



EC restores candidacy of 58 more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday reinstated the candidacy of 58 more aspirants, including Nagorik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna, clearing the way for them to contest the upcoming 13th general election.

On the second day of reviewing appeals against returning officers' decisions to reject nominations, the EC heard 71 appeals, of which 58 were granted, seven rejected, and six kept pending.

Manna had submitted nomination papers for Dhaka-18 and Bogura-2. Returning officers accepted the nomination for Dhaka-18 but rejected the Bogura-2 form, citing inconsistencies during scrutiny.

In response to his subsequent appeal, the EC declared his Bogura-2 nomination valid yesterday afternoon.

Independent candidate Md Mohiuddin from Munshiganj-3 also had his appeal cleared yesterday after being kept pending on the first day.

With 51 restorations on the first day, a total of 109 candidates have regained their candidacy in two days of hearings.

The EC rejected seven appeals yesterday, namely those

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Mahmudur Rahman



Battery-run rickshaws, seized during a drive on Bijoy Sarani, are being taken away on a truck yesterday afternoon. The rickshaw drivers chose to travel to the so-called “dumping station”, hoping to get their vehicles back. The photo was taken in the Mohammadpur Bus Stand area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Girl in ICU after stray bullet from Myanmar hits her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A 12-year-old Bangladeshi girl was injured by a stray bullet during a heavy fighting reportedly between the Arakan Army and Rohingya armed groups across the Myanmar border, police said yesterday.

The clashes took place at Totar Dwip on the Myanmar side, opposite Whykong union of Cox's Bazar's Teknaf, from around 11:00pm on Saturday to 10:00am yesterday with continuous gunfire and explosions reported.

During the fighting, a stray bullet from across the border hit the girl.

Alok Biswas, additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar police, told The Daily Star that the injured girl was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

“There were initial reports that she died, but that is not correct,” he said, adding that she was shot in the ear.

Earlier in the day, Khokon Kanti Rudra, in-charge of Whykong police outpost, had said Hujaifa Afnan was killed by a bullet coming from Myanmar.

The girl, daughter of Mohammad Jasim, a resident of the Tesri Bridge area of Whykong, was reportedly playing in front of her house around 9:40am when she was hit by the bullet, the police official added.

In the evening, the girl's uncle Showkot said she was admitted to the ICU of CMCH.

After the news of the girl's injury spread, protesters blocked the Ukhiya-Teknaf highway for at least three hours in the morning. Later, members of army and Border Guard Bangladesh cleared the blockade.

Sirajul Mostafa, a member of ward-2 of Whykong

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Hujaifa Afnan

REFERENDUM BB orders banks to campaign for ‘yes’ vote

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has directed all banks to run campaigns supporting a ‘Yes’ vote in the upcoming referendum on the July Charter's constitutional provisions.

The directive was issued at a bankers' meeting held at the BB headquarters yesterday.

Chaired by BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur, the meeting was attended by a delegation from the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB), led by its chairman, Mashrur Arefin.

Nazma Mobarek, secretary of the Financial Institutions Division, also attended the meeting along with BB deputy governors, relevant executive directors, and directors.

The meeting discussed several issues, including the reduction of non-performing loans, BB's dollar purchases, and the upcoming referendum, which will be held on national election day, scheduled for February 12.

The referendum will comprise a set of questions for a ‘Yes/No’ vote.

“We have been asked to campaign for a ‘Yes’ vote. A letter has come from the Chief Adviser's Office instructing us to put up two banners in each branch to encourage people to take part in the referendum,” ABB Chairman Mashrur told The Daily Star over the phone.

At the meeting, they were told to do the

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Flee Venezuela ‘immediately’

US urges its citizens citing risks from armed militias; Maduro loyalists stage rally

AGENCIES

The US State Department on Saturday urged Americans in Venezuela to leave the country “immediately,” citing risks from armed militias searching vehicles for US citizens at roadblocks.

“The security situation in Venezuela remains fluid,” the department said in a security alert, one week after the country's leader Nicolas Maduro was captured by US forces in a lightning raid.

“As international flights have resumed, US citizens in Venezuela should leave the country immediately,” it said, warning of armed militias called colectivos searching cars for Americans or evidence of US support.

Several hundred supporters of Maduro staged protests in the capital Saturday as the interim government moved to revive ties with Washington and slowly released some prisoners.

Waving flags and placards with the face of the mustachioed ex-leader and his wife Cilia, around 1,000 protesters rallied in the west of Caracas and a few hundred in the eastern Petare district — far smaller than demonstrations Maduro's camp has mustered in the past.

Notably absent from the rallies

were top figures from the government, which has said it is reviving diplomatic contact with Washington and discussing possible cooperation on US President Donald Trump's oil demands, reports AFP.

