

Attacks on BNP candidates on

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Arrests of BNP and Jamaat men also nine other party men were injured when CUMILLA continue, with more than 150 detained in Narayanganj and Sirajganj alone yesterday.

Since electoral campaign began on Monday, law enforcers arrested at least 136 leaders of the BNP-led 20-party alliance and Jatiya Oikyafront, including BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Kabir Talukder Dulu and the party's candidate for Gazipur-2 Fazlul Haque Milon.

Besides, at least 10 candidates of the alliance were attacked across the country allegedly by the ruling party men during their electoral campaigns.

The are Afroza Abbas, BNP candidate for Dhaka-9; Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of BNP; Fariduzzaman, Jatiya Oikyafront candidate for Narail-2; Golam Mohammad Siraj, BNP candidate for Bogura-5; Sharifuzzaman, BNP candidate for Chuadanga-1; Manjurul Alam Bimol, 20-party candidate for Natore-1; Professor Abu Sayeed, Jatiya Oikyafront candidate for Pabna-1; Jeba Amin, BNP candidate for Jhalakathi-2; and Azharul Islam Manna, BNP candidate for Narayanganj-3.

SIRAJGANJ

At least 15 people, including four policemen and BNP candidate for Sirajganj-2 Romana Mahamud, were injured as police and BNP men clashed in College Road area in the district's Sadar Upazila last night.

Romana, also wife of BNP leader lqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, returned home after primary treatment, said Saidur Rahman Bachhu, secretary of

Sirajganj district BNP. Condition of two victims were stated to be critical, and they were being brought to Dhaka for treatment,

BNP sources said. Abu Daud, officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, said the clash began around 7:00pm, when BNP supporters from a rally led by Romana hurled brickbats on the cops and

attacked the on-duty police in the area. Police first tried to calm them, but

failed, he claimed. At one stage, police opened fire to

disperse the mob. Police fired 57 bullets and eight teargas shells during the hour-long clash, the OC added.

But Saidur, secretary of Sirajganj district BNP, said the clash broke out as police tried to stop their procession on their way to the local BNP office.

SATKHIRA Satkhira-1 BNP candidate and central

leader Habibul Islam Habib and at least alleged attackers for their comment. alleged AL men attacked a BNP campaign rally around 12:00pm in front of Kolaroa Upazila Parishad.

The other victims include Kolaroa

Upazila BNP President Bazlur Rahman, Satkhira District Chhatra Dal General Secretary Mamtazul Islam Chandan, District BNP Organising Secretary Ashraf Hossain, upazila Chhatra Dal President Tawfiqur Rahman and Kolaroa Krishak Dal President BM Siraj. Habibul said BNP leaders and activ-

ists were distributing leaflets among voters when they were attacked from behind by Awami League and Juba League men led by Kolaroa Upazila Awami League President Firoze Ahmed Swapan. The condition of four was critical

and they were admitted to hospitals in Jashore, Kolaroa and Satkhira sadar, Habibul said. Firoze denied the allegation, and

blamed the attack on BNP's internal Maruf Ahmed, officer-in-charge of

Kolaroa Police Station, said Habibul went to a shop to distribute leaflets, but the shopkeeper declined to accept those.

There was a heated debate over it, leading to a chase and counter-chase between two BNP groups, he claimed. **GAZIPUR**

Alleged Juba League and Chhatra League activists attacked Jatiya Oikyafront-nominated Gazipur-3 candidate and BNP leader Shah Reazul Hannan's motorcade when the BNP men were going to offer their prayers in the evening after a campaign at Aralbazar of Sanmania union in Kapasia Upazila.

"The attackers physically assault me

The injured include Kapasia Upazila

and tore off my panjabi," he told

reporters at Safaisree Union BNP office

Swecchhasebak Dal leader Jabed, Juba

Dal leader Shafiqul, Chhatra Dal lead-

ers Masum Billa, Ashik Mia and seven

other activists. They took treatment at

Reazul alleged the attack was carried

The Daily Star could reach any of the

out by Sanmania Union Juba League

General Secretary Shyamal, Chhatra

League leader Likhon and their cohorts.

attack, said Reazul.

later in the evening.

local clinics.

