

# Re-elect AL to keep up progress

## Says PM

BSS, Dhaka

Seeking votes for her party in the upcoming election, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Awami League should stay in power at least for five more years so that no one can hamper the country's current pace of progress.

She made the comment while presiding over a discussion, arranged by the AL at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) marking the Victory Day.

Hasina said her party had prepared an economic plan to reduce poverty by another 5-6 percent before celebrating 'Mujib Year', marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu in 2020, and the golden jubilee of the country's independence in 2021.

The PM said that deviation from the truth and the right track could do no good to the people.

She also said she had immense confidence in the people of Bangladesh and that they would not allow anybody in the future to veer the country off the existing path of development and the spirit of the Liberation War.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# Tigers drown

FROM PAGE 1

The 16 balls that Shai Hope -- who hit back-to-back tons in West Indies' ODI series loss against the same opponents -- took to complete his second T20I fifty was the third fastest in the format, behind Yuvraj Singh's 12 balls and Colin Munro's 14. He had hit Bangladesh out of the game as early as the second over, when the three sixes he hit off Mehedi Hasan Miraz brought the required runs down to 100. West Indies reached 91 after six overs and, against the run of play, Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan and vice-captain Mahmudullah Riyad bowled two good overs that resulted in Hope holing out to deep cover off the latter in the eighth over for a 23-ball 55 with six sixes and three fours.

Before that, Mohammad Saifuddin had Evin Lewis caught at long off the second ball of the fourth over, by which time West Indies had already reached 51. Neither wicket diminished the shower of sixes and in the 11th over, Keemo Paul hit Shakib for two sixes and a four before a leg bye gave them a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The second and third T20Is will take place in Dhaka on December 20 and 22.

Earlier, left-arm pacer Sheldon Cottrell took two early wickets inside the first six overs, after which Bangladesh were 54 for four -- a poor start from which they could not recover despite Shakib's fighting 43-ball 61. Tamim Iqbal departed first when he tried a cross-batted heave off Cottrell in the second over only for the top edge to find mid off.

Tamim's dismissal showed that it was possible to be hurried on the wicket, but the lesson was not learned by Liton Das and Soumya Sarkar, both of whom departed in the same manner -- Liton fell to Thomas in the third over and Soumya to Cottrell in the next over. Mushfiqur Rahim was run out in the sixth over, caught short at the non-striker's end by a Rovman Powell direct hit.

Mahmudullah Riyad stuck around to help Shakib add 25 for the fifth wicket, but became Cottrell's third wicket in the 11th over when he edged behind, leaving Bangladesh on 73 for five. Ariful Haque added 30 with Shakib but found deep square leg with a flat-batted slog sweep off Fabian Allen in the 16th over. Shakib, his favoured square cuts and shots square of the wicket serving him well, brought up his eighth T20I fifty with a six over deep midwicket in the same over off his 41st delivery.

Saifuddin did not support his skipper as he holed out to long on off Carlos Brathwaite in the next over. Shakib hit another six over long on off a Cottrell slower ball in the 18th over, but did not adjust when the pacer shortened his length in the next over and the top edge off the cross-batted shot was caught by the bowler running towards square leg.

With the score on 122 for eight, that ended all hopes of any competitiveness even before the innings was officially ended when Keemo Paul had Mehedi caught behind and Mustafizur Rahman bowled.



Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, a leader of the Jatiya Oikyafront, reading out the alliance's 35-point election manifesto at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Oikyafront pledges truth commission

FROM PAGE 1

commission to appoint the Supreme Court judges, and appointment of the ombudsman and officials to other constitutional posts.

Addressing the programme to unveil the manifesto at a city hotel yesterday, top alliance leader Dr Kamal Hossain said they look to repair the state as the students demanded in the recent road safety movement.

"Students during their recent road safety movement demanded repair of the state. We also want to repair the state if we get elected."

On the national polls, the eminent jurist warned that the situation may take a serious turn anytime if obstacles are created to a fair and credible election.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya and a leader of the alliance, read out the manifesto. He said their principles of running the government will be "consensus, inclusion of all and free from vengeance".

**BALANCE, DECENTRALISATION**  
The opposition alliance said it will take necessary measures to bring a balance between the powers of the president and the prime minister. No person will hold the post of prime minister for more than two consecutive terms.

For decentralisation of power, it pledged to strengthen the local government by increasing the budgetary allocation, introducing direct Zila parishad polls and a city government system led by mayors.

The Oikyafront said an all-party national commission will be formed to examine the pros and cons of provincial government system.

It will amend article 70 of the constitution that imposes stringent restrictions on lawmakers in taking stance against party policies. An MP will be free to vote against his own party in the House on any issues -- except for finance bill and no-confidence motions.

The deputy speaker will be chosen from the opposition lawmakers and heads of the parliamentary standing committees will be from all parties.

The alliance said the number of reserved seats for women in parliament will be reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent. And all parties will have to nominate at least 20 percent women candidates for parliamentary polls.

