



# 'State scripted last 3 polls'

Inquiry commission says sections in admin, police, EC, intelligence agencies implemented the plans

KEY FINDINGS	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control of the electoral process in last three polls shifted from the EC to the admin</li> <li>Widespread fraud included fake votes, ballot stuffing and manipulated turnout figures</li> <li>Intelligence agencies, parts of the armed forces were used to shape outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the probe to include the 2008 election and take legal action</li> <li>Bar intelligence agencies from election and party registration activities</li> <li>Establish independent delimitation and investigation mechanisms</li> </ul>

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and BAHARAM KHAN

The last three national elections were orchestrated at the highest levels of the state, with segments of the administration, police, Election Commission, and intelligence agencies mobilised to implement the plans, the inquiry commission on those polls said.

In a report submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday, the National Election (2014, 2018, 2024) Investigation Commission also noted that during those elections, control of the electoral process moved away from the EC to the administration.

"The administration, not the Election Commission, became the driving force behind election management," said the commission, which investigated allegations of corruption, irregularities, and criminal activities during those polls.

It recommended widening the probe to include the 2008 election and urged legal action against those found responsible.

The five-member commission, led by Justice Shamim Hasnain, handed over the report to Prof Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in the afternoon.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



**POUSH SANKRANTI TOMORROW...** Farmers are busy reaping golden Aman paddy from fields across the country as preparations for Poush Sankranti -- the traditional harvest festival celebrated on the last day of the Bangla month of Poush. Tomorrow morning, villages will awaken to the scent of freshly made pitha, and by afternoon fairs will come alive with music, laughter, and festive cheer. The photo was taken at Khejurtala Beel in Batiaghata upazila, Khulna. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## ICC yet to respond to BCB's letter Board clarifies adviser's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday clarified that the International Cricket Council is yet to formally respond to its second letter seeking relocation of Bangladesh's matches in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup from India, following some comments from the Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Nazrul about an ICC communication earlier in the day.



"The correspondence SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Iran ready for war, open to dialogue

Claims protest under control; pro-regime rallies held nationwide after Trump's threats; Turkey warns against intervention

AGENCIES

Iranian officials said yesterday the country is prepared for war but also open to dialogue with the United States, as President Donald Trump continues his threats to intervene amid a violent government-led crackdown on protesters.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said Iran is keeping communications open with the US.

"The communication channel between

our Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and the US special envoy (Steve Witkoff) is open, and messages are exchanged whenever necessary."

Contacts also remain open through traditional intermediary Switzerland, he added.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said the situation in Iran is "under control" with "many terrorist operatives" arrested.

He told foreign diplomats in a televised meeting that "confessions will be released soon" and said there is "substantial evidence of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Dhaka's interest in joining Gaza ISF conditional Says govt; muted reactions from political parties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has said Bangladesh's interest in joining the proposed International Stabilisation Force (ISF) for Gaza hinges on several principles, including that the force be temporary and operate under a clear United Nations Security Council mandate.

"We recognise the significance of the UN Security Council decision to establish the ISF and understand that

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

# Congratulations

bti The Daily Star Stellar Women Season 2 winners



**MOURI MORIUM**  
WRITER



**NOMROTA SARKER**  
ENTREPRENEUR



**AR. NISHAT AFROSE**  
ARCHITECT (INTERIOR & LANDSCAPING)



**KYOKO ARANI NASIR BHUIYAN**  
MARKETING PROFESSIONAL



**MABIA AKHTER SIMANTA**  
SPORTS



**AR. AFSANA LUQMAN**  
ARCHITECT (RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL)



**PAPIA SARWAR DITHI**  
ART & CULTURE



**ENGR. NUSRAT NUR MAISHA**  
ENGINEERING  
(CIVIL, STRUCTURAL,  
WATER RESOURCE & MEP)



**SHAILA ABEDIN**  
BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



**DR. TAHNIN FERDOUS**  
HEALTHCARE



**SHAH ISRAT AZMERY**  
ENVIRONMENT



**DR. NASRIN AKTER IVY**  
AGRICULTURE



A JOINT INITIATIVE BY



The Daily Star