But Harun-Ur-Rashid, superintendent of police in the district, claimed that the law enforcers arrested some Jamaat activ-At least 10 BNP men were injured ists who gathered on the school premises to "plan subversive activities". and Reazul's car and four to five motorcycles were vandalised during the

Jamaat men.

SM Manjur Kader, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station, claimed that they detained 49 Jamaat men during a "secret meeting" at Pagla

The motorcade of BNP candidate KM

Mojibul Haque for Cumilla-3 came

under attack allegedly by Muradnagar

Chhatra League and Juba League men

Muradnagar Police Station, with at

least 10 BNP men hurt and five vehicles

of the BNP candidate vandalised, local

Later at a press briefing, Mojibul

He also claimed police were present

Syed Ahmed Hossain Awal, presi-

Monjur Alam, officer-in-charge of

dent of Muradnagar upazila Awami

League, said they were unaware of the

Muradnagar Police Station, said they

At least 153 BNP-Jamaat men were

detained across the country yesterday

over their alleged involvement in plan-

detained in Narayanganj alone in

separate drives. Of them, 13 were held

in sadar, 27 in Bandar, eight in

Amlapara Girls' High School in

Narayanganj Sadar, said police picked

up 13 people, including the institu-

tion's assistant headmaster, teachers

and guardians, on suspicion they were

Sheetal Chandra Dey, headmaster of

Siddhirganj and 103 in Fatullah areas.

As many as 151 of them were

brought the situation under control.

claimed the attackers, armed with

"hockey sticks and lethal weapons," also

snatched cameras of two journalists.

The attack happened in front of

around 5:00pm.

BNP sources said.

during the attack.

ARRESTS CONTINUE

ning subversive activities.

incident.

High School. Policemen from the station detained 54 others, including five women, from another "clandestine meeting" at

Islamia Ideal Madrassa in Masdair area of Narayanganj city, the OC said. Police in Sirajganj arrested Iqbal Hossain Hiru, secretary of the upazila

unit BNP, and Ariful Islam Arif, joint secretary of the upazila unit BNP.

(Our correspondents in Pabna, Satkhira, Gazipur and Cumilla contributed to this report.)

Entire generation denied education

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today, the report said. Since 2017, the Myanmar authorities have been targeting teachers and other educated Rohingya -- further aggravating the collective capacity for education. The Bangladeshi authorities also restrict formal education apparently because they do not want to create a "pull factor" for refugees to remain in the country longer term.

Instead, education in the camps is being provided by a range of international and Bangladeshi NGOs as well as community-based organisations. Rohingyas are often taught in informal "temporary learning centres" where the quality of education and curriculum can vary significantly depending on the

NGO involved. Brouk said classrooms in the camps are often severely overcrowded and badly resourced, and recruiting teachers -- in particular women -- remains a serious challenge. There is also a lack of

There's a shortage of education opportunities for 15-18-year olds. Some 150,000 children in the camps are still without access to any learning centres altogether, the report men-

long-term planning around education.

tioned. Khin said Bangladesh generously

opened its borders for the Rohingya

and they urged Dhaka to lift "restric-

tions" in the refugee camps so that

Rohingya children could get access to

education unhindered. enough for Rohingyas to return to Myanmar, and refugees are likely to remain in Bangladesh for the longterm. Only by being able to access to education and the job market can Rohingya build a future for themselves and contribute to Bangladeshi society."

The rights body stresses, however, that the only long-term and viable solution to the crisis lies inside Myanmar that must immediately remove all restrictions on the human rights of Rohingyas, including on access to education and freedom of movement, and grant Rohingya citizenship under national law.

