

# EC rejects

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directly or indirectly.

However, in the meeting at the Nirbachon Bhaban in the city's Agargaon, the EC yesterday approved two proposals of the reform committee that said animals could not be used to carry out election campaigns and clothes could not be used as election posters, EC Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed told reporters after the meeting.

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda presided over the meeting, while three other commissioners Rafiqul Islam, Kabita Khanam and Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury and senior officials of the EC were present. Another Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar was not present. He was abroad.

## EC TO MEET PRESIDENT

The chief election commissioner and four other commissioners are scheduled to call on President Abdul Hamid on November 1 at the Bangabhaban.

Talking to The Daily Star, president's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin said the commissioners would meet Hamid at 4:00pm.

Briefing reporters at the EC yesterday, its Secretary Helaluddin said the EC would announce the polls schedule after the meeting with the president. "The Election Commission will declare the election schedule on approval from the president."

## EC TO SERVE ONLY PEOPLE'

At a programme in the capital yesterday, CEC KM Nurul Huda asked the EC officials not to "entertain" political parties or politicians but to serve the people.

On the use of EVMs, he said, "The days of guarding the ballots the whole night have gone, and the Election Commission has to move towards the use of EVMs gradually."

# Oikyafront

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Oikyafront leaders will visit the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (R), Shah Paran (R) and the grave of General MAG Osmani, he added.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader at a programme in the capital yesterday said police had given permission to Oikyafront, but its leaders were being unnecessarily dramatic.

He also said the prime minister instructed that everyone be allowed to hold rallies.

Police denied permission to Oikyafront to hold a rally on October 23 in Sylhet. The alliance then sought permission to hold a rally on October 24 and got rejected. Police suddenly gave the permission yesterday.

The Jatiya Oikyafront is an alliance of the BNP, Dr Kamal Hossain-led Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, ASM Abdur Rab's Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Mahmudur Rahman Mannan's Nagarik Oikya.

The Oikyafront was formed on October 13 with the demands of a national election under a neutral government after dissolution of parliament and release of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

The alliance will invite four components of the 20-party alliance -- Liberal Democratic Party, Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Bangladeshi Jatiya Party, and Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar-led faction) -- to join the rally.

After a meeting yesterday, ASM Abdur Rab said Dr Kamal would be the chief guest of the rally presided over by Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque.

He hoped that they would get the permit for holding a rally on October 27 in Chattogram too.

Rab urged the Election Commission to discuss with the alliance before declaring the polls schedule.

# Don't step

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these man-made ponds full of colorful fish, visitors are required to take off their shoes and clean their feet. They can then enjoy a wide range of refreshments and snacks as Japanese carp and other small fish swim at their feet.

Amix Coffee is the brainchild of 23-year-old Nguyen Duoc Hoa, who wanted to take the concept of animal cafes to a whole new level. However, making her idea a reality wasn't the easiest thing in the world. Flooding the first and second floor of the Amix Coffee building with around 10,000 liters of water and keeping it clean at all times proved challenging, but he eventually came up with viable solutions.

The cafe uses a triple filtration system to keep the water crystal clear at all times, and pumps that change between a quarter and half of the water on each floor to maintain optimum conditions for the fish.

However, preventing patrons from stressing the fish too much has proved much more difficult.

Hoa told Spanish news agency EFE that families with small children make up an important part of the clientele, and while most of them don't cause problems, some parents let their kids run after the fish, which isn't allowed.

# 4 bullet-hit bodies

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bodies of three jhut (scrap fabrics from garment factories) traders -- aged between 25 and 35 -- were recovered from Purbachal area in Narayanganj's Rupganj.

Their family members had alleged that 15 to 20 men in vests inscribed with two letters "DB" picked them up from a bus near Paturia ferry ghat in Manikganj while they were returning from Jhenidah on September 13.

## DEATHS IN N'GANJ

The four victims were shot in the head and there was no injury mark on other parts of their bodies, reports our Narayanganj correspondent, quoting the doctor at Narayanganj General Hospital who conducted "primary" autopsies.

"Each of them was shot once in the head from behind," said Dr Md Asaduzzaman, resident medical officer at the hospital.

Contacted, M Abdul Haque, officer-in-charge of Araihazar Police Station, said that on information from locals, they went to the spot in front of Baitul Najaq Jame mosque close to Dhaka-Sylhet Highway and recovered the bodies early in the morning.

Police also recovered two locally made pistols and seized a private car from there.

He said the victims' heads were smashed, and that they were aged between 30 and 42.

