

# Efforts on to interfere in holding fair polls

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikyafront leader Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged all, including the media, to stay alert about any move that could hamper an impartial and credible election.

The Oikyafront will unveil its polls manifesto by Saturday, he said while talking to reporters after inaugurating Oikyafront's office in the capital's Bijoynagar.

"Efforts are on to interfere in holding an impartial and independent election, if you [media and people] remain alert and play an active role, we'll be able to tackle it in many ways."

The government is now in "uncertainty" about the election as the Oikyafront decided to participate in the polls, said Kamal, who did not elaborate further.

"They [government] thought they would be in power for five more years through an ordinary election as we're not prepared for it. When we declared that we would take part in the election, we saw uncertainty was created among them," said Kamal, also president of Gonoforum.

Kamal, one of the architects of the country's constitution, said, "People, who are the country's owner, have no control over it at present. That's why unelected people became lawmakers. We've long been waiting to get rid of it and an opportunity has come up to restore people's ownership through the election."

The upcoming national election is very important "for the restoration of people's ownership of the country", he said. "People must be vigilant to ensure a fair election."

People want this election and they are very eager to cast their votes, the noted jurist said. "... journalists can play a watchdog role in this regard."

He called upon journalists to let people know about violations of electoral law and "unlawful and biased role" of the government officials and law enforcers.

"I think you [journalists] can guard people's voting rights. If you remain vigilant, we'll be able to realise people's demand for a free, fair and neutral election thwarting the government's all evil efforts," Kamal opined.

## COMMENTS ON ROHINGYA REPATRIATION Bangladesh demands Myanmar apologise

Says religious affairs minister's remarks derogatory and provocative

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday protested the "derogatory and provocative" remarks of Myanmar Religious Affairs Minister Thura Aung Ko on Rohingya refugees and asked the country to apologise.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Myanmar ambassador in Dhaka Lwin Oo to hand him a protest note.

The foreign ministry said the remarks by the Myanmar minister would negatively impact Rohingya repatriation and bilateral relationship.

On Tuesday, Thura referred to the Rohingyas as Bengalis and said Bangladesh was "not letting them return".

He added that Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh were being

"brainwashed" into "marching towards Myanmar".

The foreign ministry of Bangladesh said in Myanmar there was an "anti-Bangladesh, anti-Rohingya and anti-Muslim policy, which many considered as apartheid."

The letter adds, "It is a blatant lie that Bangladesh is obstructing the repatriation process of Rohingyas. Due to Myanmar's unabated anti-Rohingya policy, no member of the community agreed to go back on November 15."

The Myanmar envoy in Bangladesh should convey the message that no such provocative comment is made from Myanmar's side in the future, Bangladeshi counterpart said.

Asked, the Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh said "a delegation will arrive here and discuss the details".

## Tk 2.67cr fortune

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2008. It includes nonfarm land worth Tk 1.95 crore.

His moveable properties have also seen an astronomical rise, by nearly 28 times, to Tk 1.12 crore in 2018 from a decade ago, according to the affidavits.

He has a personal loan of Tk 41 lakh, which he took from a person named Md Yunus.

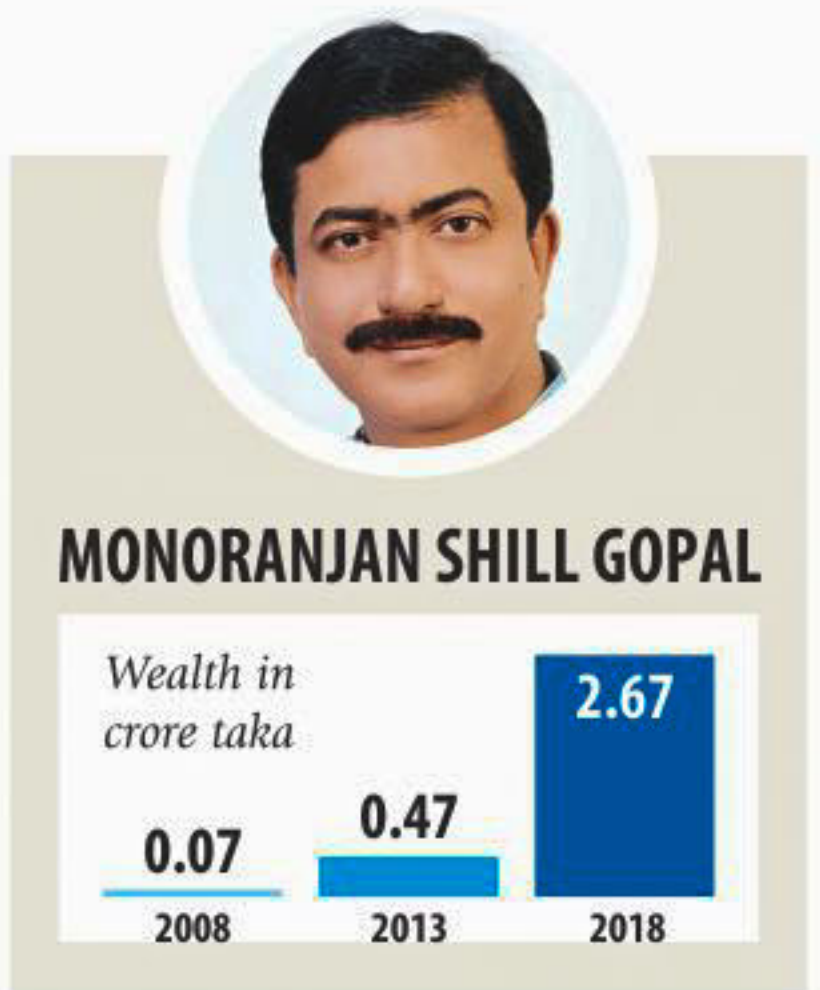
Also interestingly, the ruling Awami League MP did not show any land in his name in the wealth statement in 2013. His latest affidavit shows he has some 10 acres of nonfarm land worth Tk 82.8 lakh.