"At the heart of the Rohingyas' lack of access to education are the Myanmar authorities' genocidal policies. Only when this ends will our community be able to live fulfilled life in peace where we can enjoy our human rights.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the Rohingya face the real prospect of

extinction in Myanmar -- the international community must ensure that this does not happen."

Khin also said, "The Rohingyas are suffering from an ongoing genocide, with Myanmar authorities' intent on wiping us out as a people. Now more than ever, we need educated Rohingyas

who can act as leaders for the community, but as long as education remains "Conditions are nowhere safe severely restricted this will be impossible. We are facing the prospect of a lost

Disputed PM

generation.'

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claim until he could prove his legiti-

The court ruling also meant that the country was effectively without a government and heading for a shut down in the absence of parliament voting for a budget for 2019.

In another blow to Sirisena, the highest court ruled on Thursday that his sacking of parliament on November 9 was illegal and cancelled a snap election he had called for January 5.

Rajapaksa failed to prove his majority in parliament and was twice defeated in no-confidence motions on November 14 and 16, but refused to

step down. Wickremesinghe also refused to

step down since October 26 maintaining that his sacking was illegal. That issue is currently being canvassed before courts.

Political sources said Sirisena was likely to invite Wickremesinghe to form a new government over the weekend and end the power vacuum.

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The Awami League set aside Rangpur-3 for its grand alliance partner JP, but it nominated film star Akbar Khan Pathan, popularly known as Farooque, for Dhaka-17.

While reading out the manifesto, Hawlader said the JP would introduce a provincial government system if it came to power. "The party is announcing the

manifesto only to set up a goal to ensure people's welfare through bringing a meaningful change in democratic practices," Hawlader, also a special assistant to the JP chief, said The party would establish a pro-

vincial government system bringing change in the existing central government structure, he added. He said the country's eight divi-

sions would be turned into eight

provinces and those would be named as Uttar Banga Province, Barendra, Jahangirnagar, Jalalabad, Jahanabad, Chandra Dip, Moynamoti and Chattrala Province. The party would change the coun-

try's election process, education system and would also ensure independence of the judiciary, he said. "A full-fledged upazila system will

be introduced and policies would be adopted to curb terrorism if the party gets a chance to rule the country again." Hawlader said half of the govern-

ment offices would be shifted to different provincial capitals.

He termed the party's 18-point manifesto "a charter of change".

Highlighting the achievements of the party's nine-year rule (1982-1990), he said the JP would rebuild a new Bangladesh keeping in mind the hopes and aspirations of the young generation.

The JP is contesting the national election in 29 seats under the banner of the AL-led grand alliance. Besides, it has fielded 145 candidates in as many constituencies.

Mid-air horror

FROM PAGE 16 company that shipped the organ, or

confirm any further details. But the Seattle Times reported that the flight's captain told horrified pas-

sengers the cargo was a human heart. The error is thought to have squandered four hours -- three hours in the air -- and experts say a human heart can typically be stored for between four and six hours for a transplant.

Andrew Gottschalk, a doctor with no connection to the incident, described fellow passengers' shock as those with internet connections discovered the small window of viability for a heart transplant.

He told the Times the incident was a "horrific story of gross negligence." The newspaper was unable to locate the hospital where the heart was being sent.

Homage

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Bodies of many were later found at Rayerbazar, Mirpur and a few other places in the city while the fate of the others is still unknown.

The mission was to cripple the newly-born nation.

One of the intellectuals was journalist Sirajuddin Hossain. He was dragged away from his Chamelibagh home on December 10, just six days before the victory.

His son Tawheed Reza Noor, who was only three when it happened, has no vivid memory of his missing father. "I grew up hearing about him from my mother and elder brother. I miss him every single day," he told The Daily Star.

He, however, said he was happy that many of the war criminals, who assisted the Pakistanis, were handed down punishment.

