### Kader joins

FROM PAGE 16 strength. We together will wage a movement for people's freedom," Kader said at the programme.

"Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan... many autocrats [of Pakistan before Bangladesh's independence in 1971 were defeated. This current autocratic government will also be defeated," he added. Speaking at the press conference,

ASM Abdur Rab termed Kader Siddique's inclusion in the alliance a landmark in the country's history.

He also urged the government and the Awami League to accept their demands for holding a free and fair election. Otherwise, he threatened to go for a tougher movement.

### Riyadh FROM PAGE 16

#### covering up evidence of Jamal Khashoggi's murder before the Turkish police were allowed to search the premises," a senior Turkish official said, asking not to be named. The official confirmed a report in

the Sabah newspaper saying that chemicals expert Ahmad Abdulaziz al-Janobi and toxicology expert Khaled Yahya al-Zahrani were among a team sent from Saudi Arabia purportedly to investigate the murder last month.

The report said they visited the consulate every day from their arrival on October 11 until October 17. Saudi Arabia only allowed Turkish police to finally search the consulate on October 15.

After weeks of allegations in pro-

government media, Turkey's chief prosecutor last week confirmed Khashoggi was strangled as soon as he entered the consulate and the body was dismembered.

But despite intensive searches by Turkish police, there is still no trace of his remains.

The sons of Khashoggi, Salah and Abdullah, told CNN they wanted Saudi Arabia to return the body so that he could be buried in Medina with the rest of his family. WHO GAVE THE ORDER? Turkey's allegation of the deployment

Aktay, an advisor to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, hinted Friday that the body may even have been destroyed in acid. Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay

of a "clean-up" team came after Yasin

told the official Anadolu news agency yesterday that "all those reports should be investigated".

Although Riyadh has arrested 18 individuals on suspicion of involvement, the key question remains over who gave the order to kill Khashoggi

In an editorial published in The Washington Post Friday, Erdogan said it came from "the highest levels" of the Saudi government, while he did "not believe for a second" that Saudi's King Salman had ordered the crime.

Turkish media have pointed the finger at powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and analysts have said Ankara is keen to have the heir sidelined from the nexus of

power in Riyadh. "Yes, a murder was committed and it was premeditated. Who gave the command for this murder to be carried out on Turkish soil?" Oktay

echoed the president's question in yesterday's interview. However, Erdogan has yet to

directly accuse Prince Mohammed, who has condemned the murder "a repulsive incident".

The unnamed Turkish official said yesterday: "The fact that a clean-up team was dispatched from Saudi Arabia nine days after the murder suggests that Khashoggi's slaying was within the knowledge of top Saudi official."

#### Let them exercise

FROM PAGE 16 merit-based hiring and above all their representation in the country's policymaking.

One-third of the population is between 18 and 35 years, and 80 percent of the unemployed fall within this category. The state must act to help the younger generation reach their potential to take full advantage of

the demographic dividend. Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "We have faith in the youth, which

was why the conference was held." She said that the education system in place doesn't teach one to respect

different views and beliefs and coupled with a lack of proper education and employment, the youth may go towards extremism and drug addiction. She added that the state cannot rein in those issues by using force.

On the current education system, educationist Rasheda K Chowdhury said that those who become either beneficiaries or victims of new education policies, were not engaged in

formulating them. Young people from deprived classes and communities lagging behind should be given employment opportunities through special

schemes in efforts to include them in the economic growth. To encourage entrepreneurship, a "Youth Bank" has to be established,

which will provide young people with credits so that they can translate their innovative thoughts into projects and implement them, speakers said.

## Defer unveiling

FROM PAGE 1 Talking to The Daily Star after the

meeting last night, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they would announce their "next course of action" at today's rally, scheduled to start at 3:00pm.

He claimed the programmes would not impact the ongoing talks between the prime minister and the Oikyafront, comprising the BNP and several other parties.

Meanwhile, the BNP would hold its central executive committee tomorrow to discuss grassroots' opinion on the movement and election preparation, said its leader. Earlier in the day yesterday, BNP

Publicity Affairs Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee told The Daily Star, "The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has given us permission for the rally on different grounds". He added DMP Commissioner

Asaduzzaman Mia said this when he along with the party's two other leaders met him at the police official's office around 11:30am. On Friday, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi,

on behalf of the Oikyafront, announced the rally at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office. It will be the third rally of the Oikyafront after similar rallies in

Chattogram on October 27. **EC-OIKYAFRONT MEET** The election commissioners and a delegation from the Oikyafront, led by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President ASM Abdur Rab, had a meeting at the

Nirbachan Bhaban yesterday.

