

# AL not worried at all: Hasina

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 upcoming election, the PM said the Election Commission was independent and it was making preparations to hold the national election independently.

Hasina, also the AL chief, questioned about the motive of a vested interest group trying to create uncertainty over the election. "Their motive is to hamper the country's democratic process for their personal gains."

She said her party wanted to see a fair election in Bangladesh. "The election must be held, Inshallah."

About the polls-time cabinet, the PM said she preferred not to downsize the cabinet ahead of the national election for the sake of completing the ongoing crucial development projects.

She, however, said a smaller cabinet might be formed if the opposition parties demanded so. "I don't know whether it [trimming of cabinet] is needed."

Hasina mentioned that she discussed the issue with President Abdul Hamid and opposition leader Raushan Ershad. "I told her we'll do it as per your demand... we'll go for downsizing the cabinet if they want it. Otherwise the size of the cabinet will remain unchanged."

She said implementation of the ongoing development projects would get stalled if the cabinet was downsized. "We've already passed [cleared] a number of projects... there'll be problems in implementing those. If you give more than one ministry to a minister, doubt will remain whether that minister will be able to do his works."

The PM mentioned that she also discussed the issue with the leaders of some countries including Australia, New Zealand, Britain and India, where the parliamentary system of democracy was being followed. These countries didn't change the government during elections, she added.

She came down heavily on Jatiya Oikyafront leader Barrister Mainul Hossain for verbally abusing a female journalist on a live TV show.

The AL chief said she knew about many of his offences and would disclose those at an appropriate time.

She alleged that Mainul had collaborated with Pakistanis during the Liberation War and that he was also responsible for the abduction of eminent journalist Sirajuddin Hossain from the daily Ittefaq.

Hasina said Mainul had joined Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed's party after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975 and later formed a party with Bangabandhu's self-confessed killers Bazlul Huda, Aziz Pasha and Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan. "So how would you expect gentle behaviour from him?" she questioned.

Regarding Mainul's link to Jamaat-e-Islami, she said there was a video that showed him addressing a Shibir meeting and a report on it was also published in the Ittefaq.

She asked journalists to expose his links to Jamaat by highlighting this incident.

The PM advised female journalists to protest against Mainul. "Lodge cases against him. The law enforcement agencies and the government will do whatever necessary in this regard."

Blasting eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, the PM said he has forged a political alliance with the "corrupt and anti-liberation forces" and those who tried to kill her.

She alleged that Jatiya Oikyafront was formed with the anti-liberation forces and those involved in the August 21 grenade attack, money laundering and looting of orphans' money.

Talking about road accidents,

Hasina said drivers were always blamed for accidents, but the pedestrians should abide by traffic rules.

"You cannot stop the people from jaywalking by inflicting punishment on workers' leaders.... Highlight the matter that people shouldn't cross roads violating traffic rules."

**VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA**

The PM said her recent visit to Saudi Arabia would play a far-reaching role in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Constructive discussions were held with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud during the tour, she added.

Hasina said King Salman stressed the need for utilising opportunities of enhancing cooperation in commerce, investment, culture, defence and security sectors.

"The Saudi king highly praised Bangladesh's stunning successes and put emphasis on the continuation of the government in future to maintain the country's stability and pace of development for a long term."

Referring to her meeting with the Saudi crown prince, the PM said he expressed his willingness to be a partner to Bangladesh's development by investing more in the country.

She said Saudi Arabia would send a high-profile business delegation and an expert team to Bangladesh in this regard.

Hasina said she separately invited the king and the crown prince to visit Bangladesh and both of them accepted the invitation.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, among others, were present at the press conference.

# I've no desire

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 Powers Act, 1974 and other "black laws" needed to be scrapped and the Jatiya Oikyafront should include the task in its goals.

On October 13, the BNP and three other political parties, including the Gono Forum, formally launched Jatiya Oikyafront, which unveiled an 11-point goals and promised sweeping reforms in governance, if voted to power.

Dr Kamal reiterated that the alliance would continue to work for forging unity among different parties and citizens' groups as well as fulfilling its commitment to build a democratic and secular state.

