

## No ticket for war criminals' sons

*Pabna Jamaat-e-Islami excludes them citing various reasons*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Grassroots leaders and activists of Pabna Jamaat-e-Islami did not include the names of the sons of war criminals in the list of the party's nomination aspirants for the national election scheduled on December 30.

The party's Pabna unit prepared a list of five nomination aspirants and sent it to party high-ups for approval. The names of Barrister Nazib Momen, son of executed war criminal Motiur Rahman Nizami, and Nesar Ahmed Nannu, son of convicted war criminal and former Jamaat leader Moulana Abdus Subhan, were not included in the list.

However, when asked why their names were not included and if it was because their fathers were war criminals, party leaders said Nazib Momen lives abroad and that they have "more competent" candidates than Nannu.

"These are the reasons why our grassroots leaders and activists opined that their names should not be on the list," said Moulana Johurul Islam, Nayeb-e-Ameer of the district's Jamaat.

The district's five Jamaat aspirants are -- Abul Baset for Pabna-1, KM Hesab Uddin for Pabna-2, Md Shapinur Islam in Pabna-3, Abu

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# Ensure equal opportunity for all candidates

*CEC tells assistant returning officers*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday asked the assistant returning officers to ensure equal opportunity for all candidates during the 11th general election scheduled for December 30.

"It is your duty to provide equal opportunity to all candidates. You should not deprive anyone within the bounds of the law or allow anyone to get extra benefits," Huda told the AROs of Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions at a day-long briefing at the Nirbachan Bhaban in the capital.

"You should consider a candidate as a candidate irrespective of their position.

"Carry out your duties with professionalism. Ensure full compliance of electoral code," he said at the briefing which was open to journalists.

Later, in a closed-door session with EC officials, the AROs asked what they would do if a minister or an MP were involved in the electioneering and

whether they would get protocol.

Quoting the EC officials' reply, at least three AROs said they were asked to treat even those with such posts as any other candidates and the general rules and regulations should be followed.

The AROs also asked if they would invite MPs to the official Victory Day programmes on December 16 to be held at upazila level.

The EC said that they could invite them as politicians and ensure that no political address takes place at the

programme. When the AROs asked what to do in the case of religious programmes where political speeches were given, the EC said the commission would instruct them on it later, said sources.

The EC has extended its deadline for removing publicity material, such as banners and posters, within three days.

All political parties, their leaders and candidate hopefuls now have until November 17 to remove their posters,

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KM Nurul Huda

## Family affairs in election

STAR REPORT

Family members and relatives are set to compete against each other in different constituencies in the December 30 parliamentary polls.

Some are trying to win the same party's tickets, while others want to contest the polls from different parties.

In Patuakhali-4, six of a family have submitted nomination forms to ruling Awami League. They are incumbent lawmaker Mahbubur Rahman, his brother Habibur Rahman, their cousins Mohibbur Rahman and Eusuf Mia, Mohibbur's wife Fatima Akhter and nephew Humayun Talukder.

"We all want to contest the polls, but will work together for 'boat' [symbol of Awami League]," said Mohibbur.

In Narayanganj-3, Sonargaon upazila AL President Shamsul Islam Bhuiyan and his wife Shirin Begum, district Mohila Awami League president, have submitted nomination forms.

Besides, BNP central committee member and Sonargaon Upazila Chairman Azaharul Islam Mannan and his son Khairul Islam Sabuj, also general secretary of the district unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), have collected their party's nomination forms.

In Narayanganj-5, incumbent Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman and his sister-in-law Parvin Osman, also wife of late lawmaker

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## Riyad sets stage

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Test history, need to score another 367 runs or bat out three sessions on today's final day to draw the match and win the series on the back of their 171-run win in the first Test.

After a good start provided by a 68-run opening stand between skipper Hamilton Masakadza and Brian Chari, Zimbabwe ended up losing two wickets in the final hour.

Mahmudullah was unbeaten on 101, which came off 122 deliveries with two sixes and four boundaries while Mehedi Hasan Miraz was unbeaten on 27.