Sylhet on October 24 and in

During the meeting, the Oikyafront leaders requested the EC not to unveil the schedule before the talks end. The EC said it would make a decision in its meeting on Thursday. The meeting came after Oikyafront leader Dr Kamal Hossain had written to the commission requesting it not to announce the schedule before the talks end.

The EC has already said it would announce the schedule on Thursday.

Meeting sources said the commissioners and the Oikyafront leaders also exchanged heated arguments yesterday. However, talking to reporters after the meeting, EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed denied it.

The sources quoted Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna as saying at the meeting that they did not go to the commission to express no confidence in it but that it's the people who have no trust in the

In reply, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda said, "People have no confidence in you". Manna immediately said, "Mind your language."

#### **USE OF EVM**

When Oikyafront leaders demanded that the EC should not use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the election, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury said, "You people are making comments without even looking at the machine. It's impossible to manipulate it. If needed, you can check the machine through technical experts."

Manna said he was sure that the you want to just get your feet wet.

machines could be manipulated. "I am confirmed and I am giving you the challenge," the sources quoted him as saying.

However, after the meeting, Abdur Rab said, "The talks were held in a cordial atmosphere."

He said they requested the commission to postpone the announcement of the schedule to make the polls inclusive and also to ensure security of the polling agents. "It seems that the commission is thinking about deferring the election schedule."

Asked about EVMs and deployment of army with magistracy power during the election, the JCD chief said the commission would inform them on the issues later. EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed

said Oikyafront requested the com-

mission to keep an eye on the out-

come of their dialogue with the prime

minister on Wednesday and not to announce the election schedule till the talks end. Regarding army deployment, he said, "We have said this will be decided after the announcement of the election schedule. Oikyafront

will be used on a limited scale." Replying to a query, Helal said, "We are prepared to announce the schedule on November 8 [Thursday] and an EC meeting will take place at 10:00am that day. The meeting outcome might reflect the outcome of the November 7 meeting [between Oikyafront leaders

asked us not to use EVMs but we said it

#### World's first-ever

FROM PAGE 16 an infinity pool, butler's quarters,

and the PM]"

an ocean-facing bathtub and most importantly an underwater bedroom with unparalleled views of the The top floor, which is above the

water, has a "relaxation deck" where you can sun yourself. The price tag? A cool \$50,000 per

night, although you can't actually book the Muraka for single night stays -- it's only accessible via a fournight, \$200,000 package that includes a personal chef for all meals and the use of a private boat.

Bonus: Those who book this insane package get automatic Hilton Diamond status.

The Muraka isn't the first underwater venture at the hotel. The property is home to Ithaa, an underwater five-star restaurant.

The Muraka is connected to the rest of the resort -- including the Ithaa -- by jetty, in case you want to leave your blissful seclusion to mingle with other non-aquatic life forms.

The process of building the Muraka was carefully considered to be respectful to the environment. Everything was built in Singapore -- on land -- and then brought to the Maldives on a special ship.

Once the residence was lowered into the water, it was nailed into place with concrete pylons that will keep it from shifting during rough waves or at high tide.

Not quite ready to eat and sleep below the sea? The Conrad is also home to several floating villas, should

# Complete all examinations

FROM PAGE 1

December 18.

45 days of the announcement.

Therefore, the 11th parliamentary election is likely to be held between December 20 and December 23, EC sources said.

All primary schools were instructed to complete the final exams of grades one to four by December 6, DPE Director General Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal said.

"We changed the date so that students can take their exams without any possible trouble during the election," he told The Daily Star.

The final exams of grades one to five would begin from November 29, the DPE directive said, bringing the date

forward by 12 days. Earlier, the exams were scheduled to be held from December 11 to

This change will not put any pressure on students as they are to finish their academic year by the end of November, said teachers of different

schools. They, however, feared that examinees might face some problems the Primary Education Completion if the tests coincide with the campaign- Examinations within November, while and another six wounded by a blast ing of political parties as loud speakers

would be used during processions, meetings and rallies. "We usually complete the syllabi of primary schools within November and

take tests in mid December," said Mohammad Shamsuddin, a teacher of Kripalpur Government Primary School in Noakhali.