He said, "There is no further involvement among parties except pursuing these objectives for ensuring a free and fair election."

"It should not in any way be construed as support for the Jamaat or any particular leader, including Tarique Rahman."

For a free and fair election, the Gono Forum president put forward seven conditions, including dissolution of parliament, resignation of the cabinet and formation of a neutral and non-partisan polls-time government in consultation with all political parties.

Asked whether they would wage any movement if their demands were not met, he said, "We are mobilising public opinion which is one kind of movement."

# Journo killing grave mistake

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 and later admitting it amid an international outcry.

"This was an operation that was a rogue operation. This was an operation where individuals ended up exceeding the authorities and responsibilities they had," Jubeir said on the US broadcaster Fox News on Sunday.

"They made the mistake when they killed Jamal Khashoggi in the consulate and they tried to cover up for it," he said.

The weeks of denial and lack of credible evidence in the face of allegations from Turkish officials that Khashoggi had been killed have shaken global confidence in ties with the world's top oil exporter.

US Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin said Saudi Arabia's admission that the Washington Post columnist was killed in a fistfight was a "good first step but not enough," though he added it was premature to discuss sanctions against Riyadh.

Three European powers - Germany, Britain and France - pressed Riyadh to provide facts, and Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany would not export arms to Saudi Arabia while uncertainty over Khashoggi's fate persisted, reported Reuters.

Late on Sunday, the Saudi Press Agency said both Saudi King Salman and Prince Mohammed had called Khashoggi's son, Salah, to express condolences.

**'BODY DOUBLE'**

A member of the 15-man team suspected in the death of Khashoggi dressed up in his clothes and was captured on surveillance cameras around Istanbul on the day the journalist was killed, a senior Turkish official has told CNN.

CNN has obtained exclusive law enforcement surveillance footage, part of the Turkish government's investigation, that appears to show the man leaving the consulate by the back door, wearing Khashoggi's clothes, a fake beard, and glasses.

The same man was seen in Khashoggi's clothing, according to the Turkish case, at the city's world-famous Blue Mosque just hours after the journalist was last seen alive entering the

consulate on October 2.

The man in the video, identified by the official as Mustafa al-Madani, was allegedly part of what investigators have said was a hit squad, sent to kill the journalist at the Saudi consulate during a scheduled appointment to get papers for his upcoming wedding.

**'SAVAGELY PLANNED'**

The murder of Khashoggi inside Riyadh's Istanbul consulate was "savagely planned", Turkey's ruling party spokesman said yesterday, the first official indication from Ankara it believes a plot was hatched in advance.

"This was extremely savagely planned, and we are faced with a situation where there has been a lot of effort to whitewash this," Justice and Development Party (AKP) spokesman Omer Celik told reporters in Ankara.

"This is a very complicated murder," Celik said, warning that the Turkish government would not be drawn into speculation. "Everyone (else) can speculate but we cannot speculate," Celik added.

He also dismissed claims of "bar-gaining" between Saudi Arabia and Turkey as "immoral".

Turkish pro-government media has said the Saudi team interrogated, tortured and decapitated Khashoggi but a pro-government columnist Abdulkadir Selvi yesterday wrote in Hurriyet daily that Khashoggi was strangled to death before he was cut up into 15 pieces.

**ERDOGAN TO SPEAK**

In a speech on Sunday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared to suggest he was getting ready to release some information about the Turkish investigation, and would do so at his weekly speech today to members of his ruling AK Party.

Erdogan has remained largely silent on the case, although Turkey's pro-government newspapers have released information about events at the consulate.

Turkey's Anadolu agency said early yesterday that Erdogan and Trump had spoken on the telephone and agreed that "all aspects" of the case needed to be cleared up.

# Jatiya Oikyafront aims for a huge turnout

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 Jatiya Party and Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar) -- were also likely to join it, said sources at the platform.

"People are very keen to join the rally. We are taking an all-out preparation to make the rally a success," Sylhet BNP General Secretary Ali Ahmed, also the coordinator of the Oikyafront in the district, told The Daily Star yesterday.