Though he does not have any farmland, he earned Tk 9 lakh from agriculture in 2018, a fourth of his current total annual income of Tk 33.32 lakh, according to his affidavit.

The rest of his income -- Tk 24,32,000 -- came from his salary and other allowance as lawmaker.

Ten years ago, his annual income was just Tk 1.6 lakh.

Over the years, the lawmaker has changed his profession too. In 2008, he identified himself as a contractor



and an editor of a local daily. His affidavit submitted before the 2014 election shows he was no longer a contractor, but only the editor of the daily.

Now, he identifies himself as the editor of local daily Patralap and a businessman.

The Gopals have 20 tolas of gold whose market value has been shown to be Tk 60,000 only.

## Medical milestone

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But there are far more women in need of transplants than there are potential live donors, so doctors wanted to find out if the procedure could work using the uterus of a woman who had died.

Ten attempts were made -- in the United States, the Czech Republic, and Turkey -- before the success reported yesterday.

"Our results provide a proof-of-concept for a new option for women with uterine infertility," said Dani Ejzenberg, a doctor at the teaching hospital of the University of Sao Paulo.

He described the procedure as a "medical milestone".

The 32-year-old recipient was born without a uterus as a result of a rare syndrome. Four months before the transplant, she had in-vitro fertilisation resulting in eight fertilised eggs, which were preserved through freezing.

The donor was a 45-year-old woman who died from a stroke. Her uterus was removed and transplanted in surgery that lasted more than ten hours.

donor's uterus with the veins, arteries, ligaments, and vaginal canal of the recipient.

To prevent her body from rejecting the new organ, the woman was given five different drugs, along with antimicrobials, anti-blood clotting treatments, and aspirin.

After five months, the uterus showed no sign of rejection, ultrasound scans were normal, and the woman was menstruating regularly.

The fertilised eggs were implanted after seven months. Ten days later, doctors delivered the good news: she was pregnant.

After nearly 36 weeks a baby girl weighing 2.5 kilograms (about six pounds) was delivered via caesarean section.

Mother and baby left the hospital three days later.

At age seven months and 12 days -- when the manuscript reporting the findings was submitted for publication -- the baby was breastfeeding and weighed 7.2 kilograms.



Priya wails after learning about her toddler's death in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday. Inset, an officer holds her elder son after a six-hour standoff when the father of the children allegedly held him hostage.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Man held after mysterious death of son

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It took a local imam to convince him to come out who offered to conduct the Namaj-e-Janaza of Kajol's dead son Shafayet.