There will be no reserved seats for women after two elections, but the number of women MPs to be elected through direct polls will be increased to 25 percent.

**GRAFT, SCAMS**  
The Oikyafront promised stern actions against persons responsible for banking scams. Bangladesh Bank will enjoy "full autonomy" in running the banking sector with the dissolution of the finance division under the finance ministry.

"Corruption that took place during the current government's tenure will be investigated and the persons found involved will be brought to justice by setting up special tribunals. The Anti-Corruption Commission will be made independent in real sense," it said.

The provision of the Civil Service Act, which makes government permission mandatory before arresting civil servants, will be scrapped.

Effective measures will be taken to stop capital flight, and money already laundered will be brought back. Besides, actions will be taken against share market scamsters.

No ongoing projects will be cancelled but a committee will be formed to review those taken up hurriedly in the last two years.

Citing statistics of Washington-based organisation Global Financial Integrity, Nagorik Oikya chief Manna said around Tk 6 lakh 6 thousand and 868 crore has been laundered between 2005 and 2014.

In 2014 alone, Tk 72,873 crore has been laundered, he added.

Manna further said the Oikyafront will give priority to curbing corruption in various service sectors as well as mega projects.

**POLICE, JUDICIARY**  
The Oikyafront says it will take measures to bring an end to extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture in police remand.

"Incident of extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance will be investigated," it said.

- Ombudsman to be appointed
- Laundered money to be brought back
- Extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances to be stopped
- Digital Security Act to be scrapped
- Article 70 of the constitution to be amended
- New ministry to protect minority interests
- PSC and JSC exams to be abolished
- Amendment of Road Transport Act in light of students' nine-point demand

The practice of filing false cases by police will be stopped and nobody will be arrested without warrants. The Police Bureau of Investigation will enjoy full freedom.

The alliance promised to increase retirement age of the SC judges to 70 from 67 and set up permanent benches of the High Court at divisional headquarters.

"Wealth statements of judges and their close relatives will be made public every year."

The alliance promised to ensure freedom of expression, freedom of speech and freedom of press. For this, it will scrap the Digital Security Act and will impose no restriction on social media users. It will form an "independent" press council and encourage investigative journalism.

It promised to continue the war crimes trials and prepare a list of freedom fighters under the supervision of the army.

It will keep up the work of building professional and skilled armed forces keeping them above the political influence. The activities of DCFI will be limited to the defence affairs. A national security council will be formed under political leadership.

government, he said the proposal seemed incomplete.

He also praised the proposal of introducing an upper chamber in parliament. There would be checks and balances in enacting laws if the upper chamber is consisted on the basis of proportionate representation of voting. In that case, the government would not be able to pass laws arbitrarily.

"All the political parties come up with lofty promises in their manifestos, but they do not fulfil the pledges after coming to power. We hope Oikyafront will fulfil its promises if it comes to the power," the former cabinet secretary said.

Prof Nizam Uddin Ahmed, an expert on parliamentary affairs, termed the proposal of reconciliation commission a historic one.

"It would be a good initiative if such a commission is constituted and allowed to function properly. Because our politics has become vengeful," he said.

But the alliance did not make it clear who would be in the commission and how it would function, he said.

Regarding the pledge of bringing balance of power between the presi-

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Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the manifesto was a crafty collection of lofty promises, too good to be believed as deliverable, especially bearing in mind the political culture and track record of the largest component party of the Oikyafront.

"As the saying goes, the taste of the pudding is in the eating. Nevertheless, one can at least give them the benefit of the doubt that perhaps this time they

are attempting to take the voters to a dreamland!" he added.

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman, a teacher at Jahangirnagar University, said the Oikyafront came up with several good proposals, but how those proposals would be implemented was missing in the manifesto.

One good thing is that they showed a positive gesture and pledged to end the politics of vengeance, he added.

Regarding the pledges about the financial sector, Khondker Ibrahim Khaled, former Bangladesh Bank deputy governor, said, "If other parties [after coming to power] want to implement the pledges, they [the Oikyafront] should support them," he said.

Transparency International

**EMPLOYMENT, SERVICE**  
The Oikyafront seeks to introduce an unemployment allowance for those above the age of 30. A commission will be formed to examine the state's ability to introduce such a system.

There would be no age limit for joining government services except for police and defence forces. And there would be no quota except that for the backward communities and physically challenged people. All vacant posts in government services will be filled in the next three years.

The alliance said a minimum allowance will be given to educated aged persons and they would be provided with part-time jobs.

**UTILITY**  
Electricity price will not increase in the next five years for consumers using up to 100 units a month. Rural, small and cottage industries and all public and private hospitals will get electricity at concessionary household rates instead of commercial.

The alliance promised that the price of electricity and gas will not be hiked in the first year if it is voted to power.

**EDUCATION**  
The Primary Education Completion Certificate exams for class-V students and Junior School certificate for class-VIII students will be cancelled. A single admission test will be introduced for admission to all public universities, promised the alliance.