This is going to be the first ever rally of Jatiya Oikyafront since its formation on October 13. The programme is aimed at mobilising public support in favour of the platform's demands, including an election under a non-partisan interim government, dissolution of parliament and deployment of army before the polls.

On Sunday night, Oikyafront leaders held the first alliance meeting in Sylhet at the house of Sylhet BNP President Abul Kaher Shamim. Leaders from all parties of the alliance were present. They discussed preparation for the rally, said meeting participants.

The stage is being built and security has been beefed up in and around Sylhet city ahead of the rally to be held on the Registrar Office ground in Bandarabazar area, reports our correspondent in Sylhet.

Before the start of the programme, leaders from the Oikyafront would visit the Shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (R), Shah Paran (R) and the grave of General MAG Osmani, said Ali Ahmed.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain would be the chief guest while BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir would place the keynote speech.

He also said ASM Abdur Rab, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, Barrister Mainul Hossain, Sultan Md Mansur Ahmed, Mahmudur Rahman Manna and other senior leaders were expected to attend the rally.

After denying twice, police on Sunday gave permission to the Oikyafront for holding the rally. However, they gave some conditions. One of them was to start the programme at 2:00pm and end it by 5:00pm.

Police also instructed the Oikyafront to ensure that no anti-state or communal statement is delivered at the programme.

The other parties of the Oikyafront include ASM Abdur Rab's Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Mahmudur Rahman Manna's Nagorik Oikya.

Meanwhile, Chattogram police

arrested nine leaders and activists of the BNP, including its central organisational secretary and Chattogram city BNP general secretary, from different parts of the port city yesterday.

Among the arrestees, Mahbubur Rahman Shamim, the central organisational secretary, and Abul Hashem Bakkar, general secretary of Ctg city BNP, were arrested by the Detective Branch members after the duo attended a meeting with Jatiya Oikyafront leaders, said Bakkar's aide Shahid Iqbal.

Deputy Commissioner (North) of DB police Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star that Abul Hashem and Shamim were arrested in the city's GEC area around 1:00pm in connection with a case filed with Kotwali Police Station on Sunday for attacking police and obstructing them from performing duties.

"Apart from that, there are several arrest warrants against Hashem," said DC Mehedi.

Before the arrests, Oikyafront leaders at a press conference announced a rally to be held at the city's Laldighi Maidan on October 27, reports our staff correspondent in Chattogram.

# Workers' body calls strike

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 boycott work on October 28-29 at a meeting of their central committee on October 12.

However, addressing another programme in the capital yesterday, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, who is the executive president of the federation, lauded the Road Transport Act and did not say anything about the October 12 meeting.

"This Act is a time-befitting law," he said while speaking at a discussion on National Road Safety Day held at Krishibid Institute.

"Some are in favour of the law, while others are against it. Some are obeying, while others are disobeying. But, some important sections were incorporated

in the law," he said.

In Jashore, Osman Ali, however, said they would abstain from work if the government did not meet their demands by October 27.

Their demands include making all offences under the Act "bailable", cancellation of the provision that allows a worker to be fined Tk 5 lakh for involvement in a road accident, changing minimum educational qualification from class-VIII to class-V for getting driving licences, and stopping police harassment on roads, he added.

Earlier this month, Bangladesh Goods Transport Owners Workers United Association announced a three-day work abstention in Dhaka division to press home their seven-point

demand, including bringing amendments to the Act.

The organisation, however, postponed their programme until October 31 after Home Minister Asaduzzaman Kamal assured its leaders of considering their demands.

The House on September 19 passed the much-anticipated Road Transport Act, 2018, amid criticism for lenient punishment for deaths caused by reckless driving.

According to the new law, if anybody causes an accident by reckless or negligent driving and kills or injures someone seriously, they would face a maximum five years' imprisonment or a fine of Tk 5 lakh or both.

# Longest

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 The 55-kilometer (34-mile) bridge was originally due to open in 2016, but repeated delays pushed that to this year.