He, however, said the changes in the schedule would put pressure on teachers as they would need to evaluate

scripts of both the Primary Education Completion Examinations and the final exams in a short time.

School in Sylhet, said they were aware of the changes and were preparing

accordingly. There is a total of 1, 33,901 primary schools with about 1.73 crore students across the country.

The education ministry did not have to bring major changes in the final exams schedule of secondary schools, as their exams were to be completed by December 11 as per the

existing academic calendar.

"We will not need to make any massive changes in the routine. However, all schools are to complete their final exams by December 10," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The Daily Star, adding that all schools would follow the time frame given by the EC.

The final exams of grades six, seven and nine were previously scheduled to be held from November 28 to December 11.

There are around 60 lakh students of the above mentioned grades in 20,467 secondary schools. Students of grades five would take

students of class eight are currently taking the Junior School Certificate exams. Class 10 students have already completed their pre-test and test

Like previous years, many teachers will perform duties as staff at polling centers and will remain busy with when explosives attached under his training to become presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling

officers ahead of the election. EC sources added that over 7 lakh presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and polling officers would perform duties during the upcoming Promothesh Dutta, a teacher of polls and many of them would be Noshioupur Government Primary teachers.

#### Technocrats

I invited them to be part of the pollstime cabinet. But they rejected my proposal. This time they are not in parliament.... That's why it is not possible to include them in the pollstime cabinet," a JP presidium member present at the meeting, quoted the PM as saying.

"If the BNP participates in the polls, JP would contest under the banner of AL-led grand alliance." In case the BNP doesn't contest the

election, the JP would participle in polls on its own, JP Co-Chairperson GM Quader quoted the PM as saying. In that case, the JP will remain in the opposition with dignity, another JP top leader said, quoting Hasina.

The PM called upon JP to primarily file nominations for all 300 constituencies in either case. On a lighter note, Hasina said,

"You may also form the government by winning the election." Another meeting would be held between the PM and a few top JP

AL-led alliance ticket in the next election. JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader told reporters late last night that the JP leaders submitted an eight-point demand, including hold-

leaders to finalise who would get the

ing the election in line with the constitution, to the PM. He said the dialogue was a success. UNB reports that AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader told reporters after the meeting that the

two alliances agreed to participate in

the next elections in line with the constitution. "A positive and constructive discussion took place in a very friendly environment, where the two sides reached consensus to contest the polls and form the government

together," it quoted him as saying. Asked what would happen if the BNP boycotts the election, Quader said, "There will be an equation in the alliance in the light of the changed political situation."

Hasina led a 23-member delegation while Ershad a 32-member team at the two-hour talks.

## Ally of ex-Malaysian PM charged in \$63m graft case

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

An ally of former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak was charged with graft yesterday, the latest figure from the toppled scandal-plagued government to be targeted in an anticorruption drive.

Since its shock victory in May elections, the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has filed dozens of corruption charges against Najib, his wife Rosmah Mansor and a string of other exofficials associated with the longruling former regime.

Yesterday, Musa Aman, the influential former chief minister of the eastern state of Sabah, was charged with 35 counts of graft for allegedly receiving \$63 million in bribes while awarding timber concessions.

He was one of many entrenched politicians from the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party to be unseated at the polls by a Mahathir-led reformist alliance.

Musa, 67, was arrested by antigraft officials and brought to a Kuala Lumpur court where he pleaded not guilty to the charges.

"I will fight this case to clear my name," Musa told reporters as he exited court after being released on a bail of two million ringgit (\$479,000).

Musa formerly headed UMNO in Sabah, Malaysia's second biggest state that is rich in oil, gas and timber. He is the older brother of former foreign minister Anifah Aman.

#### Blasts across Baghdad kill six people AFP, Baghdad

Explosions in several Shia-majority

districts in Iraq's capital late Sunday killed six people, most of them civilians, and wounded several others, police and medical sources said. In northern Baghdad's Aden round-

about area, two civilians were killed near a bus stop, the sources told AFP. A bomb in the nearby Tarmiyah neighbourhood targeted an military

convoy, killing a soldier and wounding two others. A government employee was killed in the southwestern area of Al-Sahha

car were detonated, according to a police officer and medical source. In the eastern district of Sadr City, two people were killed and four wounded in two explosions in the

conservative Shia neighbourhood. And two other blasts went off on busses in other parts of Baghdad's northeast, wounding seven.

