



Candidates, whose nominations were rejected by returning officers, throng the capital's Nirbachan Bhaban, to collect certified copies of their hearing orders. They need the copies so that they can challenge the Election Commission's decision before the High Court.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Armenians vote in snap polls to cement reform drive

AFP, Yerevan

Armenians were yesterday voting in parliamentary elections triggered years ahead of schedule by reformist leader Nikol Pashinyan, who is aiming to cement his political authority in the post-Soviet country.

The 43-year-old former journalist became prime minister in May after spearheading weeks of peaceful anti-government rallies that ousted veteran leader Serzh Sarkisian.

Death

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against women and children persisting throughout the year.

They also criticised the role of the National Human Rights Commission for what they said was it being subdued.

Amid such a situation, the nation is observing International Human Rights Day today.

The day means nothing to Nazma Begum, wife of Anisur Rahman, a victim of a so-called shootout.

He was killed on May 29, a day after allegedly local police picked him up from his Satkhira house.

"This day means nothing to a family like us. We even do not dare to seek justice for the killing of my husband who was taken away by police in front of my eyes," Nazma said.

Former National Human Rights Commission chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman denounced the extra-judicial killings.

"It is not that the law enforcers are getting involved in such shootout incidents for the sake of state security ... we have examples in which they did it for revenge or personal interest.

"The voice and protest by the human rights commission of a country, whether it has executive power or not, work as warnings, decreasing the number of such incidents," he said.

The professor also said the commission raising its voice was itself a barrier to such heinous act. "But unfortunately, strong voice by the commission is not heard."

Between 2004 and 2018, the number of such deaths was the lowest in 2013, when 42 people were killed, amid years of protest and demand for ending such extrajudicial killings.

Incumbent NHRC Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "The country's overall human rights situation improved this year."

But some incidents of human rights violations, including killings in "crossfire" during anti-narcotics drive had occurred, he said, adding that no one should be killed without trial.

Asked about allegations of the commission's inaction, Reazul said, "The allegations were made with ulterior motives. We lodged our protest and raised our voices wherever any incident of human rights violation took place. We have sent to the government a list of recommendations on how to preserve human rights."

BTRC orders

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justnewsbd.com, dhakatimes24.com, bdpolitico.com, pagenews24.com, rarenews24.com, bnpnews24.com, and prothombangladesh.net.

Some of the 58 sites were operational till filing of this report at 1:00am today.

India is not a 'dharmashala'

BJP chief on illegal immigrants in Assam

NDTV ONLINE

BJP chief Amit Shah said on Saturday that Indians have the right to the country's resources, and it is not a 'dharmashala' where illegal immigrants can come to settle down.

Describing illegal immigration as threat to the country, Shah said National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a way to solve the basic problems of the country and should not be connected to the BJP.

"NRC should not be seen by connecting it with the BJP only. It is a way to solve the country's basic problems. How is it possible that anyone can come and settle down here? The country cannot run like this. Those who are its citizens should stay here only and they only have the right to the resources of this country.

"This country is not a dharmashala (charitable shelter home) that anyone can come and settle down here," Shah said while speaking at the Jagran Forum organised by the Dainik Jagran media group.

Taking on opposition over the issue, the BJP chief alleged that the intruders have been used as a vote bank for 70 years and they are a threat to the country, whereas BJP believes in taking tough decisions which are in the interest of the country.

"They (intruders) should be identified. Delete their names from the electoral roll. The BJP clearly believes that they should be identified and deported. Intruders are also threatening the security of the country," he said while replying to a question on NRC.

Assam, which faced an influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having a National Register of Citizens (NRC), first prepared in 1951. It is being updated under the monitoring of the Supreme Court.

DEADLINE NEARS

Thirty-year-old Rahimuddin and his elder brother Rabiul are worried as they walk in to the Nagrik Seva Kendra of their village in Goraimari, 70 km from Guwahati. Fourteen members of their family have failed to make it to the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on July 30.

