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UN EXPERTS FOR ASSANGE
They urge the UK to allow him to leave Ecuador embassy

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"Such an act is not possible without utter disrespect for the rule of law and morality."

EMINENT JURIST DR SHAHDEEN MALIK ON VIOLATION OF ELECTORAL LAWS ALLEGEDLY BY MINISTERS AND MPS. (PAGE 16)

"When self-censorship has already weakened journalists, what else can I say?"

MATHUR RAHMAN CHOWDHURY, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE DAILY MANABZAMIN, ON MEDIA ROLE IN ENSURING FAIR POLLS (PAGE 16)

"President Trump threw a temper tantrum and convinced House Republicans to push our nation into a destructive Trump Shutdown."

US SENATE MINORITY LEADER CHUCK SCHUMER (PAGE 16)

Tarique will be brought back: Hasina

She blasts BNP at Sylhet rally

UNB, BSS, Sylhet

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed to bring home BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman from London to execute court verdicts on him.

"There is a person who is playing games from London. He is a convicted criminal. If Allah gives us the scope, we will bring home that convicted criminal and execute the verdicts on Bangladesh's soil. We will not allow anyone to play with the fate of the country's people," she said.

The PM was addressing a mammoth election rally, organised by Sylhet district and city Awami League, at Government Alia Madrasa ground.

Hasina alleged that Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was conspiring against the country.

A special court this year sentenced Tarique to life imprisonment in the August

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A part of a large crowd at an Awami League campaign rally addressed by party chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday at Sylhet Alia Madrasa ground.

Foreign observers now even fewer

32- member delegation funded by US won't come due to Dhaka's 'inability to issue visas' in time

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The number of foreign observers for the December 30 polls has come down significantly after the Asian Network for Free Elections cancelled its observation mission citing "Bangladesh government's inability to issue visas" within the required timeframe.

ANFREL, a regional network of civil society organisations funded by the US through the National Democratic Institute, was supposed to send 32 observers to Bangladesh.

With this cancellation, 146 international observers will now monitor the 11th parliamentary election, the lowest since 2001 polls when the number was 225.

Some 178 international observers, including 32 from ANFREL, were set to monitor this election, said sources in the Election Commission.

At the same time, the number of local observer will also be the lowest since 2001 as 25,920 of them will monitor this election while the 2001 polls had more than 2.18 lakh. The reason behind this fall is attributed mainly to fund crunch.

As of yesterday, the EC said, 26,066 observers are set to

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POLLS OFFICIALS DESPITE PARTY AFFILIATION -- PAGE 2

They're not Jamaat candidates

BNP says on 25 Islamist party men running for polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said the Jamaat-e-Islami has no candidate for the December 30 polls.

"They [Jamaat leaders contesting the election] are BNP-nominated contenders. They are contesting the election with BNP's [electoral] symbol 'sheaf of paddy'. They were not nominated by the Jamaat," he said after submitting a letter to the chief election commissioner's office at the Nirbachon Bhaban.

The Election Commission has accepted their candidacies. If there had been any issue, the

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FROM CAMPAIGN TRAIL

NARAIL

For the love of the captain

People volunteer to work for Mashrafe

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHSIN MILON

People from different districts are turning up in Narail to campaign for Bangladesh ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza. They are hanging posters, distributing leaflets and asking people to vote for Mashrafe, Awami League candidate in

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Barred from campaigning

Allege 9 BNP contestants

STAR REPORT

At least nine BNP candidates in different districts yesterday alleged that police and ruling Awami League men were obstructing their campaigns.

The accusation comes amid nonstop polls violence and arrests of opposition leaders and activists.

Two BNP candidates

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Violence slammed

UN, US, UK, HRW issue condemnations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over reports of violence in the run-up to the December 30 polls, the United Nations, the United States and the United Kingdom have condemned the incidents.

Meanwhile, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday said widespread electoral violence started as soon as the candidate lists had formally been approved, and campaigns had begun. It also said there had been violent attacks by supporters of all rival political parties and that the authorities failed to act impartially.

Stéphane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, said they were concerned by the reports of incidents

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West Indies opener Evin Lewis went on a rampage at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, hitting a 36-ball 89 highlighted by eight sixes and six fours, in the third and final T20I against Bangladesh. Although the home side's bowlers recovered, their batsmen collapsed in a 50-run defeat to hand the visitors a 2-1 series win.

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Fireworks all around as WI seal T20Is

SPORTS REPORTER

There was a rain of sixes from Evin Lewis, a strong comeback from the Bangladesh bowling attack, chaos over a no-ball decision which stopped play for nearly eight minutes and eventually Keemo Paul's five-wicket haul as the West Indies clinched the three-match T20I series with a comfortable 50-run win in the decisive third match in Mirpur yesterday.

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Another Milestone in Sustainability Reporting

We are proud recipient of 'Gold Rank' in Asia Sustainability Reporting Rating 2018 by National Center for Sustainability Reporting (NCSR), Indonesia

Bank Asia



HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

Like every year, Mr. Rana Shafiullah, the Chairman and Mr. Raquibul Kabir, the Managing Director of Union Group have once again been awarded with the prestigious CIP status from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for their outstanding performance and contributions to the country's economy.

Sam Ree Dyeing & Daeyu Bangladesh are the **Highest Sweater Dyed Yarn Seller** in Bangladesh. They are bringing in valuable foreign currency by exporting dyed yarn. Mr. Rana Shafiullah and Mr. Raquibul Kabir are establishing a new energy and technically efficient **Dyeing System** through the use of latest technology of the world, which will increase the production capacity of high quality yet cost-effective **Sweater Dyed Yarn** by three times. Production is scheduled to start in January 2019 through which Bangladesh will save millions of dollars & will no longer need to import Dyed Yarn rather will be capable to export globally.

All associated with Union Group are proud of Mr. Rana Shafiullah and Mr. Raquibul Kabir for their sustained outstanding achievements and seek divine blessings for continued success in all their future endeavors.

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