sea, by way of the Western Pacific, to carry out exercises," China's Defence Ministry said in a brief statement.
"This action is a routine arrangement made in accordance with this year's naval training plan," it added, without elaborating.
Pictures on social media accounts of Chinese state media have in recent days shown pictures of Chinese navy ships engaged in live-fire exercises in the South China Sea, without saying where exactly they took place.

Now comes the hard part

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"This is the key thing to ensure that the actions get stronger and stronger so that we get to two degrees and below," WWF climate expert Tasneem Essop told AFP.
2C is the threshold at which politicians hope mankind can avoid the worst climate change impacts: dangerous storms, drought, sea-level rise, water wars, mass migration and the spread of diseases.
The agreement itself admits "with concern" that current national plans are not enough.
As a result, it has built in a number of checks to try and keep the fast-closing 2C window ajar.
Scattered over different sections of the 31-page document, the measures collectively make up what has become known as a "ratcheting up" mechanism.
It could play a vital part in a pact where emissions commitments are voluntary and there is no single timetable for achieving carbon reductions, which scientists point to as a gaping flaw.
According to the Climate Action Tracker (CAT), a tool developed by four climate research institutes, most country pledges are "inadequate" and "nearly all" governments need to enhance their 2025 or 2030 contributions.
The first step will be a stock-taking in 2018, two years before the agreement enters into force, of the overall impact of countries' progress in abandoning fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas in favour of renewable sources like solar and wind.
The findings must inform the next round of country pledges to replace those that will enter into force with the agreement, in 2020.
"This will be a significant political moment where governments will be urged to ramp up their efforts," said Mohamed Adow of Christian Aid, which lobbies on poverty issues.
Observers are concerned that unless the 2020 pledges are reviewed soon, the 3C trajectory will be locked in for at least 10 years.
Some countries had set 10-year targets for 2025, others 15-year ones until 2030.
"It just makes it harder and harder to take actions that can in fact bring us down to the levels we need to be," said WWF climate analyst Tasneem Essop.
Once the agreement takes effect, the collective impact of countries' efforts will be reviewed at five-year intervals from 2023.
The outcome of these reviews will "inform" countries in "updating and enhancing" their pledges every five years starting in 2025.

EC allocates new symbols

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However, the EC has not cancelled the previously allocated symbols like gas stoves, bangles, chocolates, dolls, frocks, scissors and handbags for the women candidates in reserved seats although different women rights and citizen organisations have termed those demeaning for women.
EC Secretary Sirazul Islam had earlier said they did not allocate those symbols to undermine anyone, adding, it was done imprecisely and would be revised in future.
The EC, however, sent new directives for the returning officers to add the new symbols in addition to the previous ones.
"In some municipalities, there may be more than 10 candidates. That is why we have added these new symbols," Sirazul Islam told The Daily Star.
The EC has also allocated 10 new symbols -- motorcycle, cricket bat, bucket, table, hilsha, cup-plate, table clock, pineapple, inkpot and cock -- for mayoral candidates.
Besides, the male councillor candidates have also got 10 new additional symbols -- tabla, flute, anchor, ektara, mike, tube-well, lamp, lock, prawn and dish antenna.
The EC had also faced controversy regarding allocation of symbols for women candidates in the two city corporation elections -- Dhaka and Chittagong -- on April 8. At that time, the EC said it would reconsider the symbols at a meeting with the candidates but repeated the deed.
The mayoral and councillor elections are scheduled to be held at 234 municipalities on December 30.
VICTORY DAY PROGRAMME
The Election Commission will direct all the ministers and lawmakers to inform the commission before joining the Victory Day programme in any municipality area ahead of the polls.
"There is no restriction on them

[ministers and MPs] to join any programme. But they have to inform the commission before joining the function," an election commissioner told The Daily Star yesterday.
The EC will issue letters with the directives to the speaker of parliament and the cabinet division.
"We have taken the decision so that any social programme does not turn into any electoral campaign," the commissioner said.
As per the electoral code of conduct, ministers and MPs are prohibited from attending any election activities.
PUBLIC HOLIDAY
The EC yesterday sent a letter to the public administration ministry requesting it to announce a public holiday for December 30 in the election areas.
Skype, Twitter
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suspend the three popular services immediately.
A top official of a mobile phone operator told The Daily Star that they received such a letter around 9:00pm.
Asked to explain the move, BTRC Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood said they acted on government instructions.
Earlier on Thursday, the government unblocked Facebook, but the ban on WhatsApp and Viber remains in place. These three services were blocked on November 18, soon after the Supreme Court verdict upholding the death penalty of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for war crimes.
Earlier on January 18, the government blocked mobile applications Viber, WhatsApp, Tango, Mypeople and Line for security reasons. The services were unblocked four days later.

