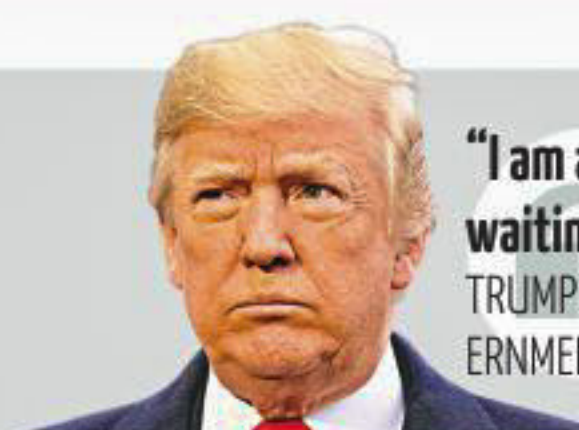




**"We still don't think that the army is being able to do anything to ensure a level playing field."**  
BNP STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER KHANDAKER MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN



**"This communal harmony [among people of different faiths] has an immense contribution to our development and progress."**  
PRESIDENT ABDUL HAMID ON THE OCCASION OF CHRISTMAS DAY (PAGE 3)



**"I am all alone (poor me) in the White House waiting for the Democrats to come back."**  
TRUMP LAMENTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE AS US GOVERNMENT REMAINS SHUT (PAGE 8)

## Oikyafront walks out of CEC meet

**Delegation led by Dr Kamal cites 'discourteous behaviour' during discussion over police role; the opposition combine demands Huda's resignation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jatiya Oikyafront delegation led by Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday walked out of a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda for what they said was "discourteous behaviour" of the CEC.

The CEC and leaders of the opposition alliance comprising BNP and some other parties were locked in a heated exchange at the meeting over the role of police during the electioneering.

"When we began to complain about the police role, he [CEC] took their side," Nazrul Islam Khan, a standing committee member of BNP, told reporters before leaving the Nirbachan Bhaban.

"We don't expect such behaviour."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir too said, "His [CEC's] behaviour was discourteous."

Later at night, the Oikyafront at a press conference demanded immediate resigna-

tion of the CEC and appointment of a "neutral person" to the post for the sake of a free and fair parliamentary election.