Including him, family members of the victims as well as people from all walks of life placed wreaths at the Rayer Bazar Killing Field on the Martyred Intellectuals Day yesterday

Projonmo Ekattor, a platform of the descendants of the intellectuals, formed a human chain at the place, holding a banner that read, "Don't want to see any anti-liberation forces in power".

Speaking at a programme, organised by Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) nearby, its President Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, called upon the people not to vote for those forces in the December 30 national polls. M Hamid, vice-president of the

platform of the Liberation War sector commanders, told this correspondent that the more the young generation would learn about the martyred intellectuals, the more they would love their country.

Talking to reporters, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman said, "The country is progressing in line with the spirit of the Liberation War. But we will be hurt if the anti-liberation forces hamper the journey".

According to Banglapedia, around 991 academics, 13 journalists, 49 physicians, 42 lawyers and 16 others were killed during the nine-month war. In their memory, the nation observes Martyred Intellectuals Day every year on December 14.

Pledge for good | Dr Kamal

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The Oikyafront leader said he would not say anything about the issue at the Memorial. "Not now, not now. No question here. No talks here, outside. No more talks at the Shaheed Minar."

But the reporters kept asking questions.

As a journalist repeated the question, Dr Kamal, visibly shaking in anger, said, "No question arises at all. [These are] useless talks." "How much have you been paid to

ask these questions? From whom do you get the money to ask such a political question at such a place?" he asked the reporter. Two Oikyafront leaders tried to calm him down. Some leaders were heard

telling the reporter not ask the question there. But another reporter went on to ask more questions. Then he asked the reporter, "What's your name? [I] will keep you in mind. You insult the Shaheed Minar after

getting paid. I wonder." "Think of the martyrs. Why are you

laughing?"

"Think of the martyrs." Facing a volley of questions from

reporters, he said, "Shut up. Just shut up." "I wonder. What's your name?"

As the reporter replied, Dr Kamal said, "Which newspaper do you work for?" Hearing the reply, he said before

walking away, "I will keep it in mind." GD FILED AGAINST DR KAMAL A general diary was filed against Dr very crucial, Hasina called upon the Kamal with Kushtia's Islamic University Police Station last night over

allegedly threatening journalists and

damaging their image. Mustafizur Rahman, lecturer of folklore studies at the university, lodged the GD over the incident near

the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Dhaka, said Ratun Sheikh, officer-incharge of the police station.

Mustafizur is also the editor-incharge of daily Bangladesh Somoy.

SM Tanvir Arafat Razib, superintendent of Kushtia police, told The Daily Star that they forwarded the GD to the police station concerned.

Our correspondent in Kushtia contributed to this report.

Don't vote

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exchange for blood of millions of martyrs, was handed over to them." Coming down heavily on Jatiya

Oikyafront leaders Dr Kamal Hossain, Kader Siddique, Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Sultan Mohammad Monsur, she questioned whether they feel ashamed of "joining hands with war criminals and corrupt persons". Pointing at Dr Kamal's remarks about

a TV journalist, Hasina said, "Will the people keep mum if you tell them to shut up? The people won't shut up."

She asked how they could contest the election with the "sheaf of paddy" when as of war criminals would run with the same electoral symbol. The AL president urged her party

men to make the people aware of the

criminals and corrupt persons so that they would not cast votes for them on December 30. Terming the next general election

people to cast their votes for "boat" in the month of victory to advance the country towards economic victory. Pointing at the "telephonic conver-

sation of a BNP leader with an ISI agent", she said conspiracies continued over the next general election.

EC downplays polls

complained that their rivals were violating the electoral code of conduct and the ruling Awami League men were obstructing them from campaigning.

"A large number of people have got involved in electioneering for 1,846 candidates. We cannot deny the fact that some untoward incidents have occurred. But the number of such incidents was proportionately less," said Helal.

