



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photo at the 60th anniversary programme of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at Radisson Blu Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PID

Invest more in Bangladesh

PM urges foreign investors

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought robust foreign investment in Bangladesh saying her government has been taking every possible measure to attract overseas investment.

“We’re taking various measures so that large-volume foreign investment can come to Bangladesh,” she said.

The premier said these while opening a two-day programme marking the 60th anniversary of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Investment Expo 2023 at a city hotel.

She said her government is setting up 100 economic zones and has already built 39 high-tech parks across Bangladesh.

“We have kept open the economic zones and high-tech parks for foreign investments. If a country wants land [at economic zones or high-tech parks], it can get it, or it can also invest in a joint collaboration if it wishes or can go for investment under a private public partnership (PPP),” she said.

The premier also said her government has established the

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA), the Bangladesh Economic Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA), the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (HTPA), and the Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA).

“One-stop service has been introduced in investment development agencies to facilitate investment,” she said.

The prime minister said they have undertaken plans to make all offices equipped with facilities to provide investment services fully online.

At the same time, she said they are continuously working to simplify the investment policy, including tax waivers, remittance royalties, exit policies, dividends, full repatriation of capital, and foreign investment protection by law.

Sheikh Hasina said her government has recognised the logistics sector, fourth industrial revolution-related sectors, and tourism sector as

industries in the National Industrial Policy 2022 to attract local and foreign investments.

She continued that her government has formulated new schemes to attract investments in larger volumes in the blue economy sector.

Coming to power for the first time in 1996 after 21 years, she said the Awami League government had made open the private sector and taken various measures to attract foreign investments following the footsteps of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

“Bangladesh has marched well ahead towards economic prosperity due to taking the measures,” she said.

After assuming power for the second time in 2009, she said they have been able to make huge changes in Bangladesh in terms of development and prosperity in the last 15 years.

“We have been able to transform Bangladesh into one of the fastest-growing economies in the world,” she added.



MILITARY CRACKDOWN IN MYANMAR

3 boats carrying 500 Rohingyas land in Indonesia

AFP, Bireuen

Three boats filled with more than 500 Rohingya refugees landed in Indonesia’s westernmost province yesterday, a UN agency said, in one of the biggest arrivals since Myanmar launched a military crackdown on the minority group in 2017.

The mostly Muslim Rohingyas are heavily persecuted in Myanmar, and thousands risk their lives each year on long and expensive sea journeys, often in flimsy boats, to try to reach Malaysia or Indonesia.

United Nations refugee agency protection associate Faisal Rahman told AFP one boat had arrived in Aceh province’s Bireuen district with 256 people aboard, while at least 241 others arrived in Aceh’s Pidie region and a smaller boat carrying 36 arrived in East Aceh.

“They were found in several spots,” Rahman said yesterday. Of the 256 aboard the Bireuen boat, 110 were women and 60 were children, he said.

It was the same boat that locals had pushed back out to sea on Thursday, leaving it stranded off the coast for several days, according to Rahman. “It’s confirmed... because many people were identified by security officials during the landing,” he said.

Clashes, arson mark first day of hartal

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and activists were injured, 16 of them with shotgun pellets, when a BNP procession came under gun attack at Senbagh.

Senbagh municipality BNP member Mofizul Islam alleged that a group of Awami League, Jubo League, and Chhatra League men arrived on three-wheelers around 8:30am and opened fire on their peaceful procession on the Feni-Noakhali highway.

The injured had treatment at local clinics while some are taking treatment at home to avoid police harassment, BNP sources said.

Officer-in-Charge Nazim Uddin of Senbagh Police Station said the clash may have happened between the followers of BNP’s Zainul Abedin Farooq and Kazi Mofiz.

“No one informed the police about the attack or shooting incident,” he said.

In Sunamganj, BNP activists clashed with police in the municipality area yesterday morning after the law enforcers obstructed a procession. Police used shotguns and teargas to control the situation.

The pickets threw stones and brick chunks at police.

At least seven BNP men, five police officers and two journalists were

injured.

Nurul Islam Nurul, general secretary of Sunamganj BNP, said, “Police obstructed and attacked our peaceful procession and at least seven BNP men were injured.”

