



"The Awami League should stay in power for at least five more years so that no one can hamper the country's current pace of progress."
SHEIKH HASINA AT A DISCUSSION IN THE CITY. (PAGE 2)



"Why are we failing to give priority to the rights of children, especially those who work as domestic help? This is because they are facing the rich."
RIGHTS ACTIVIST SULTANA KAMAL ON GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO ENACT A LAW TO PROTECT CHILD DOMESTIC WORKERS. (PAGE 3)



"We should have scored at least 175. You must ask the other batsmen why they didn't bat well. I can't answer for everyone."
BANGLADESH CAPTAIN SHAKIB AL HASAN AFTER AN EIGHT-WICKET LOSS TO THE WEST INDIES (PAGE 14)

ELECTION MANIFESTO

Oikyafront pledges
TRUTH
COMMISSION

Sweeping reforms in all sectors

Special tribunal for trial over 'graft of this government'

Continuation of ongoing development projects

Stern actions to bring back order in banking sector

Permanent HC benches at divisional headquarters

National Security Council to be formed

Election-time govt in consultation with all stakeholders

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jatiya Oikyafront, if voted to power, will form an all-party truth and reconciliation commission to investigate the extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and false cases of the last 10 years.

The commission will also include eminent academics, social workers and lawyers, and the politically motivated cases would be settled through individual pardons and compensations.

This comes in the 35-point pledge the Oikyafront made in its election manifesto

seeking to establish peace and national unity, end the culture of vengeance and prevent recurrence of one-party rule.

The Oikyafront, an alliance of the BNP and some other parties, promises to bring sweeping reforms in governance if it comes to power through the December 30 parliamentary polls.

The reforms include introduction of a constitutional provision for an election-time government, upper chamber of parliament, complete separation of judiciary from the executive, an independent

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The boundary wall of a construction site along Fuller Road on the Dhaka University campus is covered in campaign posters. The electoral code of conduct prohibits pasting posters on walls of houses, offices, industrial units and other establishments. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Level playing field absent

Says Election Commissioner Mahub; Dr Kamal meets CEC, urges action in 48hrs over attacks on opposition men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar yesterday said a level playing field for the December 30 polls was still absent and that the situation might improve after the deployment of armed forces.

"I simply don't think there is any level playing field. The words 'level playing field' have become meaningless," he said, while replying to reporters' queries at his office.

His remarks contradict a recent comment of Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda that a level playing field was ensured for all candidates. Amid continued violence over the polls, the CEC on Saturday also said, "Candidates are being able to conduct campaigns and they are not facing any obstacles."

Mahub told the reporters, "You are journalists ... you

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Mahub Talukdar

AL to strengthen rule of law, democracy

Ruling party also pledges to root out corruption

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League's election manifesto will make promises of strengthening democracy, rule of law and ridding the country of corruption under the tagline "Bangladesh on the March of Prosperity".


AL leaders involved in drafting the document said it would make 21 pledges, including complete eradication of poverty by 2041, social safety net increased twofold and at least one earning member in every family.

AL President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to unveil the "Election Manifesto 2018" at a city hotel at 10:00 am today.

The party that has been in power since 2009 would also make promises of ensuring quality education at every stage, more government and private investments, use of digital technology for development and quality health service for all.

The agenda also includes safe roads, self-reliance in power and energy, women

AWAMI LEAGUE
MANIFESTO



Per capita income over \$5,479 by 2030

Social safety net coverage to double

Form National Minority Commission

People-friendly law enforcement agencies

At least one earning-member in every family

empowerment, gender equality, child welfare and nutritious food, modern farming, skilled and service-oriented public administration, people-friendly law enforcement agencies and welfare for senior citizens and persons with disabilities and autism.

Sustainable and inclusive development, urban amenities in rural areas, transformation of young people into skilled manpower and their employment, adoption of a zero

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FROM CAMPAIGN TRAIL

RAJSHAHI

Oddds are against BNP contenders

ANWAR ALI

On Victory Day, people of Thakur Manda village in Naogaon-4 constituency woke up to the smell of something burning.

The night before, with the help of a few local Awami League men, some people wearing helmets came to the village around midnight in a motorcycle and a microbus, locals said.

The attackers held the village guard at gunpoint and tore down the ropes on which posters of BNP candidate AHM Shamsul Alam Pramanik were hung.

They then piled up the posters and torched them.

The men did the same at Choumohini and Cheragpur Sufiabazar on their way to Niamatpur. They threw the BNP's election symbols and chairs of BNP offices into ponds and torched three BNP campaign offices.

"Our plans for Victory Day celebrations were ruined and we stayed indoors," said Rezaul Islam of Thakur Manda,

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KHULNA

Candidates of AL, BNP pledge big


SHARIFUL ISLAM and DIPANKAR ROY from Khulna

Promises of further development work are Awami League contestants' election mantra in Khulna while the BNP candidates are pledging "restoration of democracy".

BNP aspirants are vocal about freeing party Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail and giving people "respite from the repressive government".

They have also promised to "save" the state-owned banks.

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SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
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Tigers drown in shower of sixes

SAKEB SUBHAN from Sylhet

The gulf in hitting ability between Bangladesh and West Indies seen in the first T20I in Sylhet yesterday can best be depicted by numbers. In chase of 130, the first six overs of West Indies' innings yielded 7, 23, 15, 13, 15 and 18 runs.

In contrast, Bangladesh could collect more than 10 runs in an over only twice in the 19 overs they played before being all out for 129. The hosts hit two sixes and 15 fours; West Indies clobbered 10 sixes and eight boundaries in 10.5 overs, which is how long it took for them to chase down the total and complete a dominant eight-wicket win on an overcast day at the Sylhet International Stadium.

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West Indies pacer Sheldon Cottrell pulled out his trademark celebration after rattling Bangladesh's batting order by removing Tamim Iqbal, Soumya Sarkar, Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad and laying the platform for the visitors' eight-wicket win in the first T20I in Sylhet yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BNP MANIFESTO

Nat'l commission to end politics of vengeance

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Standing against the politics of vengeance and revenge, the BNP wants to form a "National Commission" to reach a social agreement among all on this matter and introduce a new political culture.

The party might make the announcement while unveiling its election manifesto today during a press conference at a city hotel at 11:00 am. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the manifesto.

According to it, the commission will be formed with the leader of the House, the opposition leader and eminent citizens of the country.

It will seek to introduce a future-oriented political culture in the country which would be against the politics of vengeance and revenge.

It will also promote a culture of tolerance in politics which will encourage political leaders not to make objectionable comments on national leaders.

In the manifesto, BNP will make 61 promises, which have been drafted in light of the Vision 2030 that party Chairperson Khaleda Zia unveiled in the party's sixth national council held on March 2016.

The party will pledge to reintroduce referendum to reestablish people's democratic rights.

It will scrap the official secrecy acts and all the black laws, if it is voted to power, the manifesto says, adding that the party will also scrap the Special Powers Act 1974.

A judicial commission will be formed to bring necessary

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BNP LOSES 8 CANDIDATES AFTER SC, HC ORDERS - PAGE 5