Talking to this newspaper, Reshma Akter, wife of Lutfor, said her husband worked as a driver for the last 20 years.

She further said her husband had been missing since 1:00am on Saturday and that she filed a general dairy with Rampura Police Station at 2:00pm that day.

After watching a news report on TV, she went to Narayanganj General Hospital and identified Lutfor's body.

She claimed that her husband had not been accused in any case, and was not involved in politics.

Seeking anonymity, a resident of Panchrakhi area said four gunshots were heard early in the morning, and later it was known that four bodies were found in the area.

Alamgir Hossain, who runs a tea stall at nearby Bantibazar, said there were two police patrol teams within one kilometre of the spot.

Asked, Abdulla Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police in Narayanganj, said they were looking into the role of the patrol teams and things would become clear after investigation.

He further said they suspected that there was a clash between criminals or robbers as pistols were recovered from the spot.

However, the Araihazar OC said the victims could have been killed elsewhere and their bodies were dumped in Panchrakhi Paschim Para area.

The killers had smashed the victims' heads so that their identities could not be known, he said.

# Mainul gets

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On Tuesday night, Mainul, also former adviser to a caretaker government, hurled abusive words at Masuda Bhatti and termed her "characterless" at the talk show -- Ekattor Journal -- hosted by Mithila Farzana on Ekattor TV.

Masuda Bhatti, acting editor of Dainik Amader Notun Somoy, and Sakhawat Hossain Shayanta were present at the live talk show.

Mainul was connected to the programme through videoconference.

During the discussion, Masuda referred to a video [which went viral on the social media] that showed Mainul addressing a programme of Islami Chhatra Shibir, expressing solidarity with the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

She posed a question during the programme: "As a result, many are commenting that you are in the alliance [Jatiya Oikya Front] as a representative of Jamaat-e-Islami... Is it true?"

"Giving no response, he made a verbal attack and tried to tarnish my image and dignity. He instructed me to pose questions like that of an 'educated and gentle woman,'" she said later in a statement.

She added Mainul also shouted and raised his fingers in efforts to stop her.

Mithila Farzana warned him that he should not hurl such verbal abuses at a guest during the show.

# Each victim

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At least one expert each from the legal and medical professions was recommended to be in the seven-member body.

On April 1, the HC issued a rule asking officials concerned to explain as to why the same victims should not be given Tk 1 crore each in compensation after hearing a writ petition filed by lawyer Amit Das Gupta.

On March 5, twenty-four patients underwent cataract operations at the hospital and a day after the surgery, all the patients were released.

But a few hours after returning home, 20 of them felt severe pain in their eyes due to infection.

# Imrul makes

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Making a comeback to the side after a year, Saifuddin -- whose previous best score with the bat was 16 -- registered his maiden half-century off 69 balls with the help of three fours and a six and along with Imrul's late surge, helped the Tigers add 85 runs in the last 10 overs of the innings.

Imrul, who reached his third ODI hundred off 118 balls, was eventually dismissed for a 140-ball 144, during which he hit 13 fours and six sixes. He departed in the 49th over but had done his job by then.

In reply, Zimbabwe never looked like chasing down the challenging target on a Mirpur pitch that is always more difficult to bat on in the second half and eventually reached 243 for nine. The margin of victory would have been much bigger if not for late heroics from Kyle Jarvis, whose 33-ball 37 reduced the margin after Zimbabwe were at one stage on 169 for eight.

Off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz once again proved his worth in the fifty-over format and bagged three wickets while left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam took two. Zimbabwe's rot was started by left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman, who uprooted left-handed opener Cephas Zhuwao's off stump to the delight of a near-capacity Mirpur crowd.

But earlier it was the 31-year-old Imrul who despite being in his 10th year of international cricket is yet to become a stalwart like Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim or Mahmudullah Riyad but his joint second-highest individual score for Bangladesh yesterday will certainly take him nearer.

The term 'comeback man' has been tagged to his name as whenever Imrul's back has been to the wall he has come up to deliver his best. He proved it recently upon his surprise return to the Tigers' squad in the UAE during the Asia Cup when he struck a crucial fifty against Afghanistan, but went on to fail in the next two games as pressure started to mount on him.

There was pressure too yesterday since Bangladesh opted to bat and once again failed to provide a good start after the dismissal of Liton Das, who was unable to put a high price tag on his wicket.

After striking his maiden ODI hundred against India in the final of the Asia Cup, which was followed by the country's fastest first-class double hundred, Liton threw away his wicket trying to clear the inner circle off seamer Tendai Chatara on four.