It is a key element of China's plan for a Greater Bay Area covering 56,500 square kilometres (21,800 square miles) across southern China, and encompassing 11 cities, including Hong Kong and Macau, that are home to a combined 68 million people.

Proponents of the idea say the bridge will cut journey times between the cities from three hours to 30 minutes, which they say will enable commuters and tourists to easily move around the region.

"With the bridge, the travelling time between Hong Kong and the Western Pearl River Delta region will be shortened significantly, thereby bringing the Western Pearl River Delta region within three hours' drive from Hong Kong," the city's transport secretary, Frank Chan, said Friday.

Despite the focus on drive time however, private car owners in Hong Kong will not be able to cross the bridge without a special permit. Most drivers will have to park at the Hong Kong port, switching to shuttle bus or special hire cars once they are through immigration. Shuttle buses cost \$8-\$10 for a single trip depending on the time of day.

The bridge project has come in for fierce criticism in Hong Kong, where there was little public demand or appetite for greater links to either Macau or Zhuhai, and fears the city will be swamped by tourists from mainland China.

In 2016, Hong Kong saw 56.7 million tourist arrivals, compared to 37.6 million for the UK, a much larger country.

For critics of the Chinese government, the bridge is seen as a tool to drag the city - which boasts a semi-democratic legislature and independent judiciary and has seen numerous mass protests in recent years -- closer into Beijing's grip.

"You can't see the existing transport connections -- in a literal way. But this bridge is very visible ... you can see it from the plane when you fly in to Hong Kong, and it's breathtaking," lawmaker Claudia Mo told CNN earlier in the year.

"It links Hong Kong to China almost like an umbilical cord. You see it, and you know you're linked up to the motherland."

Mo and other critics also point to the huge amount of money spent by Hong Kong -- upwards of \$9 billion -- while the city is dealing with an acute lack of public housing and widespread poverty.

**Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection**  
 Ministry of Commerce  
 1, Karwan Bazar (TCB Building-7th Floor), Dhaka-1215  
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**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
**for**  
**Selection of IT Firm for Software Development of Consumer Complaint Management System for Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection**

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.
2.	Agency	Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP).
3.	Procuring entity name	Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP).
4.	Expression of interest for	Selection of IT Firm for Requirement Collection, analysis, design, development, Implementation of Consumer Complaint Management System for Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP) with after Implementation Support and Maintenance for Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection.
5.	Ref. No. with date	26.04.0000.112.31.155.18, 22/10/2018
6.	Procurement method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
7.	Source of fund	SIF of a2i
8.	EOI publication date	October 23, 2018
9.	Last date & time of submission of EOI	November 07, 2018 and 12.00 Noon.
10.	Brief description of assignment	Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP) is the govt organization under the Ministry of Commerce. DNCRP is responsible for hearing and addressing consumer complaints over goods and services. It is headquartered in Dhaka with local offices in divisions and districts level. The Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection was established in 2009 under the Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009. Consumers can file complaint against businesses with the Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection. The directorate after an investigation can fix the businesses are wrong in delivering services, goods etc. DNCRP now want to develop such a Consumer Complaint Management System so that DNCRP get every single Complaint through online. Consumer Complaint Management System will be a web-based management system along with a data driven application with a flexible and user friendly mobile app for its end users. This system will be designed to empower consumers by providing an online tool/mobile app for them to raise-complaint to the respective authorities which would otherwise have to be performed manually. It will also share necessary information with end consumers by its strong information portal.
11.	Experiences, resources & delivery capacity required	The minimum qualifications for bidders are: 1. Minimum 8 years' experience in ICT business as a registered company with RJSC. 2. Having experience of at least 1 (one) contract of large scale web based/online Software development, implementation, training and maintenance with minimum contract value of BDT 30 (thirty) lac under a single contract within last 5 (five) years in government/autonomous body in Bangladesh and work completion certificate must need to submit. 3. Having experience of providing SMS gateway integration. 4. CMMI Level-3 certification and ISO 9001:2008 quality certification will be preferred. 5. Must submit up-to-date trade licence, incorporation certificate, current bank solvency certificate, TIN certificate, latest tax clearance certificate, VAT certificate, audit report with turnover for last three years, copy right certificate, BASIS membership certificate. 6. Needs to have full time experienced human resource in business analysis, system analysis and design, software development (Web and Mobile), database management, project management. 7. Management capacity (brochures and other documents describing similar assignments, experience, availability of appropriate professional staff and experience among applicant's staff, resources to carry out the assignment). 8. Multiple companies having technical and legal competency for developing such product can bid jointly but they must have legal agreement among them where one company needs to be master. Master company needs to fulfill all conditions mentioned in this ToR. Joint-venture agreement needs to have clear identification about each responsibility matrix along with IPR. They must follow PPR.
12.	Last date, time and place of submission of the EOI	Expression of Interest shall be submitted by 12:00 Noon on 07-11-2018 in sealed envelope to Joint Secretary and Director (O&L), Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP), 1, Karwan Bazar (TCB Building-7th Floor), Dhaka-1215 and be clearly marked "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of IT Firm for Software Development of Consumer Complaint Management System".
13.	Name of official inviting EOI	Md. Harun-Uz-Zaman Bhuiyan.
14.	Designation of official inviting EOI	Joint Secretary and Director (O&L) and Project Director.
15.	Address of official inviting EOI	Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection, 1, Karwan Bazar (TCB Building-7th Floor), Dhaka-1215.
16.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason. Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the PPR 2008 and The Public Procurement Procedures issued by GOB.	

