



"I was sacked before the investigation was complete."

Fired ACC official Sharif Uddin

The Daily Star

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SECOND EDITION

"We cannot forever offer an olive branch while Russia conducts missile tests and continues to amass troops."
European Council President Charles Michel on Ukraine-Russia standoff



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Plus 8-Page Special on AMAR EKUSHEY

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EC POSTS

Ex-bureaucrats dominate the final list too

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The search committee is likely to propose names of former bureaucrats for the helm of the next Election Commission, sources said.

Although the committee has said it would not disclose the final nominations before submitting them to the president, committee sources said ex-bureaucrats, ex-army officials, former judges, university teachers and social workers make up the final nominations.

They also said a former Secretary, joint or deputy secretary may be recommended as the chief election commissioner

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A woman and her two sons watch fresh graffiti on a wall adjacent to the Central Shaheed Minar on Dhaka University campus. Artists of the Faculty of Fine Art adorned the walls in the area ahead of the International Mother Language Day today.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LOST WORDS

Soura language dying in absence of practice and protection

MINTU DESHWARA

Samra Soura, 85, the oldest resident of Soura village is forgetting his mother tongue. People of the Soura community mostly speak Bangla, Oriya and Sadri languages.

Oriya and Sadri communities are bigger than Soura in the tea estates.

"I can't speak my mother tongue even in my family. I am forgetting many words of the Soura language. Soura people can only speak a few words of their language," Samra told this correspondent recently.

International Mother

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

IMMEDIATE PAST EC A tenure defined by voter apathy

AVERAGE TURNOUT

| UPAZILAS | MUNICIPALITIES | UNION PARISHADS |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 40.31% in 2019 | 65% in 2020-2021 | 71.92% in 2021-2022 |
| 61.23% in 2014 | 74% in 2015 | 76.25% in 2016 |

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Voter turnout went down significantly in almost all local government elections under the immediate past Election Commission, compared to the polls held by the previous EC.

On the other hand, the number of candidates elected unopposed increased sharply.

Experts see this as an ominous sign for democracy and say it reflects the people's dwindling trust in the country's electoral system.

"The turnout dropped and a record number of candidates got elected uncontested because people lost their interest in participating in the polls. They no longer have confidence in the Election Commission and the electoral system," said Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a platform working to ensure good governance.

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21st February
International Mother Language Day

WALTON

A Humble Tribute to the Language Martyrs of 1952

KDS

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ভাষা হয়েছে স্বাধীন, গর্বটা বাংলার

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এ অধিকার অর্জনের জন্য সকল ভাষা শহীদ এবং ভাষা সৈনিকের প্রতি অসীম কৃতজ্ঞতা ও ভালোবাসা নিরন্তর