## Ex-AL leader

FROM PAGE 16

localities and had a nexus with the Pakistan army stationed in Astogram. Both Razakar and Al-Badr Bahini were auxiliary forces of the Pakistan army in 1971.

"The accused are found to have had culpable and physical participation in the commission of barbaric crimes which indisputably shock the humanity," the three-member tribunal said. Tribunal Chairman Justice Md

Shahinur Islam, and members Justice Amir Hossain and Justice Md Abu Ahmed Jamadar read the summary of 312-page judgment in the presence of the victims' families, the prosecution and the defence.

#### CONVICTS' IDENTITY, ROLE A college student in 1971, Liakat, son

of Khelu Mia of Lakhai, was involved with the Muslim League, along with his maternal uncle, according to case documents. During the Liberation War, his uncle became the chairman of

Fandauk Union Peace Committee, an

anti-liberation force, in Nasirnagar

upazila, while he led the union's "Razakar Bahini". Liakat committed the crimes with the assistance from the Pakistan army and went into hiding after the war. He later got involved in AL politics and was the president of Lakhai upazila AL

from 2003 to 2013. He hid again when investigations against him began in November 2014. He is believed to be in the US, according to investigators.

Meanwhile, Aminul, son of Abdul Goni Munshi of Astogram, was the president of Islami Chhatra Sangha's Haji Hasmat Ali College unit in 1970. He formed the "Al-Badr Bahini" with the activists of Chhatra Sangha, the then student body of Jamaat, in Astogram during the war, read the case documents. He perpetrated the atrocities in

collaboration with the Pakistan army. Freedom fighters caught him towards the end of the war. Three cases were filed against him

under the Collaborator Act, 1972, and he was given the life sentence but was released in 1981 after the political changeover. "The self-proclaimed criminal"

even wrote a book titled "Ami Al-Badr Bolchi" after his release. Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta said they

were satisfied with the verdict as for the first time all convicts were found guilty of all charges and handed death sentences in all seven charges. Jumman Mia, son of martyred Rangu

Mia and also prosecution witness, demanded that the government find the convicts and execute the verdict. Punishment of convicts would be

executed once they surrendered before a court or were arrested.

over the "perverse judgment" under the "black law". With the latest verdict, the war crimes

tribunals have so far delivered 35 judgments against 80 people. Fifty-four of them have been sentenced to death. CRIMES, PUNISHMENT The tribunal found the duo guilty of all

seven charges framed against them and handed down death penalty for all The charges are: four acts of genocide killing of 43 Hindu people in Krishnapur,

nine Hindu people in Chandipur, 26 Hindu people in Gadainagar and eight Hindu people in Krishnapur, Chandipur and Gadainagar of Lakhai.

The three charges of crimes against humanity are: killing of one Rangu Mia in Nasirnagar, five people in Sabiyanagar in Astogram, and 10 others in the same village. 'HONOUR BANGABANDHU'S

SPEECH'

Mymensingh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on April 5 in 1972 said local perpetrators of wartime crimes would have to face trial. But the ICT Act remained ineffective

The tribunal said in a speech in

as no initiative was taken to form a judicial forum under this act after the assassination of Bangabandhu and his family members, it said. "Now, in coming out from the culture of impunity, the nation must honour

the firm and moral intent of the father of the nation reflected in his above speech," the court added.

'NO ABSOLUTION FOR CRIMES' About Liakat's involvement with the AL

after the Liberation War, the tribunal said subsequent act or sham allegiance to a pro-liberation party intending to hide his horrendous deeds does not absolve his liability of crimes he committed in 1971.

#### US reinstates FROM PAGE 16

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

by Tehran.

Netanyahu yesterday called the start of new US sanctions against Iran a "historic day" that will reduce Tehran's "aggression" in the region. China denounced new US sanctions and vowed to continue its bilateral trade

'ACT ON YOUR COMMITMENTS' Trump says he wants a new deal that curbs Iran's missile programme and interventions around the Middle East -demands that have been flatly rejected

with the Islamic republic, reported AFP.