He claimed that the percentage of such incidents was only one or two percent. The EC has asked the law enforcers to

take necessary steps to stop recurrence of such incidents, he told reporters. His comments came at a time when pre-polls violence was reported at

different places of the country in the last few days. According to media reports, two AL and Jubo League men were killed in Noakhali and Faridpur as election violence broke out on December 11,

the second day of electioneering. The following day, at least 130 people were injured in pre-polls violence in 17 districts. A motorcade of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also came under attack in

Thakurgaon on the same day. On Thursday, candidates in taken the final decision in this regard."

Narayanganj, Pabna and Jashore were attacked and campaigners in Sunamganj and Patuakhali were obstructed. Asked about what measures the EC

would take regarding yesterday's attack on Dr Kamal Hossain's motorcade in the capital, Helal said they were not aware of the incident and that they were yet to receive a written complaint in this regard.

He said the EC received several reports from the electoral enquiry committees over violation of electoral code and obstruction to election campaigns. Besides, some other probes were underway.

Helal said the commission's preparation for the December 30 polls was at the final stage. Ballot papers would reach the field level one week ahead of the voting day.

Asked whether journalists would be allowed to carry mobile phones to the polling centres and telecast live from inside the centres, he said the EC was yet to make any decision in this regard.

The EC secretary also said use of mobile phones inside the polling stations could create chaos on the polling day. "There is a proposal to ban use of mobile phones inside the centres, but the commission has not vet

Respect will of voters

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speech and of the press and to heed the Bangladesh Election Commission's request to ensure security for minorities and maintain communal harmony for a peaceful election.

The resolution noted that Bangladesh's democratic system in recent years has faced challenges, including political violence, environmental strain, Islamist militancy, a refugee crisis, and challenges to freedom of speech and of the press.

Meanwhile, at a programme on Thursday, US lawmakers, civil society and intelligentsia have said the country stands with the Bangladeshi people seeking a free, fair, inclusive and peaceful election but warned that extremist groups like Jamaat-e-Islami poses an immediate threat to country's stability, democracy and progress.

Laying importance on the general election, the US Congress said democratic stability, regional security, and economic prosperity in Bangladesh and South Asia are vital also to the national security interests of the US.

It suggested that the US should more actively engage with the Bangladesh government with respect to their shared interests in safeguarding human rights, religious freedom, and secular democracy in Bangladesh, while preventing the growth of religious extremism and militancy; and repeated attacks on religious minorities. Expanding religious intolerance

and growing destabilisation caused by radical groups undermine the US economic and strategic interests in Bangladesh, the resolution observed.

The unanimous resolution has commended the government and people of Bangladesh for their generosity in hosting Rohingya refugees despite the hardships associated with responding to this man-made humanitarian disaster created by the Myanmar military and security force's crimes against humanity and genocide

Rakhine State.

On December 6, Democrat Congressman William Richard Keating introduced the bipartisan bill

in the House of Representatives. In another development, Congressman Jim Banks at a function on Thursday said, "Bangladesh is a young democracy that struggles with radical groups attempting to subvert Bangladesh's progress and prosperity all while seeking

political power for themselves." He was speaking at a discussion on "Stability, Democracy, and Islamism in Bangladesh" at Hudson Institute in Washington DC. The Institute convened a panel to discuss politics in Bangladesh and the country's upcoming election.

Man in police

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including murder, said Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police

Station. Teknaf police arrested Jalal from his house around 10:00pm on Thursday, he said.

Based on his information, police took him to Moulovipara village to recover yaba tablets around 4:00am. Sensing the law enforcers' presence, his associates opened fire. Police then returned fire, triggering the "gunfight, the police official said.

Jalal was hit by bullets when he tried to flee from police custody, while the others escaped, the OC said, adding that Jalal was declared dead after being taken to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex.

Five policemen were hurt during the "gun battle" and they took first aid at the health complex, the police official Police also claimed to have recov-

ered 11 firearms, 24 bullets, and 30,000 yaba pills from the spot. Two cases were filed with Teknaf

Police Station in this connection.

With Jalal, 19 alleged drug dealers have been killed in "shootouts" in

against the Rohingyas in Northern Teknaf since October 20.