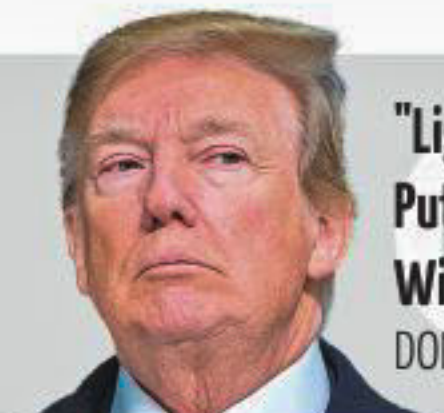




"Awami League won't flee the country, whether it remains in power or not ... we'll be active in politics for the people of the country."  
AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER (PAGE 3)



"Whatever situation arises, we have to cast our votes. We will have to give a befitting reply through ballots."  
BNP STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER MOUDUD AHMED (PAGE 3)



"Lightly looked at doing a building somewhere in Russia. Put up zero money, zero guarantees and didn't do the project. Witch Hunt!"  
DONALD TRUMP ABOUT NEW ALLEGATIONS ABOUT HIS RUSSIA TIES (PAGE 12)

## AL ELECTION MANIFESTO

# Focus on dev, future plans

Party will present 'forward-looking' vision as well as last 10 years' achievements in various sectors

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With a "forward-looking" vision focusing mainly on the young generation, the ruling Awami League is likely to unveil its election manifesto either on December 12 or 13.

AL President Sheikh Hasina will roll out the manifesto at a press conference, a senior leader of the party told The Daily Star yesterday seeking anonymity.

The party manifesto will be "forward-looking" incorporating the main ideas of the Perspective Plan (2021-2041) and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, the senior leader pointed out.

A big portion of the manifesto will include the achievements of the AL and the party-led government in the last 10 years, said the senior leader involved in drafting the manifesto.

"In the 2008 election, we said what we would do if we were voted to power. This time, we are also focusing on what we did in the last 10 years ...."

The leader further said the sub-committee tasked with drafting the manifesto handed over the draft to the party chief four days ago.

It is one of the 14 sub-committees of the AL election coordination committee.

"We are waiting for the party chief's feedback ... The manifesto contains information on issues, including development activities, Sustainable Development Goals and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100," Abdur Razzaque, convener of the sub-committee on election manifesto, told The Daily Star.

The manifesto will cover around 30 topics, including foreign policy, women and children affairs, gender equality, power and energy, growth

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With the arrival of winter, foodies crave for delicious *pithas*, made at home or sold by roadside stalls. Shah Alam's Ananada Pithaghar in the capital's Kamrangirchar offers various types of *pithas* that one can enjoy with mouth-watering spicy *bhertas*. He has nearly 120 *bharta* items on the menu.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Playing field far from level

### Says House of Commons report on polls environment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Though many observers expected the December 30 election to be credible, the "playing field" remains far from being level, says a report of the UK House of Commons.

Harassment of political opponents remains intense while the ruling Awami League enjoys the advantages of incumbency, said the report released on Thursday.

According to the latest briefing of the House on Bangladesh, the degree of trust over the "rules of the game" remains low.

"There are fears that this could foment violence and instability, whether during the election campaign or once the results have been announced," said report known

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## AL, BNP IN RACE

# Obstacles they've to overcome

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and WASIM BIN HABIB

Settling the discord over seat-sharing with alliance partners and keeping leaders and activists united to work for the party nominees are the major challenges the ruling Awami League is faced with ahead of the parliamentary polls.

Things are trickier for the BNP. Apart from appeasing the combine partners with seats, staying in the race defying the odds would be its main challenge.

Despite a series of meetings with allies, the AL could not resolve the seat-sharing issue. The party had distributed nomination letters among 281 leaders for 264 constituencies.

But what put it in more trouble is the dissidents. The high command on several occasions warned the party men of expulsion for life if anyone files nominations going against its decision.

But a number of aspirants have apparently ignored the warning.

The Election Commission data shows at least 498 aspirants submitted nomination papers as independent candidates.

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## Govt to appeal against HC order on Jashore BNP aspirant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will move a petition before the Supreme Court today seeking stay on a High Court order that halted the sentence of BNP's Jashore-2 nominee Sabira Sultana and cleared the way for her to contest the election.

The petition will be moved before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC in the morning, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star.

There is no provision in

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# Cancer treatment facilities scanty

State-run cancer hospital overburdened, has only six radiotherapy machines; only 145 cancer specialists in 9 govt and 11 pvt hospitals to treat 15 lakh patients

MD FOISAL AHMED

Motaleb Hossain turned up at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) in the capital in October last year after he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

His cancer was in stage two, but with only six radiation machines, the hospital could not provide him with immediate radiotherapy as a large number of patients were already in queue.

Doctors advised him to return to the country's lone specialised cancer hospital after two months.

Motaleb, 56, a businessman from

Jhalakathi, returned to the NICRH and got himself admitted on January 12. He was scheduled to get the first radiotherapy on January 14, but died the day before, according to hospital documents obtained from his family.

His experience with the NICRH is not an isolated case.

About 650 patients visit the state-run hospital every day but a maximum of 550 patients get treatment immediately, said Dr Md Abdullah Al Noman of the radiation oncology department.

"A day's wait can turn deadly as cancer

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Debutant Shadman Islam plays an elegant drive during his knock of 76 against the West Indies on the opening day of Bangladesh's second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The Tigers were 259 for five at stumps.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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## Tigers stay calm to edge first day

MAZHAR UDDIN

Bangladesh would feel that they could have been in a better position after the first day of the second and series-deciding Test against the West Indies, but a calm approach helped the hosts regain the momentum and post 259 for five at stumps at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The eighth Bangladesh cricketer to make his debut in Tests this year, opener Shadman Islam led the way by facing the most deliveries by a Bangladesh batsman in his debut innings. The left-hander, who faced 199 balls while scoring 76, surpassed Nazimuddin's 186-ball 78 against Pakistan.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan remained not out on 55 along with Mahmudullah Riyad on 31 to promise

# Rohingyas are genocide victims

Says human rights law group that helped US probe



REUTERS, Washington

A human rights law group contracted by the State Department to interview refugees as part of an investigation into atrocities against Rohingyas in Myanmar has found that there is a reasonable basis to conclude that genocide was committed - even though the US government stopped short of saying so.

A report due to be released on Monday by the Washington-based Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG) will also say there was a reasonable basis to conclude that the Myanmar military committed crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as genocide.

A US State Department report released in September, which relied on PILPG research, found that Myanmar's military waged a "well-planned and coordinated" campaign of mass killings, gang rapes and other atrocities against the Rohingya.

But it stopped short of describing the crackdown as genocide or crimes against humanity, an issue that US officials said was the subject of fierce internal debate that delayed the report's rollout for nearly a month.

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