



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the Businessmen Conference 2018 at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. In her speech, Hasina said her party wanted a peaceful election on December 30.

PHOTO: PID

Won't take power by unfair means

PM tells businessmen conf'ce, seeks support

UNB, BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she did not want to go to power by any means which might destabilise peace in the country. "I don't have any desire to go to power by any means...if we can get elected by people's vote, then it's Alhamdulillah. If we can't retain power, there is no problem. Let peace prevail in the country," she said.

Hasina was addressing the Businessmen

Conference 2018 in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. The programme titled "Bangladesh towards peace and prosperity" was organised by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

The PM said her party wanted to see a peaceful election in the country as many political parties would contest the December 30 parliamentary polls.

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BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir speaking at a campaign rally of the Jatiya Oikyafront in Cumilla yesterday. The alliance urged people to vote it to power.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Defy obstacles, cast your vote

Oikyafront leaders call upon people in Cumilla rallies

RAFIUL ISLAM and KHALID BIN NAZRUL from Cumilla

Top leaders of the Jatiya Oikyafront yesterday said December 30 would be the "day of freedom" for the country's people as no one would be able to snatch their victory in the 11th parliamentary election.

Addressing rallies in Cumilla's Daudkandi, Chandina and Soagazi, they also called upon the people to go to polling stations and stage a vote revolution, braving all obstacles and intimidation.

"If we remain united, no one can rob our victory,"

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70 candidates cannot conduct electioneering

Oikyafront leaders tell foreign diplomats

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Jatiya Oikyafront has urged the international community to take notice of the prevailing electoral atmosphere in Bangladesh where opposition candidates are being frequently attacked.

The opposition alliance told foreign diplomats in Dhaka that at least 70

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Rift in EC deepens

CEC, Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar at odds over level playing field

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rift between the chief election commissioner and an election commissioner has deepened further over the issue of level playing field.

A day after CEC KM Nurul Huda's comment that his colleague Mahbub Talukdar did not speak the truth about level playing field, Mahbub yesterday hit back, and said the CEC "struck at the core of the existence" of an election commissioner by making such remarks.

"It must be kept in mind that the chief election commissioner and all other election commissioners are equal," Mahbub told a press briefing at the Nirbachon Bhavan in the capital.

"Earlier, the chief election commissioner made some negative comments about me in public. I never protested his comments. But I can't help protesting after his remark that I have lied by saying there is no level playing field," he said in a written statement.

"I strongly protest the [CEC's] statement," he said. "On December 17, I told reporters that they will get an answer as to whether there is a level playing field for the polls if they ask the question to their conscience."

"I'm still telling everyone concerned that you consider the situation yourselves and ask yourselves whether a level playing field exists or not."

Mahbub, however, did not take any question from reporters.

Earlier on Monday, he told journalists that level playing field was still absent and the words "level playing field" had become meaningless.

The next day, the CEC told reporters in Rangamati, "He [Mahbub] did not speak the truth. The overall election atmosphere is good."

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BNP campaign hurt by attacks

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and JAHRUL ISLAM JEWEL

Picking a comparatively new face for Jhalakathi-2 and attacks on the candidate have hampered the BNP's election campaign in the constituency, comprising Sadar and Nalchity upazilas.

The party also has to deal with a controversy over the role of the contender's father in the 1971 Liberation War.

The candidate -- Zeeba Amina Khan -- will vie with an Awami League heavyweight, Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, in the December 30 polls.

Amu is criticised for not keeping in touch with the voters, said locals, adding that he would also have to face their anti-incumbency sentiments.

However, the AL is vigorously campaigning on his behalf.

Visiting different areas of Sadar and Nalchity upazilas on Monday, The Daily Star correspondents saw AL leaders and activists conducting electioneering, using megaphones,

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ATTACK ON BNP LEADERS

EC asks for withdrawal of 3 cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday directed police to withdraw three officers-in-charge.

The move came following some recent attacks on top BNP leaders.

In a letter to Inspector General of Police Mohammad Javed Patwary yesterday, the EC asked for the withdrawal of Ramna Police Station OC Kazi Mainul Islam, Thakurgaon Sadar Police Station OC Mostafizur Rahman and Noakhali's Sonaimuri Police Station OC Abdul Mazid.

Meanwhile, the commission asked the authorities concerned to relieve the deputy commissioner of Gaibandha and the

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7 candidates attacked

Reza Kibria's motorcade comes under attack

STAR REPORT

Seven contenders for the December 30 election came under attack by alleged Awami League men in separate incidents yesterday.

In Habiganj, Jatiya Oikyafront candidate for Habiganj-1 Reza Kibria came under attack allegedly by some ruling party men. His motorcade was attacked allegedly by some men led by Jamal Ahmed Sumon, general secretary of Inatganj union Jubo League, around 7:00pm.

The incident took place when Reza and supporters were electioneering in Banderbazar area in Nabiganj upazila, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The attack left Fakhrul Islam Panna, former organising secretary of Sylhet city Chhatra Dal, injured, alleged Reza, son of former finance minister ASM Kibria.

Reza is contesting with the BNP electoral symbol "sheaf of paddy".

Jamal, however, denied the allegation and said Reza's men swooped on them when they were electioneering for local AL candidate Gazi Mohammad Shahnawaz in the area.

Contacted, Parvez Alam Chowdhury, assistant superintendent of police in Habiganj, said no one complained to

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Engineer Abdus Sobhan, Managing Director of **AUKO-TEX GROUP** has been awarded with the honor of **CIP (Commercially Important Person-Export)** for the year **2016** by the **Ministry of Commerce** in recognition of his Extra Ordinary Performance, Ethical Business Practices and massive contributions towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on Environmental & Social issues. **Mr. Tofail Ahmed**, Member of Parliament and Honorable Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh has handed over the prestigious award.

On this auspicious occasion, we acknowledge and appreciate Honesty, Integrity, Strong Leadership, Intellectual Rigor, Determination and Dedication of our Managing Director, which helped him in paving ways to achieve this significant milestone.

On behalf of all members of **AUKO-TEX GROUP**, we express our cordial wishes and heart-felt greetings for this achievement. We also pray for him along with our beloved company to achieve more glory and laurels in future.



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For the recognition of outstanding contribution to the country's trade and commerce, Managing Director of **B. R. SPINNING MILLS LTD.** and Director of FBCCI **ALHAJ MD. BAZLUR RAHMAN** has been awarded with the dignity of CIP (Export)-2016. It is mentioned that he was awarded as CIP in the previous years for several times.

Alhaj Md. Bazlur Rahman is receiving his CIP (Export) card from the Honorable Commerce Minister of People's Republic of Bangladesh Government, **Mr. Tofail Ahmed, M.P.**

The officials and employees of **M. R. Group** congratulate their honorable Managing Director for his outstanding achievement.

M. R. Group
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Congratulations

CIP Mr. Masduzzaman and his son Sennat Zaman are in the event of CIP card handover

Mr. Masduzzaman, Managing Director of **Modele Group** achieved CIP (Export)-2016 Card. He recieved this honour for the 4th time against significant RMG export earnings.

Mr. Masduzzaman is also the Ex Vice President of BKMEA & General Secretary to the Cricket Committee of Mohammedan Sporting Club.

All Employees of Modele Group are happy and thankful to the Government of Bangladesh and convey congratulations to the Managing Director of the group for such achievement in RMG export.

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