


"When France and Germany, which have fought many wars, can live as good neighbours today, why not India and Pakistan."
PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER IMRAN KHAN (PAGE 8)



"The European Parliament will not observe this electoral process and consequently will neither comment on the process nor on the results that will be announced afterwards."
EP ON THE DECEMBER 30 PARLIAMENTARY POLLS (PAGE 16)



"The PEC test has created so much pressure on students that the parents are also at a loss. This is responsible for the expansion of coaching business."
EMINENT EDUCATIONIST RASHEDA K CHOUDHURY (PAGE 4)

Khaleda's polls hope dashed

Latest development at SC means she's ineligible to contest; BNP fields back-up candidates for her 3 seats

SHAKHAWAT LITON and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia cannot contest the upcoming parliamentary election as the Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court ruling barring a person sentenced to more than two years in jail from taking part in elections even if an appeal against the conviction is pending.

Hours after the top court shut the door on her polls bid, Khaleda, who has been in jail since February 8 upon her conviction in a graft case, filed nomination papers to contest from Bogura-6, 7 and Feni-1 constituencies.

On her behalf, BNP men submitted the nomination papers to the offices of the returning officers (ROs) concerned in Bogura and Feni from where she had contested national polls in the past.

Scrutinising the nomination papers on December 2, the ROs can declare her disqualified for the upcoming election in the light of the apex court order.

Amid uncertainty over her polls bid, the BNP yesterday fielded back-up candidates in the three constituencies. In the afternoon, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir filed nomination papers for contesting the polls from Bogura-6 constituency.



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Finance Minister AMA Muhith accompanies his brother AK Abdul Momen, an Awami League nominee, to the Sylhet Returning Officer's office as a crowd of activists and officials follow them. Inset, BNP nominee for Barishal-6 Abul Hossain and his supporters in a procession in the constituency on Tuesday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR/COLLECTED



Dr Kamal won't take part in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain, a key leader of the Jatiya Oikyafront, yesterday said he would not participate in the upcoming parliamentary election, ending all speculations over his joining the polls.

"I am 80. I am working for my country and party now," he told The Daily Star.

The Gonoforum president said election was not the only way to serve the nation and any party. He would take part in making different policies and decisions of his party, he added.

On October 13, the BNP and several other political parties, including the Gonoforum, formally launched the Jatiya Oikyafront for what they said was holding the 11th general election in a free, fair and inclusive manner.

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25 Jamaat men awarded BNP nomination

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP has nominated 25 leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the 20-party alliance, to contest the upcoming parliamentary polls.

It has handed out nomination letters, signed by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, to Jamaat men. The letters attached to their nomination papers were submitted to the offices of returning officers and assistant returning officers, said insiders in both parties.

"We have received 25 nomination letters from the BNP," Matiur Rahman Akand, organising secretary of Jamaat, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Of the 25 Jamaat aspirants, Shamim Sayeede, second son of convicted war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayeede, submitted nomination papers for Pirojpur-1.

On October 29, the Election Commission scrapped the registration of Jamaat in line with a High Court verdict that declared Jamaat's registration illegal.

The EC's move made it clear that the party would not be able to contest the upcoming national election.

Therefore, Jamaat men were initially preparing to run as independents. If they participate in the polls as independents, they may not get a common symbol, said party sources.

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FILING NOMINATION PAPERS Polls code flouted, no action taken

Processions in different districts, Dhaka was a welcome exception

STAR REPORT

Defying the electoral code of conduct, many Awami League and BNP leaders yesterday submitted nomination papers in processions across the country.

The leaders, including ministers and incumbents, were seen thronging the office of the returning officers with a huge number of supporters and party men. Some of them even used government privileges while submitting the documents.

The Election Commission deployed 691 executive magistrates across the country to check polls code violation but there was no report of action against anyone.

EC Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said the aspirants submitted nomination papers amid fanfare with no untoward incident. "We have not got any news of violation of electoral code of conduct."

Yesterday was the last day for submitting nominations. Now, the returning officers would scrutinise the documents on December 2.

For this election, 3,056 nomination papers were filed, the second highest since restoration of democracy in 1991. In 1991, at least 3,855 people had filed nominations; in June 1996 polls, 3,093; in 2001 election, 2,563; in 2008 polls, 2,460; and in 2014 election 1,107.

Failing to strike a deal over seat-sharing with allies, the two major political parties allowed their partners to file as many nominations as they wanted, which resulted in the large number of nominations filed.

This time at least 39 nomination papers were filed online.

Dhaka-17 saw highest 27 aspirants and Magura-2 the lowest, four.

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NOMINATION PAPERS SUBMITTED		
TOTAL	HIGHEST	LOWEST
3,095 Aspirants	27 in Dhaka-17	4 in Magura-2

1 killed, 40 hurt in violence over party tickets

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and more than 40 others were injured in violence over nomination in several districts yesterday.