"Constantly they are sending us messages saying 'Let's sit and negotiate.' Negotiations for what?" said Rouhani. "First, you respect the negotiations we

already concluded, so that there are grounds for the next negotiations." Rouhani said four countries had approached him during his visit to New York for the UN General Assembly in September, offering to mediate with the

US but he turned them down. "There is no need for mediation. There is no need for all these messages. Act on your commitments, and we will sit and talk," he said.

The latest tranche of US sanctions aims to significantly cut Iran's oil exports -which have already fallen by up to one million barrels a day since May -- and cut off its banks from international finance.

Although the US has given temporary exemptions to eight countries -including India, Japan and Turkey -- to continue buying oil, it aims to push Iran's sales to zero.

"Our objective is to starve the Iranian regime of the funds it uses to fund violent

activity throughout the Middle East and around the world. Our ultimate goal is to encourage them to abandon their revolutionary course," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters yesterday.

'EVERYTHING NECESSARY' The other parties to the nuclear deal --

Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia -- have vehemently opposed the US move and vowed to keep alive the accord, technically known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "We will do everything necessary in the interests of preserving and expanding

international trade, economic and financial cooperation with Iran despite US sanctions," said Russia's foreign ministry. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that "US bullying is backfiring, not just because JCPOA is

important, but because the world can't allow Trump & Co. to destroy global order." The only support for the US position has come from Iran's regional rivals, notably Saudi Arabia and Israel, with the latter saying sanctions were "the sea-change the

Middle East has been waiting for." The Belgium-based SWIFT financial messaging service said yesterday it is suspending some unspecified Iranian banks' access to its messaging system in the interest of the stability and integrity of the global financial system, reported

Reuters. In a brief statement, SWIFT made no mention of US sanctions coming back into effect on some Iranian financial institutions as part of Trump's effort to force Iran to curtail its nuclear, missile

and regional activities.

## AL, BNP

FROM PAGE 2

Tarikat Federation Chairman Najibul Bashar Maijbhandari may contest from Chattogram-2, while LDP chief Col (retd) Oli Ahmed in Chattogram-14. In Laxmipur, at least 25 AL and 13

BNP leaders are campaigning and lobbying for party nominations in its four seats. Of them, AL's Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister AKM Shajahan Kamal, BNP's Publicity Affairs Secretary

Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rab) chief ASM Abdur Rab are notable. Besides, a couple of JP and Jamaat leaders are preparing to run there.

In Noakhali, some 18 AL men and 10 BNP men are active on the ground to get nominations in its six constituencies.

Secretary Obaidul Quader and BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed -- may compete in Noakhali-5. Other candidates include AL's

Mohammad Ekramul Karim

Chowdhury in Noakhali-4, BNP's Jainal Abedin Faruk in Noakhali-2 and BNP's vice chairman Barkat Ullah Bulu in Noakhali-3. In Chandpur, at least five AL and 16

BNP leaders are prospective candidates.

Noteworthy candidates are: Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, former home minister Mahiuddin

mer state minister ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon is also in the mix. In Cumilla, there are over 24 candi-

dates of AL and 23 candidates of BNP trying to get tickets in its 11 constituen-The heavyweights include Planning Minister AHM Mustofa Kamal, Railway

Minister Mazibul Hoque and former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru of AL. In Feni, at least 11 AL and eight BNP aspirants are trying to get party tickets

in its three constituencies. They are: Nizam Uddin Hazari, Alauddin Ahmed Chowdhury,

Khandaker Enayet Ullah of AL, and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. In Brahmanbaria, some 20 AL and 12 BNP leaders are in the race for getting nomination in its six constituen-Two heavyweights -- AL General cies. Of them, Law Minister Anisul

Huq and RAM Obaidul Muktadir Chowdhury of AL are notable. In Cox's Bazar, at least 25 AL and four BNP men are campaigning for tickets. They include the much-talked BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, who is

accused of trespassing into India, AL leader Abdur Rahman Bodi, who is accused of drug dealing. Each of the three hilly districts --

Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati -- has one constituency. Apart from the AL and the BNP, Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) and United People's Khan Alamgir, and former foreign Democratic Front (UPDF) will have a minister Dipu Moni of AL. BNP's forsignificant role in the polls in the hills.

# State-appointed defence counsel Gazi MH Tamim said he was aggrieved