30-year-old debutant Fazle Mahmud can consider himself unlucky as he received a brilliant snorter from Chatara in just his fourth delivery to be caught behind without troubling the score as Bangladesh struggled on 17 for two.

Imrul, who was lucky to be dropped on seven, started the rebuilding process with the experienced Mushfiqur Rahim and the duo added 49 runs for the third wicket before the latter was dismissed off a short pitched-delivery from leg-spinner Brandon Matova which kissed his bat before it was grabbed by the wicketkeeper.

Imrul was then joined by Mohammad Mithun, who looked confident as the right-hander struck consecutive sixes off Skandar Raza to reach the thirties in quick time before also departing on 37 off 40 balls.

Mahmudullah and Mehedi's quick dismissals made things worse for the Tigers before Imrul and Saifuddin took charge.

# AL, JP

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At least 20 AL men are in the race for securing nomination in six constituencies of the district.

However, Primary and Mass Education Minister and incumbent lawmaker Mostafizur Rahman is the lone AL candidate at Dinajpur-5.

BNP is in almost similar situation as at least 15 candidates are competing to get nomination there. The party's standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman may get priority in Dinajpur-2.

Three JP men, including State Minister for LGRD and Co-operatives, Moshiur Rahman Ranga, are campaigning for nomination at Lalmonirhat-1. JP Co-chairman GM Quader, also Ershad's younger brother, may contest at Lalmonirhat-3.

At least eight AL, 10 BNP and seven JP men are in the race for getting party nomination against three constituencies of the district.

# 1-yr-old dies

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Nabila's mother Nazma Begum told journalists that Nabila, she and her brother Rassel were returning from Newmarket on the rickshaw. When they were in front of Mohammadpur Police Station, a truck hit their rickshaw.

She said she along with Nabila fell to the ground and the rickshaw went over Nabila's body.

Nabila was first taken to a local hospital and then to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead at 11:30pm.

Inspector Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge (Investigation) of Mohammadpur Police Station, said police could not arrest the driver or seized the vehicle.

She said she along with Nabila fell to the ground and the rickshaw went over Nabila's body.

# Hasina seeks support

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The PM also praised Bangladeshi female players for their success in various international tournaments.

Hasina vowed to establish a prosperous and developed Bangladesh by 2041 and said that the government took the farsighted Delta Plan-2100 for establishing Bangladesh as the most developed country in the world.

Later the PM exchanged views with a cross-section of people, including public representatives, students, teachers, government officials of Nilphamari, Barhatta, Netrakona and BKS in Savar via a videoconference.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Biren Sikder joined the video conference from Mohammadpur, Deputy Minister Arif Khan Joy spoke from Barhatta and the BKS director general from Savar.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan Russel were present at the Gono Bhaban.

# Making math

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classrooms using the method from January to June of 2019.

"We usually don't think out of the box. This time the government has given importance to a movement which is developed by the youth," Prof Iqbal said, adding, "The number of primary-level students in the country is higher than [the population of] quite a few countries. If we educate our children properly, no one will be able to stop us from progressing."

Nurunnabi said a baseline survey would be conducted after the project concludes, by the project team, to observe the children's abilities and their progress, which, in turn, would help in taking future decisions regarding the project.

So far, Bangladesh has taken part in 14 editions of the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) beginning from 2005, winning one gold medal, six silver medals, and 22 bronze medals.

In July this year, Ahmed Zawad Chowdhury won the first ever gold medal for Bangladesh in the 59th edition of IMO held in Romania. He was accorded for the achievement with a crest at yesterday's programme.

Each year, the Bangladesh Mathematical Olympiad Committee (BMO) arranges a national-level festival, through which it selects students eligible for the IMO.

In this regard, the PM said steps had been taken to establish Youth Development Centres in every area of the country from where youth would get training to be self-employed.

"They will also be able to stand on their own feet by taking collateral loans from Karmashangthan Bank established by her government."

She said the government planned to establish BKS in all divisions, and the finance minister showed adequate interest in this regard. "We'll provide funds and the students who will come from there will be involved in sports."

Hasina said Bangladesh made remarkable development in all sectors, including sports and games, whenever her party came to power.

She also elaborated the steps of her government for the development of country's sports and games, including arrangement of various sports competitions and construction of many modern and international stadiums in different parts of the country.

As a result, Bangladesh has advanced a lot in cricket, football, hockey and chess, she said.

# Wall uniting pupils

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