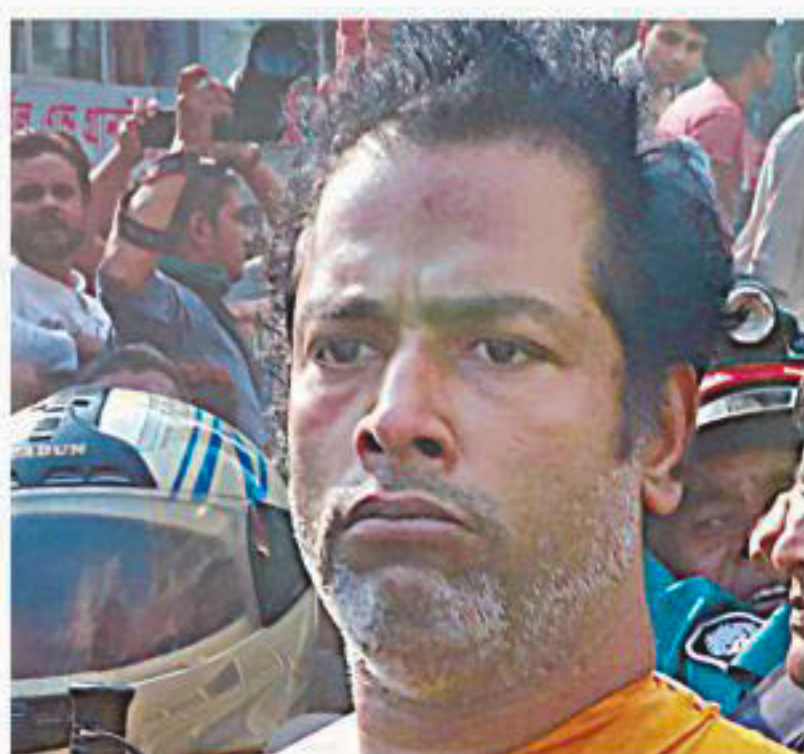
As soon as Kajol stepped out, police immediately took him in custody and rescued Surayet with the help of the fire service officials. They then sent Shafayet's body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

During questioning, Kajol, 38, at times denied killing his son, claiming he was electrocuted to death but then changed the statement to say he himself killed the child, Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said.

No injury marks were found on the body, he said, adding that an autopsy would determine the cause of death.

Kajol had held his son hostage to escape arrest, said OC Hasan.

The events unfolded early yesterday, when Kajol informed his mother about the death of his son over phone. Later, he went to a local madrasa and took four students and a khadem to his house so they could offer prayers for the departed, family



Nuruzzaman Kajol

members and police said.

He later went to Azimpur and acquired a grave beside his father's one. Afterwards, he returned to the locality and made the announcement of his son's death over a local mosque's loudspeaker and asked all to attend his son's Namaj-e-Janaza at 1:00pm.

Soon family members, including Kajol's mother and wife, rushed to the house followed by police. As soon as Kajol saw them all, he got angry and chased them with a machete, said his mother Amena Begum, who had visited her grand-

children just three days ago.

Afterwards, police officers tried to get Kajol to surrender but he responded with abusive words and issued threats to kill Surayet, OC Hasan said, adding they waited for the Imam to come after Zuhr prayers.

Azharul Islam, the imam, told The Daily Star that Kajol had called him before Zuhr and asked him to bring two of his cousins to Kajol's house for the janaza.

"When police and I reached his house around 1:45pm, Kajol initially refused to come out after seeing the law enforcers but I convinced him by saying that the police were there for his own security," Azharul added.

Police apprehended Kajol as soon as he came out.

Most of the furniture and other belongings in the house were found destroyed, police said.

Family members and neighbours said Kajol had driven away his wife Priya and other relatives from their two-storey house around three months ago. Since then, Kajol had been living there with his two sons. He would stay inside most of the time

and never allow anyone else into his residence. At most, he would come out to ask locals to get him meals from nearby restaurants.

"My other brothers, who also own the property on the five kathas of land [where the house is on], were forced to leave the house as Kajol used to torture them, vandalise their belongings and even attack them with machetes," Rokeya Begum Keya, Kajol's step-sister, told The Daily Star.

There was a dispute among the brothers over the land, a family member said.

Rokeya also said Kajol used to love his sons very much, although he would not allow them to go with their mother.

Police had arrested Kajol a couple of months ago after one of his brothers filed an assault case against him with Shahbagh Police Station. He came out of jail on bail a month later.

His mother Amena said Kajol got addicted to drugs 10 to 12 years ago and his condition deteriorated after he started abusing yaba. His business also suffered because of this and he incurred a loss of Tk 50 lakh.

## 150 finalised

FROM PAGE 1

"We want to know the fate of their appeals. Those who win the appeals will get the party ticket to contest the election," a senior BNP leader told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

The nomination papers of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and former ministers Morshed Khan, barrister Aminul Huq, Mir Nasiruddin, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, and Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dula, and some ex-lawmakers were rejected.

From today, the BNP will be getting results of the appeals by its leaders as the EC starts disposing those this morning.

The party will send a high-profile team comprising senior leaders to the EC hearing, former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, a member of the BNP standing committee, told this newspaper.

In the last three days, the party formed at least 12 sub-committees to coordinate election-related activities. They will coordinate appointments and training of polling agents, and also maintain regular contact with the EC, the media, international observers and embassies in Dhaka.

One of the sub-committees is now chalking out a plan to gear up publicity across the country when the formal electioneering begins on December 10.

Another sub-committee will run campaigns for the party on the social media and counter criticism.