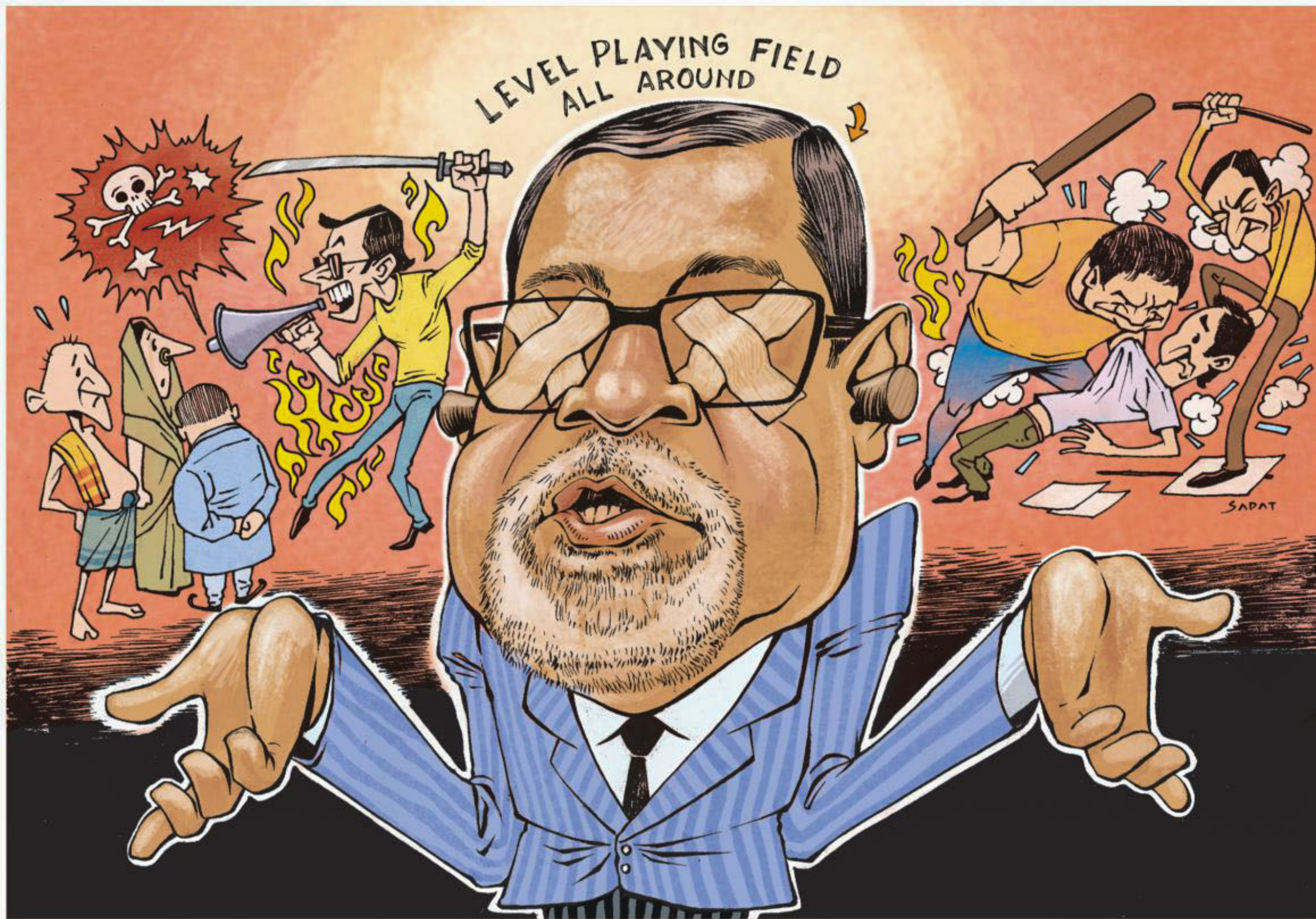
The alliance said it complained to the Election Commission with evidence of police showing unconstitutional and aggressive attitude, physically assaulting opposition candidates and supporters, harassing leaders and activists going to their houses and obstructing campaigns.

It added that the opposition leaders were not only outraged but also surprised and upset as the CEC rejected the allegations making indecent and biased statements.

The meeting, which lasted for about two hours, came amid the civil society's concerns about the absence of a level playing field and continued attacks on the opposition camps in different parts of the country.

The BNP and other opposition parties have long been alleging that a congenial atmosphere for polls is absent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



## Four days to polls, violence rages on

**Goyeshwar, 30 others hurt in attack at Keraniganj; 4 injured as petrol bombs hurled at AL procession in Sitakunda**

STAR REPORT

Despite army deployment, election violence and attacks on opposition candidates show no sign of abating.

In Dhaka's Keraniganj, BNP candidate Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and 30 others were injured in an attack by alleged Awami League men yesterday, while a ruling party candidate's procession was attacked by alleged BNP supporters with petrol bombs in Chattogram. Four people suffered minor burns in that incident.

BNP candidates in Savar, Manikganj, Tangail, Cumilla, Bagerhat, Mymensingh and Chattogram also came under attacks, report our district correspondents.

With them, motorcades and campaigns of at least 51 BNP and Jatiya Oikyafront candidates have been attacked allegedly by AL men since election campaign officially began on December 10. Two AL aspirants have also come under attack allegedly by their opponents.

More than 1,100 people, mostly BNP men, have



**Two injured Awami League men undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

been injured in these attacks.

While both the AL and the BNP deny their involvement in these attacks, police have yet to identify or arrest any of the attackers.

Meanwhile, alleged BNP men yesterday attacked an executive magistrate in Sylhet's Golapganj.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## It made no difference

**Alleges BNP about army role in ensuring peaceful election atmosphere**

STAR REPORT

The BNP yesterday alleged that army deployment could not make any difference to the polls environment.

Senior leaders of the party -- Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed -- said their leaders and activists "continue to be attacked and harassed" across the country.

"Ruling party men are still reckless even on the second day of army deployment. They are attacking us, torching our [campaign] offices and filing cases against us," said Mosharraf, BNP candidate in Cumilla 1 and 2.

"So our expectations [that the polls atmosphere will improve] have not been fulfilled even on the second day [of army deployment]. We still don't think that the army is being able to do anything to ensure a level playing field," he said at an election rally in Korikandi area of the district's Titas upazila.

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## BNP, Jamaat attacking AL

**Claims HT Imam; 5 ruling party men killed, 350 hurt since Dec 10**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Awami League men were killed and over 350 AL supporters were injured since the polls campaign began, claimed HT Imam, co-chairman of Awami League Election Steering Committee, yesterday.

"Every moment we are getting information about attacks on our leaders, activists, and supporters by the BNP-Jamaat men. Hundreds of campaign offices have been vandalised," he said at a press conference at the media centre of the AL central office.

Imam demanded that the Election Commission withdraw permission given to nine local election observer organisations. He said the organisations were set to send around 6,585 observers in 140 constituencies and most of the observers were activists of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

The organisations are: Democracy Watch, Khan Foundation, Light House, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Somonnoy Parishad, Jagoroni Chakra, Nobolok, Coast Trust, Shariatpur Development Society and Noakhali Rural Development Society.

He claimed that Taleya Rehman, wife of journalist Shafik Rehman runs Democracy Watch, wife of BNP leader Moyeen Khan runs Khan Foundation, BNP acting chairman

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**NATIONAL ELECTION**

**2018**

The Daily Star has prepared a four-part infographic on the candidates of major parties for the December 30 polls as well as winners and runners-up in their constituencies in two previous participatory elections in 2001 and 2008. This may help our readers have an insight into past voting behaviour. Today, we are running the second part of the series on 57 constituencies in Khulna and Barishal divisions.

SEE PAGE 10

NAWABGANJ

## No room for journalists in hotels

**Police allegedly behind it**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists attacked in Dhaka's Nawabganj on Monday night were not allowed to stay in hotels there yesterday on alleged instruction of local police.

After "being driven away" from a guest house in Nawabganj, 40 journalists and staffers of private TV station Jamuna and its sister concern Bangla daily Jugantor went to different hotels to stay there for covering election in Dhaka-1, but they were not allowed, said journalists of the two media outlets.

At a press conference in Nawabganj Press Club yesterday, they said the owner of Shamim Guest House around 3:00pm asked them to leave the place within two hours, citing police instruction. Contacted, Mostofa Kamal, officer-in-charge of

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**Alleged Awami League activists beat up a BNP supporter near the Shyampur home of Dhaka-4 BNP candidate Salauddin Ahmed yesterday.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Three held with Tk 8cr in capital

**Rab claims they shelled out Tk 150cr to instigate violence, influence polls; one of them linked to Hawa Bhaban**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion detained three people in the capital's Motijheel and Gulshan yesterday for allegedly distributing money to influence the coming election and instigate violence.

The three are Joynal Abedin, general manager of Amena Enterprise, its Manager Alamgir Hossain and Ali Haider, managing director of United Corporation.

Speaking at a press conference in front of United Corporation in Motijheel in the afternoon, Rab Director General Benazir Ahmed said they seized Tk 8 crore and several cheques of around Tk 10 crore from their possession.

He claimed the three have so far distributed about Tk 150 crore in various constituencies to instigate violence and influence the December 30 parliamentary polls.

Benazir said one of the three detainees had links with Hawa Bhaban.

Hawa Bhaban was considered the alternative powerhouse of the previous BNP-led alliance government (2001-2006).

The Rab chief further said pre-polls violence occurred in all the constituencies where money from United Corporation reached. "The money came from Dubai through hundi."

The Daily Star could not independently verify the Rab's claim.

Rab sources said acting on intelligence information, the

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