

"It is not possible to run [the banking sector] unless a massive reform is brought about."
PLANNING MINISTER AHM MUSTAFA KAMAL ABOUT THE TROUBLED SECTOR (PAGE 16)

"The Digital Security Act has really become a weapon not only against freedom of expression but also anti-corruption movement."
TIB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR IFTEKHARUZZAMAN (PAGE 3)

"Sometimes, we go the wrong way, we turn around but only if necessary. We are not perfect people."
MAHATHIR ON CRITICISMS ABOUT HIS GOVT POLICIES (PAGE 8)

JP refuses to quit in 145 seats

Ershad-led party aggrieved as AL finally gives it only 29 seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved at getting only 29 seats from the ruling Awami League, the Jatiya Party has decided to field its candidates in 145 other constituencies.

Of the 145, at least 100 constituencies will see the AL face its ally JP alongside the BNP-led opposition alliances.

The AL has finalised candidates in 258 out of the 300 constituencies and left 42 seats for its partners in the grand alliance comprised of JP and 14 other parties.

JP leaders said they got very disappointed as the AL left only 29 seats although they bargained for over 40 throughout the last week.

Besides, two of the 29 seats will "remain open" since the grand alliance has nominated AL and Workers Party candidates in those constituencies.

So the JP has actually been given 27 seats as it will have the AL as its challenger in Kurigram-1 and Workers Party in Barishal-3, added the leaders.

However, the party in the press release sent to different media outlets mentioned that it got 29 seats to contest the parliamentary polls.

The AL did not agree to leave Kurigram-1 for the JP and tried to make the Workers Party happy by giving it Barishal-3, sources in the ruling party said.

JP and Workers Party have incumbent lawmakers in Kurigram-1 and Barishal-3 respectively.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Tamim Iqbal made a stunning return to the game in Bangladesh's first ODI against West Indies, which the hosts won by five wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. However, Tamim's glory came not from the bat but from a fielding effort as he darted across 20 yards to take a catch with a full-length dive inches off the turf.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Skilful Tigers continue dominance

SAKEB SUBHAN

Bangladesh's mode of attack switched from spin in the Tests to pace in yesterday's first ODI, but there was no change in the outcome as the hosts outclassed West Indies by five wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The Tigers' better awareness and skill shone through first in restricting the visitors to a sub-par 195 for nine on a slow wicket. West Indies batsman Roston Chase admitted after the match that the team -- who combined to play 171 dot balls -- failed to adjust to the wicket and realise that the pacers were more difficult to score off in these conditions.

Bangladesh's greater awareness came to the fore again when the chase was looking shaky on 89 for three and Shakib Al Hasan

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

AL-LED ALLIANCE 300 SEATS

AL	258
JP	29
Workers Party	5
JSD [Inu], BDB	3 each
Tarikat, JP (Manju)	2 each
BJSD [Ambia]	1

*TWO CANDIDATES IN KURIGRAM-1, 4 AND BARISHAL-3

FINAL SEAT-SHARING BNP keeps 238, allies get 60

Oli and an independent will not run on 'sheaf of paddy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday announced the final list of 298 candidates, including 60 for its allies in the 20-party and the Jatiya Oikyafront.

Two other seats -- Chottogram-14 and Cox's Bazar-2 -- have been kept for Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed and Jamaat leader Hamidur Rahman Azad.

Oli will contest the December 30 polls with his party symbol "umbrella" while Azad as an independent candidate. All the 298 others will use BNP's electoral symbol -- "sheaf of paddy".

There are no rebel candidates from the BNP and its allies.

Of the 238 BNP nominees, around 100 are first-time candidates while 16 are women and five from religious and ethnic minorities.

Meanwhile, the party has also finalised three backup candidates for the seats its Chairperson Khaleda Zia sought to run from.

Of them, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir will run from Bogura-6, Morshed Milton from Bogura-7 and Rafiqul Islam from Feni-1.

It comes a day after the Election Commission rejected all three appeals by Khaleda against the cancellation of her nomination papers by the returning officers on grounds of her conviction in two corruption cases.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BNP-LED ALLIANCES 300 SEATS

BNP	238
Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami	22
Gonoforum	7
Nagorik Oikya, JSD [Rob], LDP	5 each
Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam, KSJL	4 each
JP [Zafar], Khelafat Majlish	2 each
BJP, Kalyan Party, NPP, Labour Party	1 each

OLI TO USE OWN PARTY SYMBOL; ONE JAMAAT CANDIDATE TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT.

EC'S REJECTION OF APPEALS Khaleda files 3 writ petitions

HC asks EC to accept nomination papers of 11 other candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed three writ petitions with the High Court, challenging the legality of the Election Commission's rejection of the appeals against cancellation of her all three nomination papers.

Khaleda filed the petitions through her lawyers, seeking HC directives on the EC to accept the nomination papers so that she can run from Bogura-6, 7 and Feni-1 constituencies.

The HC will hold hearing on the petitions today, Zainul Abedin, a lawyer for the BNP chief, told The Daily Star.

Citing from the petitions, he said the EC rejected Khaleda's appeals on the grounds of violating the electoral code of conduct.

But the question of Khaleda's violating the code does not arise as she has been in jail since February, the counsel pointed out.

Replying to a question, Zainul said the EC in its orders has not mentioned Khaleda's conviction as a reason for rejecting her appeals with it.

Another lawyer for the BNP chief, Kayser Kamal, told this correspondent that the EC illegally scrapped her appeals.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

For the honest, polls too costly to contest

Says Debapriya at CPD event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The exorbitant cost of running for parliament is keeping many honest and qualified candidates from contesting, said an economist yesterday.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said, "We have said elections in many cases have turned into a major investment."

So, many honest and qualified candidates cannot take part in the polls due to high expenditure, he said.

"Time has come to see whether election expenses have turned into a major obstacle to democracy," he said while speaking at a programme at the Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

At the programme, the CPD unveiled its annual report on the Bangladesh economy.

In the past, the think tank had called for adjusting electoral expenses through state expenditure and bringing more transparency during polls-time expenditure.

But nobody verifies the authenticity of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

RELATED STORY IN STAR BUSINESS

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

FIRST MOTO SCOOTER IN BANGLADESH

Price: BDT 139,000

the new way

www.bdhonda.com
facebook.com/bdhondaofficial

Carved Tail Light, Sporty Graphics, LED Headlamp, CBS with Equalizer