Besides, aggrieved supporters of some leaders who were not nominated by their parties staged demonstrations in different districts. Similar incidents had taken place in other areas the previous two days.

In Natore, a Jubo League leader was hacked to death in Gopalpur of Lalpur upazila yesterday. The victim, Jaharul Islam, 38, was the organising secretary of Lalpur Jubo League.

There had been a longstanding rivalry between Jaharul and another Jubo League leader Mostaq Hossain over establishing dominance in the area. Jaharul was a supporter of Shahidul Islam Bakul, the recently nominated Awami League MP candidate for Natore-1, while Mostaq is a follower of incumbent lawmaker Abul Kalam, local AL men said.

Around 11:00am, some attackers, led by Mostaq, swooped on Jaharul with sharp weapons near North Bengal Sugar Mills, leaving him seriously injured, they said, quoting witnesses.

Jaharul was first taken to a local health complex and then to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died, said police.

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Who is BB fooling?

Central bank fails in a big way as regulator yet shows no sign of embarrassment in patting itself

INAM AHMED

Two things come easy in Bangladesh -- getting big bank loans and blissfully failing to repay. The money in the vaults seems to be the easiest prey today.

In the last ten years, scam after scam in the banks has rocked our financial sector, each and every scam unique and more spectacular than the previous ones. The banks looked like sandcastles suddenly being washed away by a bevy of businessmen.

There were outcries and warnings from think-tanks to individuals about the state of affairs happening in the banks. Media were awash with the stories hardly to any effect.

When such was the state of the banking sector, a recent Bangladesh Bank report highlighting the central bank's success in the last ten years that completely ignored the lack of governance in the financial world came as a shock for two reasons -- either the regulator does not recognise the weakness and malaise plaguing the banks or that it has taken it for granted that such things are commonplace and so deserve no special mention. In other words, the Bangladesh Bank has dusts off its hands.


But from the regulator, a more honest assessment of the situation is expected if the flaws are to be corrected and malaise treated. Sadly, the report seems to be more written with political expediency rather than with real urgency and professionalism.

How the central bank conducts its core business today will explain why the report looks so frail.

Hallmark is truly a hallmark in the banking scam of the last ten years.

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We last saw our father, Annisul Huq on the 30th of November, 2017.



While we miss his physical presence, we feel the strength of his spirit in our lives. We invite you, on behalf of our mother, to remember and pray for him on Friday, the 30th of November 2018 after Asr prayers at Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Mosque)

Kindest Regards,
Navid,
Wamiq
&
Tanisha

4 killed as train rams bus in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Four people, including a child, were killed and five others were injured when a train collided with a passenger bus in Feni yesterday evening.

The accident took place at the rail gate adjacent to Sharshadi Bazar in Feni Sadar upazila on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.


Three of the dead were identified as Abul Bashar, 55, Md Dolon, 32, and Mansur Ahmed, 26, while the child remained unidentified.

Four of the injured were identified as Masum, 25, Md Dulal, 40, Bus driver

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إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ
Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un

We belong to God and to Him we shall return



Mrs. Habeeba Selim (Lopa), daughter of Late Khan Bahadur Hafizuddin Ahmed, and Late Mrs. Yasefun Nessa, passed away peacefully on the morning of Monday, November 26, 2018. Her Namaz e Janaza was performed at Azad Mosque in Gulshan, and she was laid to rest at the family enclosure in Azimpur on the same day.

Habeeba Selim, known to many as their beloved Lopa apa, was born in Shillong, Meghalaya, India on February 28, 1945. She was the youngest of 13 siblings and was always the apple of everyone's eyes. She went to St Mary's in Shillong, and eventually came to Bangladesh for higher studies, where she stood First Class First in her MA General History, from the Department of History, University of Dhaka, in 1968. She spent most of her life teaching history and art to children, at Holy Cross college, Department of History at Dhaka University, and finally at Sunbeams School where she was for 26 years. She was a Rotarian (PHF) and supported numerous charities, such as the Safe Home for Orphan Girls, Masterbari, Gazipur (Run by Mrs. Salma Choudhury), Association for Blind Children (donor and life member), Ahsanullah Cancer Center and General Hospital (donor), Islamia Eye Hospital (donor), Azimpur Matrimongol Kendro (donor), Anjuman - e - Mofidul Islam (donor), State College of Health Sciences - Nursing department (donor) and CRP (donor).

She was also an artist and taught many how to paint. She was everyone's favourite history teacher, Lopa Miss. She was always beautiful and elegant, but most of all, she was a good person - kind, generous to a fault, patient, and a champion to others when times were tough. She is survived by her husband Mr. Md. Selim, son Mr. Md. Rezwan Selim, daughter Dr. Shahpar Selim, grand daughters, Raeesa Selim and Saana Selim, siblings, and many loving relatives, friends, and students. Her legacy of grace and kindness lives in us all.

Her Doa Mahfil will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2018, badh asr at Azad Mosque, Gulshan. Those who knew her are requested to join us for prayers.