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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

MACRON BOWS
Amid violent nationwide protests, French president to suspend fuel tax increases
PAGE 8



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"If you support any [political] party you should express it. There are many who support [certain parties] but can't talk about it."
BANGLADESH ODI CAPTAIN MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA (PAGE 15)

"He [Ershad] is 100 percent well. However, he has been hospitalised this morning [yesterday morning] because he feels lonely in his house."
JP SECRETARY GENERAL MASHIUR RAHMAN RANGA (PAGE 2)

"I think government's responsibility is to protect people. That's why we have armies to avoid an attack. Well here is the biggest attack."
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER ON CLIMATE CHANGE (PAGE 8)



Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College demonstrate at its gate yesterday morning calling for resignation of their acting principal and justice for Aritry Adhikary, a ninth grader who died by suicide on Monday after her parents were allegedly insulted by some teachers of the school. The faces of the students have been blurred to protect their identities.

FIELDING MULTIPLE CANDIDATES BNP's strategy works well

Party's challenge now staying in race till polling day

SHAKHAWAT LITON, MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The BNP's strategy of fielding multiple candidates in almost every constituency has worked effectively. Otherwise, the party would not have any candidates in a large number of seats, say senior party leaders.

The party nominated 696 aspirants in 295 constituencies for the parliamentary polls. It had a single candidate each in only 36 seats, while more than one in the rest.

BNP policymakers feared many nomination papers could be rejected during the scrutiny by returning officers on various grounds.

The apprehension came true as the party saw as many as 141 nomination papers rejected and it does not have any candidate in six seats -- Bogura-7, Jamalpur-4, Rangpur-5, Manikganj- 2, Dhaka-1 and Shariatpur-1.

The party now has a single candidate each in 88 seats after at least one nomination paper in almost each of the seats was rejected.

It has two candidates in each of another 151 constituencies and three to four in each of 48 seats.

One out of the two nomination papers each in 39 constituencies was

Uphill task awaits EC

Has to settle several hundred appeals against rejection of nominations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has received a record number of appeals by parliamentary aspirants whose nomination papers were rejected by returning officers.

A total of 318 appeals have been filed since Monday. The number is set to increase today, the deadline for submitting the petitions.

Until now, the highest number of appeals was filed in 2008 when 300 of 565 rejected aspirants appealed, EC officials said.

This time, the ROs rejected 786 nomination papers on December 2.

An EC statement said conviction in cases, defaulting on loans and not paying utility service bills were among the reasons why the candidacies were cancelled.

On Monday, the first day of the three-day window for filing appeals, 84 aspirants appealed while the rest were filed yesterday.

ENRAGED SCHOOL'S DISCIPLINING STUDENTS Couldn't care less

AL-AMIN

The tragic death of a ninth-grade student of the city's Viqarunnisa Noon School & College on Monday appalled and enraged all and sundry.

The tragedy, according to many students and parents of the school, was a case of excesses on the part of the school authority when handling a case of alleged cheating in the annual tests by the 15-year-old girl, who would go on to hang herself in her house after watching her parents being subjected to severe admonishment by the power that be.

The offense of the girl, a student of science group, was that she broke the rules by carrying a cell phone in the exam hall. She was reportedly copying from images of her text book pages which were stored in the cell phone while sitting for the Bangladesh and Global Study exam on Sunday when she was caught and then expelled.

Everything appeared to be guided by the book till that point.

But when she came to school with her parents the next morning with a plea for mercy made to the morning shift-in-charge and then to the principal of the school, it was rejected. Not only that, the request to sit on Monday's examination was also rejected by the principal, who even threatened (if not a veil threat) to give her a TC.

NOMINEE AFFIDAVITS

Anisul, wife see their wealth double in 5yrs

ARUN BIKASH DEY and MOSTAFA YUSUF, Ctg

The combined wealth of environment, forest and climate change Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and his wife has more than doubled since the last election, driven mainly by bank deposits.

Their net wealth stands at Tk 43.13 crore in 2018, up from Tk 18.54 crore five years ago, according to the affidavits submitted by Anisul to the Election Commission (EC) before the 10th and the upcoming 11th parliamentary elections.

A fourth of Tk 10.75 crore of their total wealth is deposited in banks and other

Dream shattered

Reckless driving in city takes life of newly married doctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just five months ago, 28-year-old eye doctor Akhter Jahan Rumpa married dental surgeon Kaji Mohsin Faruq. Their wedding reception was scheduled for next month after which she was supposed to formally move into her in-law's house.

Things were going according to plan.

But everything changed the moment a speeding bus rammed the CNG-run auto-rickshaw Rumpa was in, and brought her life to an abrupt and tragic end. The accident took place in the early hours of yesterday at the capital's Bijoy Sarani.

Rumpa, an optometrist of the pediatric unit in VARD Eye Hospital of Sylhet, came to the capital for an interview at Bangladesh Eye Hospital in Dhanmondi. She reached the Mohakhali bus stand around 4:30am from Sylhet.

Her husband, Mohsin, has private chambers in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram. He, too, was coming to Dhaka from Chattogram to meet his wife.



Rumpa

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