The final NRC draft had listed 2.8 crore people, leaving out about 40 lakh applicants. The Supreme Court

had fixed December 15 as the last day to submit "claims and objections". So far only about 10 lakh people have been able to do so. The objection phase has almost been a non-starter with less than 500 objections filed till now.

Rahimuddin is in a fix due to the complex standard operating procedure (SOP) for claims and objections set by the Supreme Court.

Rahimuddin and others in his family had applied using the legacy code of their father Musa Seikh. But during verification, it was found that they had used the legacy code of another Musa Seikh.

Now, they don't have documents to prove their father's legacy, but they do have their grandfather Haider Ali's legacy data of 1951 national register. However, the new procedure doesn't allow them to change their legacy person to prove their citizenship.

Legacy data is a set of documents comprising the NRC of 1951 and electoral rolls up to March 24, 1971, which was the cut-off date for detecting foreigners in Assam.

"Our father died in 1997, but we don't have any record to link back to. We finally got the 1951 NRC record of our grandfather, but we can't change our legacy person. We aren't literate and don't understand a lot of things. We don't know what to do now," Rahimuddin told NDTV.

Women in rural areas are among the worst affected.

"Most women who were left out are illiterate. They got married off at an early age and never went to school, so they don't have a school leaving certificate or a voter id where their legacy and linkage could be linked to their fathers," said Akram Hussain, a social activist from Goraimari.

With just a few days left before the claims and objection phase of the NRC closes on December 15, there is a sense of urgency among those left out. They are thronging nagrik seva kendras and most of them say that the new SOP has made it difficult for them to prove their citizenship.

There are 1.55 lakh applicants in Goraimari block alone. Of these 1.26 lakh made it to the final draft, whereas only 30 percent of the 29 thousand people left out have been able to submit their claim forms.

know how he died, she added.

Lipi claimed her brother lived a simple life and some of his co-workers would often harass him. Sumon had even informed his father about this.

"My brother's stomach and chest were swollen. I think those workers pumped air into his rectum and killed him," Lipi said adding that the family demands justice.

Doctors of Narayanganj General Hospital, where Sumon's body was sent for autopsy, said excess air was found in Sumon's stomach and they were now waiting for the pathology reports to confirm the cause of death.

Sumon's body was later sent to his home for burial.

Additional Superintendent of Police in Narayanganj Anis Uddin Bahadur said the factory's owner and manager were both on the run.

"Seven of the detained factory workers are being interrogated and a case will be filed in this connection," he added.

For the honest

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declared election expenses and it is not clear whether the Election Commission has the interest and the capacity to do so, said Debapriya.

He said potential candidates submitted their affidavits on their income and wealth, but this had remained as a formality as nobody took initiatives to verify those.

The EC may not have the capacity, but it should interest the National Board of Revenue (NBR), he said.

"Two weeks ago, we had said the NBR could verify the wealth statements as soon as they were submitted and give a summary report."

The economist said large borrowers who are contesting the election had long ago had their bank loans regularised using influence and other connections.

The EC is a constitutional body and for it to function properly, other regulators such as the NBR, the Anti-Corruption Commission, and the central bank should have worked in sync, but such coordination was not there, he added.

"There is no political initiative to address the administrative inaction. Had there been political initiative, the administration would have been more active."

Debapriya said the country had developed, but the poor people had not got their fair share of benefit of the progress because of a lack of political competition and a dwindling capacity of agencies responsible for protecting public interests.

Malaysian

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would require a wage of at least RM 2,700 to meaningfully participate in society and be free from severe financial stress.

"Research indicates that Malaysia is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for migrant workers, and we suspect that Malaysia's excessively lenient labour law is a major contributing factor," it said.

CJ for tough

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country will surely be free from corruption if the youth or students take a bold against it.

Recalling contributions of the students in every democratic movement, he said, "The voice of the students, which will lead the nation in future, should be raised against corruption as well as to establish the rule of law and human rights."

ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud announced inauguration of the International Day against

Corruption with releasing pigeons, the symbol of peace, in front of its Segunbagicha headquarters.

Mahmud later unveiled the mass signature campaign and display of posters and cartoons against corruption with putting his own signature on the registrar book.

The register will remain available at ACC Media Centre from December 9 to 14 for collecting signature of the masses.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACC chairman said, "It will not be possible for ACC to prevent the corruption alone. A collective effort with participation of all professionals, students, teachers, young and old generations is needed to raise a social movement against corruption to put an end to the menace."

Skilful Tigers continue

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got quick runs to calm the nerves while Mushfiquir Rahim provided assurance with an unbeaten 70-ball 55 that, in the company of Mahmudullah Riyad, took the side home with 89 balls to spare. The win was a special one as it came on the day that skipper and player-of-the-match Mashrafe Bin Mortaza became the first Bangladeshi to play 200 ODIs.

Tamim Iqbal and Liton Das started the chase in solid fashion, putting on 37 runs in eight overs. However Tamim was out to a soft dismissal in the last ball of the eighth over when he played early to off-spinner Roston Chase and was caught at cover for 12.

Before that, Liton was lucky in the seventh over when, batting on five, he flicked Kemar Roach straight down the throat of deep square leg, but was reprieved as replays revealed a no-ball.

Imrul Kayes, coming in at number three, did not last long. Oshane Thomas's pace proved too hot and the ball burst through bat and sluggish pad to bowl the left-hander.

Liton and Mushfiquir Rahim steadied the ship from 42 for two and added 47 runs before the inevitable rush of blood, swiping across the line to an innocuous Keemo Paul delivery, saw Liton bowled for a 57-ball 41.

Shakib and Mushfiquir took care of the butterflies with a 57-run partnership that was dominated by Shakib, who hit four boundaries in a 26-ball 30. Shakib was caught behind off Rovman Powell in the 27th over and that set the stage for Soumya Sarkar to come in and dazzle with some attractive shots during a 12-ball 19. Thomas's pace was not a problem in the 29th over, during which he hit the fast man for two fours and a six. The six was extra special as he ramped a bouncer clean over third man. The entertainment was short-lived, however, as Soumya departed in the next over, edging Chase to slip.

Earlier, Mashrafe led a thoroughly professional bowling effort, especially by the pacers.

The score could have been even less for West Indies as at the end of the 40th over, which saw Marlon Samuels dismissed by Rubel Hossain, they were 129 for six. A few lusty blows from Chase (32 off 38 balls) and Paul, who took 14 runs off the penultimate over bowled by Rubel, lifted the score towards respectability. Mustafizur Rahman then pulled things back in the last over, dismissing Paul (36 off 30) and Devendra Bishoo in an over that cost just two runs. Mustafizur ended with figures of 35 for three from

10 overs.

But it started with the captain. Mashrafe's 10 overs cost just 30 runs and yielded three West Indian wickets. He brought himself on in the 15th over of the innings and bowled seven overs on the trot for just 14 runs and two wickets.

Before that, it was the left-arm spin of Shakib Al Hasan, who opened the bowling along with off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz, that produced the first breakthrough when Kieran Powell top-edged a slog to be caught at cover in the eighth over. Mashrafe came in and bowled a near-perfect line and length, mixing his seam-up deliveries with slower off cutters on the sluggish Mirpur wicket. With Rubel and Mashrafe keeping things tight in tandem, the pressure got to Darren Bravo, who fell in the 21st over courtesy of a superlative fielding effort from Tamim Iqbal. Bravo miscued a lofted shot off Mashrafe and Tamim sprinted 20 yards inwards from long off to take a diving catch inches off the turf.

Mashrafe then accounted for Shai Hope in the 25th over when the right-hander slashed to point, where Mehedi took a sharp catch to his right. 78 for three became 93 for four in the 29th over when the talented Shimron Hetmyer fell to Mehedi for the fifth time in as many innings on tour as he tried to cut a full ball and was bowled. Mashrafe then came back to complete his quota, and dispatched his opposite number Powell by having him caught at mid off by Liton Das.

After Samuels, who hammered a lofted straight drive that looked to be heading over the ropes before Liton caught a sharp catch less than two feet from the long on ropes, Chase and Paul got together to resuscitate an innings that seemed headed for a score below 170.

While the bowling effort was near flawless, Bangladesh were wasteful in the field, dropping four chances. Bravo was dropped off Mustafizur when on 13 by Ariful Haque -- on the field at the time in place of Shakib -- at point in the 16th over. Mushfiquir Rahim was the culprit and Bravo again the beneficiary in the 20th over when the diving keeper failed to latch on to an edge off Rubel. Rubel was the unlucky bowler again when Samuels, on seven, hit over mid off where Mahmudullah Riyad was a little slow to move and could just get fingertips on the ball before it raced away for four in the 28th over. Rubel was however the culprit four overs later when he dropped an absolute sitter off Shakib at mid on, relieving Powell on four.

COP24 offers help

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they are forced to go.

"If we are prepared, we can take people along. We can reduce suffering, respect people's rights (and) involve them in shaping their own future," said Koko Warner, who supports the work of the taskforce at the UN climate change secretariat (UNFCCC).

Displacement linked to climate change pressures is already happening, she said. But "it's not the apocalyptic story line" it was 10 years ago, she said.

"We're not trying to generate scary numbers. We're trying to generate understanding so that (government ministers) know what to do," added Warner, who manages a UNFCCC programme on climate impacts, vulnerability and risks.

Humanitarian agencies like the Red Cross, international climate funds and others are already stepping up efforts to protect communities at risk of being uprooted.

The Green Climate Fund, for example, in 2016 approved \$39 million for a project to reduce flooding on three of Tuvalu's nine islands by putting in sea walls, shoring up beaches and conserving local ecosystems.

The recommendations in the taskforce report urge governments and UN agencies to include communities in their efforts to gather data and better understand the displacement risks they face, so that more effective solutions can be crafted.

This is the kind of approach experts such as Robin Bronen, who heads the Alaska Institute for Justice, are already developing.

There are also new challenges to be ironed out, she said, such as the legal provisions needed for a country to officially give a new home to citizens from another nation - a situation that may occur among low-lying island states in the Pacific.

Salote Soqo of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a US-based human rights group, said some progress had been made at the international level, including efforts to link emerging frameworks around migration.

Next week, for instance, in Morocco, states are due to adopt a global compact on migration that includes voluntary actions to help people uprooted by climate stresses.

But policies are being developed and implemented too slowly to resolve the magnitude and complexity of the problems communities face on the ground, Soqo added.

Harjeet Singh, the global lead on climate change for ActionAid International, lamented a lack of financial support for those already losing homes and land in places like India.

Discussions at the UN climate talks on providing funding to deal with loss and damage from global warming have made little headway, with rich countries reluctant to offer much beyond helping vulnerable nations afford weather insurance.

"Unless and until we also ensure a flow of money, we will not be able to deal with (migration)," Singh said. "Communities are losing their homes already. They need to be relocated now."

German town

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Elvis", already has a giant Elvis statue on a roundabout near the former US barracks.

"Elvis holds a special place here and that's why he is honoured and appreciated," local resident Heidi Huebner told AFP after she snapped a picture of the novelty traffic light.

Although he served in Friedberg, Elvis actually lived off-base in the neighbouring town of Bad Nauheim, which proudly holds an Elvis festival every year.

It was in Bad Nauheim that Elvis met his future wife Priscilla. The couple wed in the United States in 1967 but divorced six years later.

Elvis died unexpectedly in 1977 at just 42 years old.

German towns and cities have a lively tradition in customising traffic lights, often to pay tribute to a famous resident.

The city of Bonn has installed some that light up with Beethoven's face, while the western town of Trier celebrated the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth with traffic lights of the bearded philosopher.

A string of German cities have also adorned their traffic lights with same-sex couples to mark gay pride events.

But best-known of all is Berlin's so-called "Ampelmaennchen" (traffic light man), a cartoonish, hat-wearing fellow that is a much-loved cultural relic from the former East Germany.