The big question before play started was about whether Bangladesh, ahead by 218 runs in the first innings, would ask Zimbabwe to follow on or choose to set a target in order to make the visitors bat last on a pitch that would offer spinners more assistance on the last day.

According to Mehedi, who spoke after the day's play, Bangladesh took the safe route of posting a target of over 400 and avoid the pressure of batting in the fourth innings of the Test.

However, it was the worst possible start to their second innings with the top order once again failing as Bangladesh were struggling on 25 for four within the first hour.

Imrul Kayes played a rash shot away from his body off a short and wide delivery from pacer Kyle Jarvis and handed a catch at deep point, extending his poor run in the longest format to a 20th innings without a fifty.

Soon, fellow opener Liton Das was bowled by a brilliant Jarvis delivery which shaped away at the last moment.

First-innings centurion Mominul Haque edged a Donald Tiripano length delivery which he could have easily let go and then the seamer had first-innings double centurion Mushfiqur Rahim caught at deep square leg off an uppish pull.

Mahmudullah and debutant Mohammad Mithun, who was dismissed for a duck in the first dig, added 118 runs for the fifth wicket during which the latter registered his maiden fifty. Mahmudullah remained positive throughout the innings, which suited his style as seen in a much more successful limited-overs career. When Mithun was dismissed for 67 Bangladesh had already taken the lead past 300 runs.

Ariful Haque departed cheaply and Riyad inched towards his much-needed hundred with Mehedi for company and celebrated the feat in style.

He reached the mark, his first after a maiden century in Hamilton in February 2010, at the stroke of tea and the declaration came from the Tigers. It was the second time that Bangladesh declared both innings of a Test match after they had done so against West Indies in 2011 in Chattogram.

With a huge task at hand, Zimbabwe started the second innings well but skipper Masakadza was lucky to be dropped on five by Mehedi at second slip to deny debutant pacer Khaled Ahmed his maiden Test wicket.

Masakadza and Chari's stand was going strong, but the former was caught at bat-pad off Mehedi in the 23rd over and Taijul Islam trapped Chari leg before on 43 three overs and two runs later.



Some of the Rohingya families, who are on the repatriation list, have abandoned their homes on Tuesday and went into hiding. The pictures were taken at Camp-15 of Jamtoli area in Ukha upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO



## 150 Rohingyas to return today

FROM PAGE 1

regard," he told reporters without specifying if the Rohingyas interviewed agreed to voluntary return.

During a visit yesterday, The Daily Star correspondents found that some of the listed Rohingya families were hiding in other tents. They don't want to go back as they believe the condition for that was still not favourable.

Noor Bahar, 30, was one of them. The mother of six was staying at a neighbour's house a few yards off her own in Ukha's Jamtali area.

"We don't want to return until our safety in Myanmar is ensured. They will kill us," she said, adding that her husband Noor Alam went out of their camp for Jamaat (religious gathering) as he wanted to escape the repatriation.

A few other similar families from G-block in camp-15 in Ukha also fled their shanties on Tuesday, closing the

doors with rope and leaving all their belongings, said Mohammad Yunus, a Rohingya leader at a sub-block of the camp.

He told The Daily Star yesterday a total of 44 Rohingyas of six families were on the list for repatriation. Among them, four families went into hiding on Tuesday evening.

"My father went to Jamaat ... my mother went to a relative's house," said Rukaia, an 11-year-old girl from the same block.

"We won't go to Myanmar. They [Myanmar law enforcers] will kill us like the way they killed my grandfather," Rukaia said when asked whether she wanted to return along with her family.

Asked, in-charge of camp-15, Md Shafique Uddin, said the refugees were afraid of going back.

"We took interviews of four families

today [Wednesday]. They told us that they want to go back with dignity and proper citizenship," he added.

He claimed that one or two families could flee their camps but the number "won't be too many".

"They might not be found in the camps during day time as they go outside for various purposes. If families are found missing, we will lock the camps," he added.