**Md. Harun-Uz-Zaman Bhuiyan**  
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GD-2446

# Police arrest Mainul from city's Uttara

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 Mainul, a former caretaker government adviser, was involved in the process of forming Jatiya Oikyafront, an alliance of BNP, Gono Forum, JSD (Rab) and Nagorik Oikya, launched on October 13.

He went to Abdur Rab's house at sector-3 of Uttara around 9:30pm. Around 100 policemen, including detectives, cordoned off the house at the same time, claimed Saiful Islam, personal secretary of the JSD (Rab) president.

Rubel, a security guard of the house, told The Daily Star that three plain-clothes men had earlier wanted to know whether Mainul was there.

Abdur Rab was not at the house when Mainul arrived. He came a few minutes later while Mainul was waiting at the hall room, added the guard.

As around 50 to 60 DB men entered the house, Rab's wife Tania came down and talked to the officials, according to witnesses.

Mili Maya Begum, wife of Suruj Mia in Rangpur's Mulatol area, filed the case with the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in the district yes-

terday afternoon, accusing Mainul of hurling abuse at journalist Masuda Bhatti during a television talk show on October 16 night.

Mainul, also the publisher and editorial board chief of The New Nation newspaper, is now facing at least six cases. He got an ad interim bail on Sunday in two defamation cases filed in Dhaka and Jamalpur.

Masuda Bhatti filed the case in Dhaka with the Court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Noor.

The other case was filed by Jamalpur Jubo Mohila League Convener Farzana Yasmin Lita with the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Soleiman Kabir.

Cases were filed also in Cumilla, Bhola and Brahmanbaria over the same issue.

Besides, an arrest warrant against Mainul was issued in Brahmanbaria yesterday afternoon.

Judge of Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court Farzana Ahmed issued the arrest warrant after the district correspondent of The Daily Observer newspaper, Ayesha Ahmed Liza, filed the defamation case against him.

On Tuesday night, Mainul called Masuda Bhatti a person of "loose character" at the talk show of Ekattor Journal. He was connected through videoconference.

During the discussion, Masuda referred to a video that showed Mainul was addressing a programme of Islami Chhatra Shibir, expressing solidarity with the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

She said during the programme: "Many are commenting that you are in the alliance [Jatiya Oikyafront] as a representative of Jamaat-e-Islami... Is this true?"

Later in a statement, Masuda said, "Instead of replying to the question, he made a verbal attack and tried to tarnish my image and dignity."

Mainul later apologised to Masuda over phone and also issued a statement over this.

However, a legal notice was served on Masuda yesterday, demanding apology in public within 24 hours for her "intentional and defamatory question" to Mainul at the talk show.