Madrasa students will be given technical trainings and also foreign jobs. A commission will be formed for reform of madrasa education with focus on employment.

**FOREIGN POLICY**  
The Oikyafront manifesto reads relationship with India will be strengthened further on the basis of equality.

"The water-sharing of Teesta and other common rivers and Rohingya issue will be resolved through bilateral discussions at the earliest," it said, adding steps will be taken to strengthen Saarc and other regional groups.

Bangladesh will join the projects beneficial to it under the "One Belt, One Road" initiative by China.

# Another BNP candidate attacked

## 50 party men injured

STAR REPORT

At least 50 BNP men were injured when the motorcade of Ifran Ibne Aman Ami, party candidate in Dhaka-2, came under attack at Amin Bazar as polls violence continued yesterday.

Locals and witnesses said the incident happened around noon when Ami was campaigning in the area.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, the BNP leader alleged that police assisted Awami League men in carrying out the attack.

Abdul Awal, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police station, denied the allegation. He said the law enforcers tried to calm the situation when two groups clashed.

Contacted, Savar AL General Secretary Ali Haider said he heard about a running battle in the area but was unaware of any injuries.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Oikyafront in a letter to Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday alleged that at least 30 alliance candidates came under attack by ruling party men and police in different parts of the country.

In Chattogram and Noakhali, BNP candidates during view-exchange meetings with returning officers and law enforcers alleged that they could not campaign due to obstruction by AL men and police harassment.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# Candidates

FROM PAGE 1

Sheikh Salauddin Jewel, AL candidate in Khulna-2 (Sadar and Sonadanga), claimed that his party had carried out massive development work in Khulna.

"Just half a month ago, the Khulna modern railway station was opened, meeting a long-time demand of the people of Khulna," he told this newspaper.

Jewel promised that if elected, the waterlogging problem in the city would be addressed by recovering grabbed canals. He also promised employment opportunities, war on drugs, and construction and renovation of parks.

Akhteruzzaman Babu, AL candidate in Khulna-6 (Paikgacha-Koyra), said, "Development projects will continue if the people vote AL candidates to power."

He promised that sustainable dykes would be built to prevent river erosion, a major problem faced by the residents of Paikgacha and Koyra.

AL's Abdus Salam Murshedi in Khulna-4 (Rupsha-Terokhada-Dighalia) promised a hanging bridge over the Bhairav river for smooth journeys from upazilas to Khulna city.

Begum Monnujan Sufian, AL contender in Khulna-3 (Khalishpur-Daulatpur-Khan Jahan Ali), assured implementation of wage commission recommendations for over 24,000 people working in the seven state-owned jute mills in Khulna.

BNP candidate in Khulna-2 Nazrul Islam Monju told The Daily Star that his party had been trying for years to establish people's voting rights and get rid of "autocratic rulers".

He pledged to eliminate corruption and terrorism and recover "Tk 22,000 crore looted from the state owned banks".

BNP aspirant in Khulna-3 Rokibul Islam Bokul said if elected, he would develop Khalishpur and Daulatpur industrial zones to create employment opportunities.

He said he wanted to reopen mills and factories in the area that had been shut down, prioritise the IT sector, ensure medical services and develop roads in his area.

"For youths, I will set up free Wifi zones in parks and other crowded places," he added.

Azizul Bari Helal, BNP contestant in Khulna-4, said his campaign was focused mainly on getting Khaleda released, restoring democracy, and putting an end to the "misrule of the present government".

Mia Golam Porwar of Khulna-5 said he was seeking votes with the promises to save people from the "repression of the AL" and harassment like filing of false cases and arbitrary arrests.

The BNP candidate is also highlighting success stories of when he was a lawmaker in the constituency.

# Cyclonic

FROM PAGE 16

Barishal and Chattogram divisions. The sea remained rough and the maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra were advised to hoist Distant Cautionary Signal-2.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the Northern Bay were advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice.

They were also advised not to venture out into the deep sea.



Ali Imam Majumder Sultana Kamal Dr Iftekharuzzaman M Hasanuzzaman Ibrahim Khaled Nizam Uddin Ahmed

The Oikyafront unveiled the election manifesto yesterday, promising, among other things, to form an all-party truth and reconciliation commission in order to investigate and resolve the incidents of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and false cases filed in the last 10 years.

If voted to power, the alliance will bring balance of power between the president and prime minister.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder lauded the pledges of forming a truth commission and bringing balance of power.

"But the commission has to work impartially," he told The Daily Star. However, on the election-time

Noted rights activist Sultana Kamal also said the proposals of the manifesto were very good.

The Oikyafront talked about rule of law, women empowerment and zero tolerance towards corruption and extrajudicial killings. The proposals resemble the spirit of the Liberation War, she said.

"My biggest concern is that BNP and Jamaat are with the Oikyafront. The proposals do not match their past records. They do not even believe in these promises," she said.

Theoretically, the proposals are very good but questions remain about the implementation, she added.

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