



"Apart from making some empty promises, the Election Commission is yet to set an example of creating a level playing field, which is very embarrassing."



"The EC has to pass this great exam ... Responsibility cannot be fulfilled just by expressing grief or embarrassment."



"No one is in a position to dictate to the Chinese people what should or should not be done."

## AWAMI LEAGUE MANIFESTO

### KEY POINTS

- Expansion of modern urban amenities to rural areas
- Ensuring employment for young population
- Skilled and service-oriented public administration
- People-friendly law enforcement agencies
- Women empowerment, gender equality
- Ensuring safe food, safer roads
- Strengthening democracy, rule of law
- Higher standard of education at all levels
- Quality health services for all
- Welfare of senior citizens, disabled and autistic people



## ELECTION PLEDGES



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir unveil the election manifestos of their parties at two city hotels yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS, COLLECTED

## View our mistakes with kindness

*Hasina urges people; pledges stronger democracy, better governance*

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Awami League will expedite institutionalising democracy and strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the mass media and the judiciary if voted to power for a third straight time.

"In the last 10 years, parliament was the

centre of all state functions.... Initiatives will be taken to make the House more effective," said AL chief Sheikh Hasina, unveiling her party's election manifesto at a city hotel yesterday.

With some significant promises to ensure good governance made before the last two parliamentary elections still

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## No black laws, no revenge

*BNP unveils manifesto promising sweeping reforms*

SHAKHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP, if voted to power, will bring sweeping reforms to strengthen democracy, make parliament effective, establish the rule of law and ensure independence of the judiciary, according to its manifesto for the December 30 polls.

In the manifesto, the party pledges to protect freedom of speech and expression by scrapping what it says are black laws including Digital Security Act, Special Powers Act and Official Secrets Act.

It also promises to form a commission to restructure the administration and decentralise power by making local

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## BNP MANIFESTO

### KEY POINTS

- Balance of power between the president and the prime minister
- No holding of the office of PM for more than two consecutive terms
- Deputy speaker from the opposition
- Amendment to article 70
- Reintroduction of referendum
- Appointment of ombudsman
- Introduction of upper chamber of JS
- Disclosure of wealth statements of PM, ministers, MPs and high officials
- Judicial Commission to reform judicial system
- Scrapping of Special Powers Act
- Scrapping of Official Secrecy Act
- Introduction of City Government
- New ministry to protect minority interests

## Atmosphere is good: CEC

*He sees no obstruction in campaign; BGB deployed*

STAR REPORT

Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday said his colleague Mahbub Talukdar did not speak the truth about atmosphere ahead of the December 30 national election.

Talking to journalists on Monday, Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar said level playing field was still absent and the words -- level playing field -- had become meaningless.

Meanwhile, following days of electoral violence, the authorities deployed Border Guard Bangladesh personnel across the country yesterday.

Expressing disagreement with Mahbub,

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## HC shuts door on Khaleda's polls bid

*No decision yet on filing appeal with SC; 3 more BNP leaders lose candidacy*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's three writ petitions challenging the Election Commission decision that upheld the cancellation of her nomination papers by returning officers.

Now Khaleda cannot contest the December 30 election, Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star.

The HC turned down the petitions, saying the EC rightly upheld the RO's decision to cancel Khaleda's nomination papers for Feni-1, and Bogura-6 and 7, as she was convicted and sentenced to 17 years in jail in two corruption cases, he said.

The court passed the order citing that if a person is convicted and sentenced to more than two years in prison for moral turpitude, he or she is not

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### SATKHIRA

## Fear of Jamaat violence rises

SHARIFUL ISLAM

With the December 30 election approaching, people in Satkhira, known as a stronghold of the Jamaat-e-Islami, fear that the party may resort to violence again, the way it did in 2013 centring a verdict on Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

Police also claimed to have intelligence on violence in the district.

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### NOAKHALI

## Police to get AL men's help!

*BNP-Jamaat activists termed troublemakers in cops' list*

RAFIUL ISLAM

Noakhali police have drawn up a polling centre-based list of Awami League men to "take help" from them for carrying out duties on the voting day.

The list mentions the AL men as assistants of law enforcers while the BNP-Jamaat men as troublemakers in Noakhali-4.

Sources said the list was prepared upon instructions from the police high-ups on November 29. It was sent to Dhaka

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### PIROJPUR

## Sayedee's son puts local BNP in a tight spot

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and HABIBUR RAHMAN

Nomination of Shameem Sayedee, son of convicted war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, for Pirojpur-1 has left local BNP leaders in a tight corner and made their fight against archrival Awami League tough.

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Alleged Awami League men chase BNP candidate (Dhaka-9) Afroza Abbas' supporters, not in picture, during campaigning in Dakshin Goran yesterday. Inset, BGB personnel patrol a street in Sylhet city's Akhaila area. The authorities deployed the force across the country to maintain law and order ahead of the December 30 national election. PHOTO: BNP, STAR



## Bomb blast at Inu's campaign in Kushtia: JSD

*12 hurt; six BNP candidates seek CEC's resignation*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) were reportedly injured in a crude bomb blast at a rally in support of party candidate Hasanul Haque Inu in Kushtia's Bheramara upazila last night.

The bomb exploded in bridge no-3 area around 8:30pm, said Khandakar Shameem Uddin, officer in-charge of Bheramara Police Station.

Abdul Alim Swapan, general secretary of Kushtia JSD, said the injured were taken to different local hospitals. He blamed BNP men for the attack.

"We have received a written complaint from Jasad leader Abdul Alim Swapan in this regard. We are probing the incident," the OC told The Daily Star.

Inu, also the information minister, is backed by the Awami League-led 14-party

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Behold ! Hard Work, Dedication and Sincerity have been Rewarded !

## CONGRATULATIONS !!

**Mr. Dilip Kumar Agarwala**, Director-FBCCI, Managing Director-Diamond World Ltd & General Secretary-Bangladesh Jewellers Samity, is rewarded with prestigious CIP (Trade) Award. We hope he will sustain his triumph of Glory and Victory. May he live long with sound mind and body to lead us and keep magnificent milestone in national economy!

Best Regards



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