In Gazipur’s Sreepur, a classroom of Gilshahar Abdul Jabbar Government Primary School was partially burnt when arsonist set it on fire around 3:30am yesterday.

Several benches, some windows, and furniture were burnt, said Sreepur Upazila Assistant Education Officer Harunur Rashid.

In another arson attack, three carriages of the Jamuna Express were torched in Jamalpur’s Sarishabari around 1:20am yesterday.

Sub Inspector Tara Mia at the Jamalpur Railway Station said criminals set fire to the running train soon after it left Sarishabari Railway Station, halting rail service on the Jamalpur-Dhaka route for five hours.

There were a few passengers onboard.

Pickets in Sarishabari’s Bagarpar area attacked journalist Moshir Rahman, upazila correspondent of Channel S and Daily Bangladeshi Khabar. They also tried to set his motorbike on fire.

In Jashore, some 20 crude bombs exploded near the home of former

minister Tariqul Islam. No one was injured.

In Pabna, hartal supporters vandalised two vehicles and exploded crude bombs in Boro Bazar area.

A person was injured around 9:30pm after a crude bomb went off about 100 metres from the Awami League central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Injured Riyadul Rashid, 40, claimed to be a member of Jubo League ward-13 unit.

Two more bombs exploded in front of Wari Police Station around 8:10pm, said its Officer-in-Charge Mostazirur Rahman.

Maksuda Begum, 55, who went to see her detained son at the station, was injured.

All three technocrat ministers

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polls will be held on January 7.

After assuming office in 2019, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appointed six advisers: Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury for power, energy and mineral resources; Gowher Rizvi for international relations; Major General (Retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique for security; Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed for ICT; and Salman Fazlur Rahman for private industry and

Head breaks India hearts

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Head reached his 100 in 95 balls and raised his bat to an applauding Australian dressing room.

Australia elected to field first and the players backed up Cummins’ decision with disciplined bowling and impressive fielding.

Virat Kohli and KL Rahul hit 54 and 66 respectively after Rohit’s attacking 47 but the ball dominated the bat on a slow, dry pitch.

Head took a stunning catch while running back from cover point to cut short Rohit’s innings off spinner Maxwell.

Cummins bowled Kohli, who ended as the leading batsman in tournament with 765 runs, to silence the crowd of 92,453 fans, who like the home team in the middle had an unforgettable day.

For now, no chance for Jamaat to join polls

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The cancellation of Jamaat’s registration will remain effective until the restoration application or review petition is accepted, he added.

Yesterday, a bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, passed the dismissal order for “default” as Jamaat’s principal lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali and its Advocate-On-Record Zainul Abedin did not appear before it during the appeal hearing.

After the order was passed, Advocate Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, who represented AJ Mohammad Ali and Zainul Abedin during the hearing, told The Daily Star the HC verdict that cancelled Jamaat’s registration with the EC will remain in force following the apex court order.

Jamaat-e-Islami and its lawyers will decide the next course of action, he said, adding that Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali had sought six weeks’ time from the SC for the hearing due to personal problems, but the SC rejected the time petition.

He said the apex court refused to entertain two petitions, including a contempt of court petition against Jamaat, as it has dismissed the appeal in connection with the original case (writ petition) from which the two

petitions were initiated.

The other petition was filed seeking the apex court’s injunction order restraining Jamaat from carrying out any political activities, including meetings, public rallies and processions using its name or banner.

Md Matiur Rahman Akanda, a leader and lawyer of Jamaat, told reporters that Jamaat has the right to such political activities under the constitution of the republic.

Maulana Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, along with 24 others, had filed a writ petition with the HC on January 25, 2009, seeking its order declaring Jamaat’s registration illegal.

The HC on August 1, 2013, in a landmark verdict, declared Jamaat’s registration with the EC illegal.

The commission issued a gazette notification on October 28 the same year under the Representation of the People Order, 1972, scrapping Jamaat’s registration.

The same year, Jamaat filed the appeal with the Appellate Division against the verdict.