Around 540 members of 121 Rohingya families from camp-15 are on the list of those chosen for repatriation.

A brutal military operation that began in late August last year drove as many as 750,000 Rohingyas into Bangladesh. They joined some 300,000 others who fled violence in previous phases and took shelter in camps in Cox's Bazar.

A UN report has detailed mass kill-

ings and gang rapes with genocidal intent in the crackdown and urged prosecution of Myanmar's commander-in-chief and five generals under international law.

The UN said the conditions in Rakhine were not conducive for return of the refugees and urged halting the repatriation for now.

UNHCR in an internal paper said it would not provide humanitarian assistance to Rohingyas if they were interned in camps on their return to Myanmar.

Myanmar has been building transit centres for the refugees that it says will be temporary, but many Rohingyas fear the sites could become permanent because of harsh restrictions on movement imposed on the largely stateless minority, reports Reuters.

## Minipack menace

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bottle of mineral water, for example, will break down into at least 10,000 pieces of micro-plastic and remain in the ecosystem, unwanted forever.

Since the 1950s, about 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic have been produced worldwide, and to date, only 9 percent of that has been recycled, says a separate study by a team from the University of Georgia, the US.

Worryingly, there is no data as to how many minipacks are produced globally.

"Because these soiled poly-packaging materials along with minipacks do not get recycled at all and we don't know how much is produced and thrown away, are reasons enough to be highly concerned about the havoc they are wreaking on the environment and drainage system," said Sinha.

Sources in one toiletries and cosmetics company said the used 400 tonnes of plastic packaging per month, which by itself is a shocking glimpse of what

the total numbers could amount to.

KM Iqbal Hossain, vice president of Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers' and Exporters Association (BPGMEA) said currently Bangladesh imports around 4 lakh tonnes of plastic raw materials and around 20 percent of the total import is used in the one-time packaging industry.

"The use of one-time packaging will increase day by day as people's living standard is improving gradually. Yes, the collection of one-time packaging waste is very poor but consumers have to be aware of it. The government can take initiative to recycle the plastic wastes," he told The Daily Star.

On September 16, the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO launched a cleanup activity in Dhanmondi Lake. In just one and a half hours, they collected around 100kg single-use plastic wastes. Among them were packages of

82 types of products of 120 brands.

"A movement is going on across the world to ban single-use plastic as it is environmentally harmful. The world famous chain coffee shop Starbucks has already banned plastic straw and Malaysia also did the same. We can initiate this," said ESDO Secretary General Dr Shahrir Hossain.

He also said the manufacturers, government, and environmental campaigners should work together to formulate a policy that can help reduce the volume of single-use plastic waste and pollution.

Shahrir said mini-packs do not add any value for consumers, but the companies produce them to boost sales and make higher profit.

"This type of plastic cannot be recycled. It goes into the canals, rivers, and to the sea....It will also damage landfills. Since this specific type of waste is non-recyclable, neither the city corporations nor private organisations collect it," he added.

A different study jointly conducted by the global think-tank Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the World Economic Forum, foreshadows a bleak future if drastic measures are not taken to check the disposable plastic culture. It says there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans by 2050 if things do not change.

Quazi Sarwar Imtiaz Hashmi, additional director general of the Department of Environment, said the government was going to formulate a policy to contain the use of plastic packaging materials.

"We sat with the plastic manufacturers, producers and BSTI officials to discuss how to contain the use of single-use plastic. We are encouraging the producers to recycle the packaging materials to contain environmental pollution."

However, how much is done, remains to be seen.

## Sudden clash

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premises had been teeming with several thousand BNP men, including nomination seekers and their supporters, as the party was selling nomination forms for the third consecutive day.

The party men blocked one side of the VIP road, leaving the other side open to traffic.

Around 12:30pm, BNP Standing Committee Member Mirza Abbas along with several hundred supporters marched towards the party office and staged a showdown, witnesses said.

Law enforcers then asked the BNP activists to clear half of the lane they were occupying, but the BNP men declined. Moments later, as a police vehicle moved into the crowd, several persons were hit and injured.

As the BNP men got into an altercation with the policemen, the law enforcers charged baton on some of them, triggering a chase and counter chase.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells while BNP activists hurled brickbats at them, creating panic among locals in the entire area, according to witnesses.

At one stage, two police vehicles, including the one that moved towards the crowd, were vandalised and torched.

A man wearing a helmet was seen hitting the windshield of one of the two police cars with a chair while another man was spotted lighting a match to torch the car, said witnesses. Photos of the incident did rounds on social media sites yesterday.

Additional policemen along with fire fighters arrived there around 1:00pm, but they could not reach the scene as BNP activists blocked the road. Some BNP men were seen setting fire to placards.

Carrying sticks, party supporters in small groups marched from the central office to the Bijoy Nagar intersection where police put up a barricade.

Holding posters of Khaleda Zia, BNP men chanted slogans, demanding her release.

BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed was seen speaking over loudspeakers in front of the party office. He was urging the party men to calm down.

"Police attacked us unprovoked. They opened fire.

"I condemn the police brutality. But we will not create chaos. We will maintain a peaceful atmosphere here," he called out to the party men.

The sale of nomination forms was suspended from 1:00pm to 2:30pm.

Around 6:00pm, both sides of the road in front of the BNP office were cleared.

Monirul Islam, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a small team of seven to eight policemen was deployed in the area for the last few days as the sale of nomination forms at the BNP office was peaceful.

But around 1:15pm yesterday, hundreds of BNP men gathered in the area, blocking the road.

"When seven to eight policemen requested them to clear the road, they attacked the law enforcers. As another police patrol team came to the rescue of the small team, BNP men also attacked them," he claimed.

"They attacked police without any provocation," Monirul said, adding that 13 policemen and ansar men

were injured.

"Police showed utmost patience," he added.

Talking to reporters, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said, "The attack on our leaders and activists has affected the polls-time atmosphere. We condemn this."

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader alleged that the BNP activists led by Abbas swooped on police without any provocation, reports UNB.

At a press conference at AL president's Dhanmondi office, he said the party chief while addressing the nomination seekers at the Gono Bhaban had urged all to show patience.

She also thanked the police for not launching any counterattack, said Quader.

"Today's incident showed that their intention is not to join the election but to foil it and oust the popular government of Sheikh Hasina," he added.

Briefing reporters at his Secretariat office, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the attack on police and torching of the vehicles were "pre-planned".

He claimed that BNP leaders and activists launched the attack to foil the December 30 election.

Talking to a private TV channel last night, DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said three cases were filed in connection with the incident.

Examining CCTV footage, police already arrested 40 people involved in "anarchy" and also identified 30 others, he added.

On Tuesday night, the Election Commission asked law enforcement agencies to take steps against the nomination aspirants staging showdown during collection or submission of nomination papers.

In a letter, the EC said, "It has been learnt from print and electronic media reports that following the announcement of the election schedule, possible candidates of different political parties are holding rallies and staging showdowns with motorbikes and other vehicles while collecting nomination papers, which is a clear violation of section 8 of the electoral code of conduct."

The EC instructed the law enforcement agencies to ensure that no such thing happens during submission of nomination papers at the offices of returning officers or assistant returning officers.

When the ruling AL sold nomination forms from November 9 to 12 at its Dhanmondi party office, the area saw gridlock because of the processions brought out by nomination seekers and their supporters. They blocked the roads and also brought out motorbike processions.

Similar was the situation in the Naya Paltan area when the BNP started selling nomination forms on Monday.

Briefing reporters at the EC office in Agargaon on Tuesday night, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam said the gathering in front of the party office by nomination aspirants and activists did not violate the electoral code of conduct.

"This is quite normal. The gathering of activists and supporters with the nomination aspirants in front of their party office is by no means a violation of the electoral code of conduct," he mentioned.