Besides, the formation of 40,000 committees for the polling stations across the country is almost complete.

Yesterday, the BNP wrote to the EC, asking it to allocate the party's electoral symbol to candidates from 10 more registered parties that are in the 20-

party alliance and the Jatiya Oikyafront.

Earlier, in a letter to the EC, the BNP had informed that eight political parties of its two alliances would use its electoral symbol.

The Oikyafront, the alliance comprising the BNP and several other opposition parties, has come up with the idea of forming a liaison committee for each polling station.

The committees will include local leaders of the alliance components.

Upon allocation of the electoral symbol on December 10, the Oikyafront will kick off formal electioneering on December 11 or 12 from Sylhet by offering prayers at the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) and Hazrat Shah Paran (R).

The Oikyafront may roll out its electoral manifesto in the middle of this month. The BNP may also come up with a separate manifesto at the same time.

### SEAT-SHARING

A number of senior BNP leaders held hectic meetings in the last couple of days to settle the issue of seat-sharing between the BNP and its partners in the alliances.

A senior BNP leader, who is negotiating with the partners to finalise the seat-sharing, told this newspaper yesterday that the party agreed in principle to leave 50 seats for leaders of the 20-party alliance and the Oikyafront.

The list of candidates in the 300 constituencies will be formally announced on December 8 when the EC will complete disposal of the appeals against rejection of nomination papers, according to BNP sources.

## Leave coal in the ground

Campaigners call on groups representing big energy at UN climate summit

AFP, Katowice

Campaign groups representing citizens from across the world demanded Tuesday that big energy leaves coal in the ground as COP24 host Poland pushed for protections allowing it to continue burning fossil fuel.

With nations locked in UN climate talks aimed at heading off runaway global warming, many parts of the world are already dealing with the storms, floods, fires and droughts.

Man-made emissions have increased annually since the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord was struck and with political progress slowing, people who will bear the biggest burden issued their clearest plea to date: end fossil fuels now.

"The urgency of the climate crisis is very real on the ground because our people are suffering the different impacts of extreme weather," said Lidy Nacpil, co-coordinator of the Asia Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development.

"Crops will be destroyed not just by flooding and rain but also by droughts. Yet this urgency is not reflected in the actions of governments," she told AFP.

The People's Demands initiative has been signed by nearly 300,000 people from over 120 nations.

It calls on richer states -- who are responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions -- to honour their promises to help fund at-risk countries to adapt to climate change, and developed

economies to be fully green by 2030.

They also want a ban on fracking and an immediate, worldwide moratorium on new fossil fuel exploration and extraction.

The UN's independent panel of climate experts in October issued its starkest findings yet: emissions from fossil fuels must be slashed by half within 12 years in order to hit the Paris goals of limited temperature rises.

But most Western economies remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

Poland, which gets roughly 80 percent of its electricity from coal, this week called for nations to weave measures into the UN climate framework that critics fear would allow it to keep polluting for decades.

President Andrzej Duda used his address at the COP opening Monday to say Poland's dependence on coal "does not clash with climate protection and progress achieved in this vein".

Duda reinforced his message on Tuesday with a speech to miners in the southern town of Brzeszcze, where he said he would not allow "anyone to murder Polish mining".

He said while Poland was hosting the climate summit "we're also there to speak the truth without taking into account political correctness, which is often driven by foreign interests and not Polish ones".

Poland and other fossil-fuel reliant economies say they need a gradual and

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## Biman gets another Dreamliner

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By Boeing authorities in Seattle on November 29.

The 271-seater Dreamliner, which Hasina christened "Hangsabalaka", is the 15th aircraft of the national flag carrier. It reached Dhaka on December 1 around 11:40pm, after an uninterrupted 15 hour-long flight from the Boeing factory in Seattle, the USA.

The first Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner "Akash Beena" arrived in Dhaka on August 19.

Hangsabalaka will make its first commercial flight to London on December 10, Biman General Manager (Public Relations) Shakil Meraj said.

The two Dreamliners are scheduled to operate six flights on the Dhaka-London route, four on the Dhaka-

Dammam route and three on the Dhaka-Bangkok route within a week from December 10, Meraj said.

The Boeing 787-8 has been designed to be 20 percent more fuel efficient than the Boeing 767 it replaces.

The aircraft has the capacity to fly nonstop for 16 hours, with an average speed of 650 miles per hour.

It is able to fly 43,000 feet above

ground and will provide WiFi service to passengers.

In 2008, Biman Bangladesh Airlines signed a \$2.1 billion agreement with Boeing to purchase 10 new aircrafts. Of these, Boeing has already delivered four 777-300ERs, two 737-800s and two Dreamliners.

Two more Dreamliners would be added to Biman's fleet by next September, Biman officials said.