Key words missing

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In her statement, she also avoided naming them.
War documents, historical records and newspaper clippings of the time show the Pakistan forces and their Bangalee collaborators, sensing ultimate defeat, resorted to targeted killings of teachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, journalists and other professionals to cripple the nation intellectually.
This year, the nation today marks the day less than a month after the hangings of two war criminals -- BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed -- and the subsequent denial by the Pakistan government that there were any war crimes or atrocities during the 1971 war.
Mojaheed was the top leader of Al-Badr Bahini that was behind the abduction and killing of many intellectuals. Salauddin mainly targeted Hindu people in his hometown in Chittagong.
The mission of killing intel-

lectuals entered its last phase on December 14, two days before the Pakistan army conceded defeat and surrendered.
In her statement, signed by BNP Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed, Khaleda said the country's intellectuals were killed at the hands of the "Hanadar Bahini" (occupation forces) and their collaborators.
She did not name razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams that acted as the Pakistan army's collaborators.
Raushan Ershad did not even mention the word "collaborator", just "Hanadar Bahini".
The statement by Jamaat acting secretary general said: "Tomorrow [today], December 14th, is Martyred Intellectuals Day ... The entire nation remembers with due respects the intellectuals who embraced martyrdom on December 14 [1971]."
The statement calls on all Jamaat units to mark the day with due respect through "Doa Mahfil", but does not say who killed the intellectuals and why.

The war on our minds

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throughout the history of the inequality; this was the vision that our martyrs left for us along with an independent nation to call home. Creating a dichotomy between cultural and religious identity had been the basis of the repression on Bangalees who were considered by the Pakistani fascists as "lesser Muslims". The ideas of freethinking, pluralism, secularism and religious harmony that were so deeply ingrained in the Bangalee spirit were distorted to be interpreted as being anti-Islamic.
Strangely, after 44 years of our freedom, such distortions seem to be haunting us again. Secularism is being branded as anti-religion and freethinking as ungodly. The fact that

throughout the history of the Bangalee people, freethinking, devotion to religion and the acceptance of all faiths have coexisted without conflict, has been conveniently forgotten. Again we are being slaughtered for what we think, for challenging the status quo, for believing in a different faith, for asserting our identity as peace-loving Bangladeshis. After more than four decades, we are again compelled to fight those who do not believe in our Liberation, who have the audacity to deny the unspeakable crimes of their cohorts and who threaten to obliterate our identity through terror and lies. This is the day that reminds us more than ever, that we still have another battle to win.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Barisal
Reference: LGED/XEN/BARI/ET-2013/5521 Dated: 10/12/2015

e-Tender Notice-70-71/2015-16
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

e-Tender No.	Package No.	Name of work	Last receiving date & time
70/2015-16	IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-04	Part a): Improvement of Road from Guptar Hat-Jobsen Shepasha High School Road, (Ch. 1650-3500m) [Salvage amount Tk: 8,05,318.00] ID No: 506024010 [Agailjhara] Part-a1): Improvement of Road from Nuremodina Mosque [Amjad Sarder's bari]-Jobsen GPS Road, (Ch. 255-960m) (Guptar Hat Jobsen via Uttar Shepasha High School) [Salvage amount Tk: 1,22,357.00] ID No: 506025069 [Agailjhara] [Total Salvaged value: Tk 805318.00 +Tk. 1,22,357.00] = Tk 9,27,675.00] e-ID No-37284.	04/01/2016 Time-12.00
71/2015-16	IRIDP-2/BRS/DW-05	Improvement of Road from Bagdha GC Amboula Paishar Hat GC.00-2220m) ID No: 506022004 [Agailjhara] e-ID No-37285	04/01/2016, Time-12.00

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LGED, Barisal
GD-3855