



President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence after paying tributes to the martyred intellectuals, by placing floral wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Mirpur yesterday morning. Family members of the martyred and freedom fighters also placed wreaths in Rayerbazar and Mirpur killing grounds. People from all walks of life joined in, wearing black as a symbol of mourning.

PHOTO: PID, STAR



JANUARY 7 POLLS More like seat distribution, not election Alleges Moyeen Khan

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday said the results of the January 7 election are being determined by the government through the distribution of seats before the voting.

"The election slated for January can't be any polls as vote and seat sharing is going on here openly. What is happening now is not an election as it is just like distribution of befits among the beneficiaries," he said.

Talking to reporters at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Mirpur, the BNP leader also said the government is tarnishing the image of the nation by holding such an election of seat distribution.

Moyeen, a BNP standing committee member, also said the Election Commission will only announce on January 7 the results that have been determined by the government now in the capital.

"So, it has become clear to the 18 crore people of Bangladesh that there will be no election on January 7," he said.

He called upon the government to leave the path of restrictions, repression, and oppression. "Restore all the fundamental rights and hold a fair and credible election. If you win a fair election, I will be the first to congratulate you," he said.

Moyeen along with some party senior leaders paid tributes to martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur.

257 aspirants win back candidacy so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another 43 aspirants got their candidacy back yesterday after winning appeals against its cancellation.

So far, 257 aspirants got back their candidacy for the upcoming parliamentary election.

Of the 43, 15 are independent, four are from Jatiya Party, and others are from Bangladesh Nationalist Movement, Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, Trinamool BNP, Sangiskrik Mukti Jote and others.

Meanwhile, the candidature of three aspirants -- two from Awami League and one independent -- have been cancelled so far following appeals from other candidates.

Since December 10, the Election Commission has held hearings on 495 appeals until yesterday.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and the four ECs will complete the hearing of appeals today.

A total of 558 appeals were filed against the decision of returning officers.

Of the 103 hearings the EC held at the commission office yesterday, 52 were rejected, while decisions regarding four would be made later, said EC officials.

Candidacy of AL aspirant Abdus Salam for Mymensingh-9 was rejected

following the appeal of independent aspirant Anwarul Haque for the same constituency.

He challenged Salam's candidacy on the allegation of loan defaulting.

EC also rejected an appeal challenging the candidacy of JP aspirant from Patuakhali-1, Ruhul Amin Hawladar.

Nazrul Islam Khan, a candidate for the same constituency, filed the appeal, alleging that Hawladar submitted his income tax return after the deadline for nomination paper submission.

The EC upheld AL's Habibur Rahman's candidacy for Sylhet-3 after JP candidate for the same constituency Atiqur Rahman filed an appeal against it, alleging that the former has dual citizenship.

Expelled BNP leader Akteruzzaman got his candidacy back for Kishorganj-2, after the RO initially cancelled it, citing him as a loan defaulter.

Meanwhile, a fight broke out outside the EC office between supporters of Cumilla-1 AL candidate Abdus Sabur and independent candidate for the same seat Nayeem Hossain, said witnesses.

They said police detained two from the spot.

Niamul Islam, sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said a brief scuffle took place but they brought the situation under control.



EC to dispose of appeals December 10-15

Deadline for candidature withdrawal December 17

ROs to distribute electoral symbols December 18

Election campaign December 18-January 5

NATIONAL POLLS Question arises over Shamim's dual citizenship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Question has arisen over documents submitted to the Election Commission by Shamim Haque, candidate of Awami League from Faridpur-3 constituency, regarding renouncing his citizenship of the Netherlands.

According to the constitution, no one having dual citizenship can contest the elections.

Earlier, AK Azad, a businessman who is contesting from Faridpur-3 as an independent candidate, filed an appeal before the EC challenging Shamim's candidature for having dual citizenship.

The commission headed by CEC Kazi Habibul Awal on Wednesday held a hearing on the appeal, where Shamim's lawyer argued that his client had applied for renouncing citizenship of the Netherlands on November 9, and also submitted some documents to support the claim.

The commission is slated to deliver a verdict on the appeal today after taking information from the Dutch embassy through foreign ministry.

Azad's lawyer Mustafizur Rahman expressed doubt over the authenticity of Shamim's application. He said the document was addressed "to whom it may concern" so it is not sure to whom it was actually addressed to.

The letter also does not have a seal of the Netherlands authorities.

According to the website of the Netherlands government, if anyone

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

A pledge of remembrance Martyred Intellectuals Day observed countrywide

STAR REPORT

Martyred Intellectuals Day was observed yesterday to commemorate the intellectuals who were killed by Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators right before the end of the Liberation War.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to the intellectuals in the morning, by placing floral wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the capital's Mirpur.

The president in his message said, "I call upon all to play an effective role from their respective positions to build 'Sonar Bangla' imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War and the sacrifices of the martyred intellectuals."

The PM, in her message, urged all irrespective of party affiliation to unite against war criminals, fundamentalists and perform their duties from their respective positions to continue the development of the country by resisting all conspiracies of anti-democratic forces.

Flanked by the party's central leaders, Hasina, also president of Awami League, laid another wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial as the party chief.

Hasina then went to Dhanmondi and placed a wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

Besides, family members of the martyred and freedom fighters placed wreaths in Rayerbazar and Mirpur killing grounds. People from all walks of life joined in, wearing black as a symbol of mourning.

Leaders and activists of different political and social organisations also paid homage at the respective places.

Special prayers were held at places of worship on the occasion.

Bangladesh Television and private television channels broadcast special programmes highlighting the significance of the day. Newspapers also published special supplements.

BCL attacks Chhatra Union leaders again

4 hospitalised

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least four leaders of Chhatra Union were injured when a group of Chhatra League men allegedly attacked them again on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The injured are Meghmalla Bosu, president of DU Chhatra Union; Maen Ahmed, general secretary; Tahmid Shubhra, assistant general secretary of its Dhaka metropolitan unit; and Shahriar Shihab, a leader of its private university unit.

The left-leaning activists were attacked across several locations on the DU campus, including Shahbagh, TSC and VC Chattar.

They were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, as his eye was severely injured during the attack, they added.

On December 12, a group of activists from left-leaning organisations tore down a banner, which was set up by BCL in front of the Raju Memorial Sculpture, thanking the government for the metro rail.

Following that, BCL members attacked leaders and activists of those organisations near the memorial, injuring at least 10.



PHOTO: COLLECTED
A Chhatra Union leader at a hospital after the alleged BCL attack.

Mild cold wave likely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mild cold wave may sweep across the western and northwestern parts of the country today.

Bazlur Rashid, a meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department said mild cold waves will hit several areas including Dinajpur, Syedpur, Tentulia, and Chuadanga today.

However, the temperature will start to rise from Saturday or Sunday, before the country faces another cold wave from December 20 onwards, he said.

According to BMD's weather forecast, the weather may remain

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Four day labourers seek warmth by a fire amid dense fog at Boyra Aziz intersection in Khulna city yesterday morning.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 15

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-20	12-30	3-45	5-22	7-00
JAMAT 5-55	1-15	4-00	5-25	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION