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SECOND EDITION

BREXIT IMPASSE
May tours Europe in desperate bid to save her floundering deal
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"People want to get rid of the two-party politics of the Awami League and the BNP, and we will try to fulfil their expectation as an alternative force."
CPB GENERAL SECRETARY SHAH ALAM (PAGE 3)



"If the Election Commission cannot address people's distrust [in it] through its neutral and bold action, then another controversial election may take place on December 30."
SUJAN SECRETARY BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR



"Modi refused to listen to the heartbeat of this country."
CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI ABOUT BJP'S DEFEAT IN STATE POLLS (PAGE 8)

Spectre of violence returns

Jubo League man killed in AL-BNP pre-polls clash; attacks on BNP men in several dists

Two Jubo League and Awami League leaders were killed in Noakhali and Faridpur as violence broke out yesterday, the second day of election campaign. On the other hand, BNP candidates, including party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, and their supporters came under attack allegedly by ruling party men in several districts, with dozens injured. Police said M Hanif, 24, general secretary of Ward-9 Jubo League in Noakhali's Aujalia union, was killed in a clash that ensued after BNP men attacked an AL procession in the district. In Faridpur, Yusuf Bepari, 35, of Goldangi village, was hurt in a scuffle with a BNP supporter following a heated debate over the election. He was rushed to a hospital where



A damaged microbus of a motorcade of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir crosses Palli Bidyut in Thakurgaon yesterday afternoon, around an hour after the convoy came under attack allegedly from AL men. Inset, ruling party men block a road in Bogura's Dhunat around 1:30pm after the BNP candidate's (Bogura-5) motorcade was attacked.



Crammed beyond CAPACITY

Jails across the country holding some 95,000 inmates against their capacity for 36,000

Prisons across the country are crammed with a record number of inmates, in some places three to seven times their capacity, as a result of the crackdown on illegal drugs and a "mass arrest" of BNP men over the last few months. Late last month, the 68 jails were holding 95,222 prisoners against their total capacity for 36,614, forcing the authorities to accommodate inmates in corridors or any other place they can find, according to the Directorate of Prisons. Under the jail code, each prisoner is entitled to 36sqft of living space. But currently, three, four or even five inmates are sharing that space. Four senior jail officials have said this is the highest prison population they have seen in their 10-14 years of service. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to speak to the media. The number of prisoners suddenly started soaring in May, when the government launched a crackdown on illegal drugs.

'Atmosphere not favourable yet'

Speakers at discussion point out obstacles to free election

The lack of a congenial election atmosphere was casting doubt over the credibility of the upcoming parliamentary polls, speakers said at a discussion yesterday. The Election Commission (EC) was not functioning properly yet while the "biased attitudes" of the administration and the police force appeared to be big challenges for holding fair polls, they said. They made the observations during a discussion titled "Can People Vote Freely?" which was organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS), a body working for good governance, at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies in the capital.

KHALEDA'S ELECTION BID

One HC judge in favour, other not

The senior judge of a two-member High Court bench yesterday ruled in favour of BNP chief Khaleda Zia's participation in the national election, but the junior judge disagreed with him. Following the split order, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain would assign another HC bench to hear and dispose of Khaleda's three writ petitions, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told reporters at his office. The BNP chairperson had filed the petitions on Sunday challenging the Election Commission's rejection of her appeals against cancellation of her three nomination papers (Bogura-6, 7 and Feni-1) by returning officers. Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed, senior judge of the HC bench, wanted to direct the EC to accept Khaleda's nominations and allow her to contest the December 30 polls. He also wanted to issue a rule on the EC asking it to explain why its decision on Khaleda's nominations should not be declared illegal.

Hasina starts campaign today from Tungipara

Oikyafront launches it from Sylhet

The Awami League and Jatiya Oikyafront will formally start their electioneering today, with top leaders of both the sides attending the campaigns. Leaders of other political parties, including the main opposition Jatiya Party, will also launch their election campaigns today. AL President Sheikh Hasina will kick off her

Big blow to Modi in state elections

Ruling party loses ground in big heartland states, Congress gains ahead of 2019 general polls

India's ruling party yesterday suffered stinging election defeats in three key states, in a big blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of national polls in 2019. The votes held earlier this month and in November were seen as a dry run for next year's vote when Modi will likely go head-to-head with Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party for a second term. "We accept the people's mandate with humility," Modi said late yesterday on Twitter. "We defeated the BJP today, we will defeat them in 2019 too," Indian media quoted Gandhi as saying. "Mr Modi sold a vision to the country five years ago. India had the patience to give them five years. But they have failed." In both the central state of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the west, the chief ministers from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) conceded defeat, while in Madhya Pradesh Congress came out as the largest party with 114 seats. Congress's traditional ally BSP took 2 seats, pushing the alliance seat tally to 116 majority mark in the 230-seat state assembly.



West Indies opener Shai Hope led an almost single-handed assault in the second ODI against Bangladesh yesterday, hitting an unbeaten 144-ball 146 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur to bring the visitors a series-equalling four-wicket win.

Hope revives Windies

West Indies opener Shai Hope played the innings of his life as his unbeaten 146 authored a thrilling four-wicket win with two balls remaining in the second ODI against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The visitors' first win on the tour levelled the three-ODI series at 1-1, with the series decider to come in Sylhet on December 14. No other West Indies batsman crossed the 27 scored by Darren Bravo, which reflected just how valuable Hope's 144-ball knock, which included 12 fours and three sixes, was to West Indies' chase of Bangladesh's 255 for seven. It was a game where the West Indies got their tactics



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right, sending Bangladesh in on a better batting wicket than the one in Sunday's first match and taking advantage of the easier batting conditions in the evening. But it was only one batsman who really took advantage. Even as no specialist batsmen stayed with him till the end, the right-handed Hope navigated the tourists to within 38 runs of the target when the last five overs began. Shakib Al Hasan and Mustafizur Rahman then bowled two good overs that cost three each, bringing the equation down to 32 off 18 balls. Hope then hit the first ball of the 48th over from Rubel for a straight six, and four more runs followed. Mustafizur, who bowled either too full or too

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