Senior lawyers Tania Amir and Ahsanul Karim appeared for Chandpuri.

Raushan urges the president to initiate talks

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participate in the election because our participation depends on the polls atmosphere.”

The JP will start selling nomination papers to the party’s aspirant candidates at the JP chairman’s Banani office from 11:00pm today.

As if to make the rifts more obvious, Raushan yesterday told the president that the JP will participate in the election.

According to sources present at the meeting, President Mohammed Shahabuddin told the JP delegation that he would discuss with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina the requests made by Raushan.

Raushan told the president that political parties need more time for their election preparations.

Emerging from the 40-minute meeting, JP leader Mashur Rahman Ranga said, “The last date for filing nomination papers coincides with the deadline for filing of income tax returns.”

This is why the deadline may have to be extended by a few days, he told reporters.

“Raushan Ershad also told the president that if there is time for holding dialogues with all, and if everyone participates in the election, then the event would be more festive,” Ranga said.

“In response, the president said the election will have to be held by January 29 [as per the constitution].

“He [the president] wanted to know whether we have any opinion about the Election Commission. We told him that we don’t have any complaints about the EC because what they have done so far was for a free and fair election.”

Meanwhile, a statement from the Bangabhaban said Raushan sought the president’s cooperation to hold the 12th national election in a free and fair manner.

On November 14, JP Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition

in Parliament GM Quader called on the president and urged him to hold dialogues to resolve the current political crisis.

After JP founder HM Ershad died in 2019, rift between GM Quader and Raushan developed over taking control of the party.

The rift deepened over the last few months as Raushan held the JP council, GM Quader’s removed Raushan from the post of opposition leader and Ranga from all posts of the JP.

Quader and Raushan on Saturday wrote to the EC saying that she has the authority to sign nomination forms of party leaders taking part in the election.

Chunnu then wrote another letter saying JP Chairman GM Quader will sign nomination papers because he has the official power to do so.

However, Raushan’s representative who handed over her letter to the EC said the JP chief patron would sign the nomination forms.

Violations abound on Bangabandhu Avenue

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However, AL aspirants ignored the directive as each of them arrived with swarms of supporters, making the entire affair chaotic.

Party leaders also resorted to loudspeakers, through which they announced that none other than nomination-seekers can gather near the office and that discipline has to be maintained.

The announcement too fell on deaf ears.

While areas around the party office were jam-packed, the rest of the capital was seemingly quiet and empty due to the ongoing hartal.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Abdullah Md Abbas, a jobholder, said, “I was forced to reroute after being stranded on Bangabandhu Avenue for over 20 minutes due to heavy traffic.”

Though the Election Commission had asked that aspirants remove posters, banners, paintings, billboards, arches, pandals, lightings,

and other campaign materials at their own costs, the reality was quite the contrary.

Billboards and posters of AL leaders were seen strewn across Mirpur-10, Moddho Badda, Gulsitan, Sadarghat and New Market areas.

Around 1:30pm, Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, general secretary of Jubo League, was seen going towards Bangabandhu Avenue to collect his nomination form. He was accompanied by several hundred AL supporters in cars and on motorcycles.

At the party’s central office, this correspondent saw thousands of supporters accompanying the aspirants.

Arshad Adnan Rony, seeking the AL nomination for Pabna-5, came with hundreds of people as he bought his nomination papers around 3:00pm.

The scenes were similar when Hasan Mahmud, information and

broadcasting minister, collected his form earlier around 12:30pm.

“Travelling from Chatogram in over 50 buses, microbuses and even trains, at least 2000 of us came to support the minister,” said an AL activist.

Meanwhile, the electoral code of conduct disallows election campaigns until December 18.

Tanzil Talukder, a supporter of Tangail-2 nomination-seeker Younus Islam Talukder, said over a thousand people came to accompany the aspirant.

Speaking to The Daily Star, he said, “There are rules that only the aspirant or a representative will enter the office, but many don’t want to abide by it. It is considered a festival by many, so no one wants to miss out.”

Generating Tk 6.6 crore, 1,212 nomination forms were sold on the second day of sales.

Of those, 1,180 nomination forms were sold in person and 32 online.