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GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025

HIGHEST SELLING CEMENT for more than **20 YEARS**



Towards hope, with the vote in sight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

We step into the new year with hope and optimism as new beginnings are wont to be, the national election on the horizon is all the more reason to look ahead to 2026. The very possibility of being able to practise one's franchise, that prized entitlement of the sovereign citizen, feels all the more precious since many had been robbed of it for long.

Following in the wake of a tumultuous uprising the previous year, 2025 had started with high expectations. The year that had begun with possibilities and potential also turned out to be one of frustration and disappointment. It was a year of quite resilience for households but also a year of recalibration for the economy. Overall, the year has been one where Bangladesh was in transit. Having freed itself from the clutches of an increasingly despotic regime, the nation prepared – sometimes with apprehension and sometimes with affirmation – for the transition to democracy in 2026.

Not quite comparable to the July uprising and its aftermath, 2025 had its own ups and downs. Even as we bid farewell to 2025 and usher in a new year, it coincides with the beginning of a new chapter in the political landscape. We welcome the new year having bid farewell to Khaleda Zia, who had been a fixture of Bangladesh's politics, a force for democracy. Her son, Tarique Rahman, had returned to Bangladesh only a few days before, after 17 years in exile.

It was also the year when Khaleda's arch rival who had tormented her for much of the 16 years that Awami League was at the helm, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity in Dhaka. And although Awami League's activities have been prohibited, the outfit has become a pariah in a land it ruled with absolute authority for three terms.

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Fireworks light up the midnight sky above the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House during New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney, Australia.

PHOTO: AFP

51 of 59 parties turn in nominations

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED DEEPTO

Aspirants from 51 of the country's 59 registered political parties have filed

remains withheld. Seven other registered parties also refrained from filing nominations. At least five of them had previously been allies of Awami League-led

deadline. BNP topped the list with 331 submissions, followed by Jamaat-e-Islami with 276, Islami Andolon Bangladesh with 268, and Jatiya Party (GM Quader) with 224. AB Party

TOTAL ASPIRANTS	PARTY ASPIRANTS	INDEPENDENT ASPIRANTS
2,569	2,091	478

nomination papers for the national election scheduled for February 12, according to Election Commission data.

The Awami League is formally excluded from the polls as its registration

governments between 2008 and August 2024.

According to EC data, 2,569 aspirants – 2,091 from political parties and 478 independents – submitted nomination papers ahead of Monday's

and National Citizen Party aspirants filed nominations for 53 and 44 constituencies, respectively.

However, confusion arose over the nomination

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WISHES ITS VALUED READERS, PATRONS, ADVERTISERS AND WELL-WISHERS A VERY HAPPY 2026

Bleak rights record in 2025

Say ASK, MSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Mob violence, political clashes, deaths in custody and sustained attacks on press freedom defined Bangladesh's human rights situation in 2025, according to two leading rights organisations.

Data compiled by the Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) and Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) indicate a year marked by shrinking democratic space, widespread impunity, and growing insecurity for journalists, political activists, minorities, women, and children.

Both organisations said mob attacks emerged as one of the gravest human rights violations of the year, while political violence intensified and accountability for abuses by both state and non-state actors remained largely absent.

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We Deeply Mourn




We express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Begum Khaleda Zia, BNP Chairperson and the first female Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

We respectfully acknowledge her remarkable contribution to the nation as a three-time Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Our sincere sympathies go out to the bereaved family members and well-wishers.

May Almighty Allah grant her Jannatul Ferdous Ameen



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Lalidar Char, East Patenga, Chattogram.



Begum Khaleda Zia (1945-2025)

We Deeply Mourn

We deeply mourn the sad demise of Former Three-time Prime Minister of Bangladesh and BNP Chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia (Inna Lillahi wa innailayhi raji'un).

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Member Mills of BTMA we express and convey our deepest condolence to members of the bereaved family.

We sincerely pray for the eternal peace and salvation of the departed soul. May the Almighty Allah in His infinite mercy gives family members strength and fortitude to bear the loss.

President & Board of Directors BTMA



BANGLADESH TEXTILE MILLS ASSOCIATION (BTMA)

বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস অ্যাসোসিয়েশন