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Your Right to Know

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'NO WINNERS'

Warns Xi on protectionism as US, China cross swords ahead of Apec summit
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Multiple aspirants in all seats

Oikyafront, 20-party to field 3 to 5 contenders in every constituency to avoid risks of rejection during scrutiny of nomination papers

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| BNP parliamentary board sits today to pick candidates | 4,580 aspirants collected nomination forms from the party | Final list of candidates of Oikyafront and 20-party to be unveiled before last date of withdrawal | Grassroots leaders urged not to engage in any confrontation with the law enforcers |
|---|---|---|--|

SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Jatiya Oikyafront and the BNP-led 20-party alliance will initially field multiple candidates all the 300 constituencies to avoid the risk of going to the polls without their contenders in some seats.

They have decided to employ this tactic keeping in mind that the Returning Officers (RO) might cancel some nomination papers during scrutiny on legal or technical grounds.

Sources in the Oikyafront, a combine of the BNP and several other parties, and the 20-party said they would nominate a panel of three to five candidates in each constituency for filing nomination papers.

The alliances will then pick a single candidate for each constituency on or before December 9, the last date for withdrawal of candidacies, and inform the RO of their decision in writing.

Political parties are allowed to do so under section 16 (2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1974.

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Level playing field EC's responsibility

Quader says; countrywide Bijoy Mancha on Dec 16, says Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is for the Election Commission, not for the government, to ensure a level-playing field for the election, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

The matter has gone to the EC's hands after the announcement of the polls schedule, he told reporters at a hotel in the capital.

"The government has no hand in it," the minister for road, transport and bridges said.

He also said that he was the first person to ask who would be the prime minister if the Jatiya Oikyafront won the election. "I have not received an answer yet."

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SEAT-SHARING '14-party allies want 120, AL may offer 15'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League is willing to offer its 14-party allies 15 seats -- the number of constituencies they currently hold -- against their demand for 120, said one of the alliance leaders.

"We have placed our demands before the Awami League. But its high command has hinted at giving its partners the number of seats held by the allies,"

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From left, Selim RF Hussain, managing director of Brac Bank; Syed Almas Kabir, president of BASIS; Shohrab Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Synesis IT Limited; Maliha M Quadri, founder and managing director of Shohoz.com; Syeda Kamrun Ahmed, co-founder of Bagdoom.com; Dr Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; AMA Muhith, finance minister; Md Sabur Khan, founder of Daffodil Family; Geetara Safiya Choudhury, chairperson of Graphic People Limited; Sonia Bashir Kabir, managing director of Microsoft for Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Laos; and Constantinos S Gavriel, general manager of Le Meridien Dhaka at "The Daily Star ICT Awards" at the hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Acclaim for ICT feats

One entrepreneur, 4 local firms get The Daily Star ICT Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should be branded as an emerging ICT destination as opposed to being marketed as a place with the cheapest labour, speakers said at the third The Daily Star ICT Awards ceremony yesterday.

The changes in technology have paved the way for production to quadruple in just a couple of years and people, especially the younger generation, have adopted ICT very fast, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith, speaking as the chief guest at the programme.

This is why the government chose information and communication technology for spearheading the country's development, he told the event at the Le Meridien Dhaka hotel in the capital.

He also thanked The Daily Star for organising the ceremony, where one individual and four local IT firms were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the country's fast-growing ICT industry.



The event was organised in association with Microsoft Bangladesh Ltd, the country office of the world's leading technology company, Brac Bank and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), an ICT-related trade body. Le Meridien was the hospitality partner.

Md Sabur Khan, an iconic ICT entrepreneur of the country who founded the Daffodil Family and has also garnered international acclaim, won the ICT Business Person of the Year award.

Of the winning firms, bagdoom.com, a leading online shop that took digital commerce to every corner of the country, received the Digital Commerce of the Year award.

Graphic People Limited got the ICT Solution Provider of the Year (International Market Focus) award.

The ICT Solution Provider of the Year (Local Market Focus) award went to Synesis IT Limited.

PROFILES OF WINNERS ON B4

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"We are taking the upcoming election as a challenge. Taking the people with us, we will defeat this monstrous regime in the election."

BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR

No more boycott no matter what

Says Dr Kamal at Ainjibi Oikyafront rally, urges all to guard polling stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that the Jatiya Oikyafront would not boycott the upcoming national election, its top leader Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon the alliance men and all others to guard the polling centres so that voters could exercise their franchise.

"I say with folded hands that we will not boycott [the election] at all. We don't want to pay the price anymore like what we did once [in 2014] by boycotting. No matter how many types of irregularities they



indulge in, we will cast votes by going [to polling centers] in thousands," he said.

The eminent jurist was addressing a grand rally, organised by Jatiya Ainjibi Oikyafront, at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). Lawyers from 64 districts joined the programme.

Terming the incumbent government "unconstitutional", Dr Kamal, also president of Gonoforum, said, "It makes me laugh when they [government] talk about

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Reza Kibria looks to run as Oikyafront candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reza Kibria, son of slain former Awami League Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria,

wants to contest the December 30 parliamentary polls under Jatiya Oikyafront from Habiganj-1 constituency.

Reza, an economist by profession, has recently joined Dr Kamal Hossain-led Gono Forum, a component of Oikyafront. He



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UN condemns rights abuses in Myanmar

New report says 669 Rohingya children killed, 39 maimed since August last year

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A key United Nations committee endorsed a resolution on Friday expressing "grave concern" and "strongly condemning" all violations and abuses of human rights against Rohingyas in Myanmar.

It also reiterated "deep distress" at reports of unarmed Rohingyas were still being

subjected to excessive use of force and rights violations by Myanmar's military and security forces, including killings and rapes.

The UN Committee measured urgent calls on Myanmar government to end discrimination and provide a path to citizenship for the Rohingyas.

The latest report of UN said 669 children

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Shakib back for Windies Tests

SPORTS REPORTER

Ending all speculation and controversies about his finger injury, Bangladesh Test captain Shakib Al Hasan is all set to return to action after selectors included him in the 13-member Test squad for the first Test against the West Indies.

The match will be held in Chattogram from November 22.

There was a lot of confusion about the gravity of his injury as he was forced to return home from the UAE midway through the Asia Cup in September.

However, Shakib returned from Australia last month following treatment with a big smile and had then informed that he expected to be back on the field within three months. He added that he wanted to test whether cricketing activities would cause pain to the finger that he had initially injured in January this year.

The controversy had mainly surrounded a possible surgery, but the 31-year-old informed after his return from Australia that there was no possibility of undergoing the knife over the next six to 12 months, adding that the best outcome would be to be able to play without surgery. He also stated that the injured finger would never be a hundred per cent again, but it was



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