- ▶ Trump signs order to protect US-held revenue from Venezuela oil
- ▶ Venezuelan govt courts US, gradually frees prisoners
- ▶ Maduro ‘doing well’ in US jail: son

Interim president Delcy Rodriguez instead attended an agricultural fair, where she vowed in televised comments she would “not rest for a minute until we have our president back.”

The other two headline powers in the government, Interior Minister and street enforcer Diosdado Cabello, and Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino

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MUSABBIR MURDER Top criminal's aide behind killing: DB

TOUSIF KAIUM

An aide to a top criminal in Dhaka's underworld allegedly masterminded the killing of Swetchhasebak Dal leader Azizur Rahman Musabbir, according to Detective Branch (DB) officials.

Bilash, also known as Jahidul, who is currently in Malaysia, allegedly hired Md Bilal to carry out the murder, promising Tk 12-15 lakh and to bear all expenses if they were arrested.

Bilal then reportedly executed the plan with the help of two suspected shooters, Zinnat and Rahim, said two DB officials closely involved in the investigation.

So far, four people have been arrested in connection with the murder: Zinnat, 24; Abdul Kadir, 28; Md Reaz, 31; and Md Bilal.

Speaking at a press conference at the DMP Media Centre yesterday afternoon, DMP Additional Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said the DB conducted extensive

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AFTERMATH OF JAMAAT TIES NCP failing to bring back leaders who left

SHAMIMA RITA

Leaders, who recently resigned from NCP in protest against the party's alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami, are standing firm on their decision, rejecting recent overtures from the party leadership to bring them back into the fold.

While the NCP top brass claims to be in talks with the leaders, the latter have termed these efforts ineffective and stated that they would only consider returning if the party severs its ties with Jamaat.

As of yesterday, at least 15 top and middle-ranking leaders, including former senior joint member secretary Tasnim Jara and former joint convener Khaled Saifullah, have resigned, while six others withdrew their candidacies ahead of the upcoming national election.

Besides, Senior Joint Convener Samanta Sharmeen and Joint Member Secretary Nahida Sarwar Niva, who did not officially step down from the party, remain inactive in party activities following NCP's ties with Jamaat.

NCP Spokesperson Asif Mahmud told The Daily Star, “We are trying to bring the leaders back into the party and are talking to them.”

They did not leave the party merely out of disappointment, he said, adding that there were other underlying issues, which is why it would take time.

However, the leaders who left dismissed

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Hundreds of people use this rickety yet towering bamboo bridge linking Aftabnagar and Banasree in the capital each day to cross the Norai river. There is no other convenient and proper bridge between the two neighbourhoods over the river. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

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তথ্য কপিকা-১১

গণভোট ও ত্রয়োদশ জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচন ২০২৬

“আপনি কি জুলাই জাতীয় সনদ (সংবিধান সংস্কার) বাস্তবায়ন আদেশ, ২০২৫ এবং জুলাই জাতীয় সনদে লিপিবদ্ধ সংবিধান সংস্কার সম্পর্কিত নিম্নলিখিত প্রস্তাবসমূহের প্রতি আপনার সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করিতেছেন?;” (হ্যাঁ/না)

(ক) নির্বাচনকালীন তত্ত্বাবধায়ক সরকার, নির্বাচন কমিশন এবং অন্যান্য সাংবিধানিক প্রতিষ্ঠান জুলাই সনদে বর্ণিত প্রক্রিয়ার আলোকে গঠন করা হইবে।

(খ) আগামী জাতীয় সংসদ হইবে দুই কক্ষ বিশিষ্ট ও জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে দলগুলোর প্রাপ্ত ভোটের অনুপাতে ১০০ সদস্য বিশিষ্ট একটি উচ্চকক্ষ গঠিত হইবে এবং সংবিধান সংশোধন করিতে হইলে উচ্চকক্ষের সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠ সদস্যের অনুমোদন দরকার হইবে।

(গ) সংসদে নারীর প্রতিনিধি বৃদ্ধি, বিরোধী দল হইতে ডেপুটি স্পীকার ও সংসদীয় কমিটির সভাপতি নির্বাচন, মৌলিক অধিকার, বিচার বিভাগের স্বাধীনতা, স্থানীয় সরকার, প্রধানমন্ত্রীর মেয়াদ, রাষ্ট্রপতির ক্ষমতাসহ তফসিলে বর্ণিত যে ৩০টি বিষয়ে জুলাই জাতীয় সনদে একমত্যা হইয়াছে- সেগুলো বাস্তবায়নে আগামী সংসদ নির্বাচনে বিজয়ী রাজনৈতিক দলগুলো বাধ্য থাকিবে।

(ঘ) জুলাই জাতীয় সনদে বর্ণিত অপরাপার সংস্কার রাজনৈতিক দলগুলোর প্রতিশ্রুতি অনুসারে বাস্তবায়ন করা হইবে।

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ভোট প্রদানের জন্য হ্যাঁ অথবা না যেকোনো একটি ঘরে সিল দিন

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