

# Polls outcome marred by violence and code of conduct violation

## TIB says, demands judicial inquiry into reported incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday expressed deep concern over violent incidents and complaints of electoral code of conduct violation, including use of force, during parliamentary polls across the country, saying the incidents have tainted the outcome of the polls.

In a statement, the graft watchdog demanded judicial inquiry into the incidents as well as reports of violation of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) in the capital and elsewhere.

At least 19 persons have been killed and scores injured during Sunday's polls, it said in the statement.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said since the beginning, they had been demanding an even contesting field for all parties.

"However, reports of harassment, politically motivated cases and oppression of a particular contesting alliance have been published in media, which is ominous for the

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Sun sets on an eventful 2018. The photo was taken from the rooftop of a high-rise in Dhaka city.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

# BNP leader Dulu denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of BNP Organising Secretary Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu, in connection with an arson case filed against him during the anti-government demonstration in 2015.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Aminul Haque passed the order after Dulu's lawyer submitted a petition seeking bail for his client in the case.

According to the case, a group of BNP leaders and activists led by Dulu torched vehicles, assaulted policemen and prevented them from discharging their duties in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

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# 'A glowing example for other democracies'

## Foreign observers say about 11th national election

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A group of foreign and local election observers, who monitored the December 30 parliamentary election, has termed the election free, fair, peaceful and on a par with major democratic countries in the world.

The foreign observers from Canada, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, who came to Bangladesh at the invitation of Election Monitoring Forum (EMF) and SAARC Human Rights Foundation (SHRF), also said the just concluded election was "much better" than past elections in Bangladesh and could be a "glowing example for other democratic countries".

The foreign observers were speaking at a press conference held at Jatiya Press Club yesterday to share what they have seen during their daylong visit to nine polling centres in the capital on Sunday.

"This was a world standard election...We can compare this with the elections of major democratic countries," said former president of Kolkata Press Club, Kamal Bhattacharya.

The senior journalist told Bangladesh media that he had covered two past elections in Bangladesh as a reporter, and this time he came as an observer.

"I talked to a number of voters standing in

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# Two Oikyafront heavyweights to lose security deposits

## Oli, Noman fail to get one-eighth of total votes in respective seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP-led Oikyafront heavyweights Oli Ahmed and Abdullah Al Noman are among the 95 candidates out of the total 117 who will lose their security deposits for failing to get one-eighth of the total votes as per the Election Commission rules.

The security deposit of a candidate in the December 30 national election was Tk 20,000.

Oli Ahmed, a former minister and chairman of Liberal Democratic Party, vied for Chattogram-14 (Chandanaish-Satkania)

constituency.

He got 22,225 votes while Awami League-led grand alliance candidate Nazrul Islam Chowdhury won the constituency, bagging 1,89,186 votes. A total of 2,19,302 votes were cast in the constituency.

On the other hand, Oikyafront's Abdullah Al Noman, a former minister, received 41,390 votes in Chattogram-10 (Double Mooring) while AL's Dr Afsarul Amin got elected with 2,87,047 votes. A total of 3,36,791 votes were cast.

Including the two, 10 candidates of the BNP-led alliance will lose their security

deposits for not securing one-eighth of the total votes in their respective constituencies.

They are Dr Shahadat Hossain from Chattogram-9 (Kotwali), Aslam Chowdhury from Chattogram-4 (Sitakunda), Jafrul Islam Chowdhury from Chattogram-16 (Bashkhali), Sarwar Jamal Nizam from Chattogram-13 (Anwara-Karnaphuli), Nurul Amin from Chattogram-1 (Mirsarai), Mostafa Kamal Pasha from Chattogram-3 (Sandwip), Md Jashim Uddin Sikdar from Chattogram-6 (Raozan) and Nurul Alam from Chattogram-7 (Rangunia).

# Nation bids adieu to 2018, welcomes 2019

BSS, Dhaka

The nation bade adieu to the year 2018, forgetting all odds and sorrows of the past and welcoming 2019 with new hopes at midnight through different programmes.

Jubilant people, particularly the youngsters, joined various New Year celebrations as the clock struck 12:00. The landslide victory of Awami League in the 11th Jatiya Sangsad election is expected to add new zeal to the New Year celebration across the country.

As 2018 drew to a close, New Zealand was among the first few countries to usher in the New Year. The New Zealand Herald reported that hundreds of people headed into the city centres to start their celebrations from late evening to they welcome the New Year.

Celebrations then moved across the world -- to Asia, the Middle East, Africa,

Europe and finally the Americas.

Dazzling light shows bid adieu to 2018 in major cities, along with other traditional celebrations.

On this special occasion, people have already conveyed their best wishes to their friends and beloved ones through greeting cards and using different messaging applications and social media platforms.

Corporate and government officials and various organisations also did the same as they do every year.

The day was also a moment of looking back to the outgoing year for reviewing the successes and failures and planning strategies to reach new goals for the New Year, with accomplishing the unfinished tasks those need to be done in the coming days.

The year 2018 was a significant year for Bangladesh as the country saw many successes in major areas including

politics, economy, agriculture, combating terrorism and driving the IT sectors towards attaining the middle-income status. The country was largely peaceful in the political landscape in 2018.

The peaceful political situation allowed the country's economy to grow faster.

Marking the day, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) drew up multi-tiered security measures. It banned holding of any programme at open places for the sake of overall security and law and order, according to DMP.

Police personnel in uniforms and plainclothes were deployed and members of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit, SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) and bomb disposal team discharged their duties at different city points to ensure safety.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is greeted by Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed and Inspector General of Police Javed Patwary at Gono Bhaban yesterday, for winning a consecutive third term in office.



PHOTO: PID, BSS

# 220 killed in December

## Says Bangladesh Human Rights Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 220 people were killed in various incidents across the country in December, according to a press release of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) yesterday.

Of them, 22 people were killed in violence over the 11th parliamentary election, while 11 were killed in other political violence.

Meantime, 13 people were killed by law enforcers, seven fell victim to secret killing, 13 were murdered after abduction and six were killed after rape.

The commission revealed the information in a monthly report based on data from its district, upazila and municipality branches, and national newspapers, in cooperation with International Human Rights Commission.

On an average, more than seven people were killed on a daily basis throughout the month, said the press release citing the report. "Such kind of report surely indicates the

extreme deterioration of law and order situation in the country and BHRC expresses deep concern," it said.

It also revealed that 62 people fell victim to mysterious death while 13 committed suicide.

The report showed that road accidents caused 237 deaths.

On the other hand, five were killed for dowry, 31 over family feud, 43 in social violence, two by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and five died following doctors' negligence.

In addition, 25 persons were raped while seven others were sexually harassed, four were tortured for dowry and 22 journalists were assaulted.

"Rule of law is essential for institutionalising democracy and building human rights-based society," said the release signed by Jahanara Akter, assistant director (research and public relation) of BHRC.

The commission said the rate of such killings could be brought to zero level through proper steps by the law enforcement agencies.

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# 2019

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