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# The Daily Star

Let us devote our efforts to ensure free and fair polls on February 27. Cast your vote judiciously and allow others to exercise their rights.

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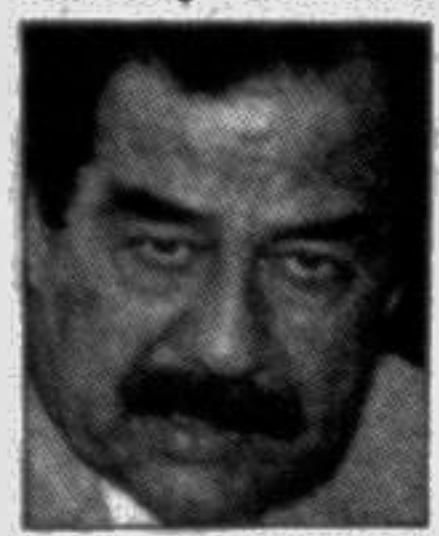
DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1991

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## Inside today International

### Saddam was nearly killed?



Saddam was nearly killed nine days ago in an Allied bombing raid and the Americans have set up an elaborate system to track him. Page 5

## Metropolitan

One-fifth election candidates are associated with criminals, according to a BIDS study. Page 3

## Feature Environment



Felled trees deal double blow to global warming. Page 6

**Article**  
**Sanctions conundrum**  
F.W. de Klerk's repeal of key laws immediately produced controversy over lifting of sanctions. Page 4

**List of election candidates**  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### UP chairman arrested

FENI, Feb 18: Police arrested a UP chairman Jahangir Alam of Sedar upazila Monday on suspicion that he was possessing illegal arms. Police got a tip from Saiful Alam, who was held on Saturday with illegal arms, reports UNB.

### Seoul's cabinet reshuffled

SEOUL, Feb 18: President Roh Tae-woo today reshuffled his cabinet, changing his Deputy Prime Minister, Construction Minister and the Seoul city Mayor in the aftermath of a bribery scandal, reports AFP.

### 'Iraq unable to resist'

RIYADH, Feb 18: Iraqi forces, pounded for more than a month by Allied bombers, are close to the point of being unable to resist a ground offensive, a French general said today, reports Reuters.

### American pilot rescued

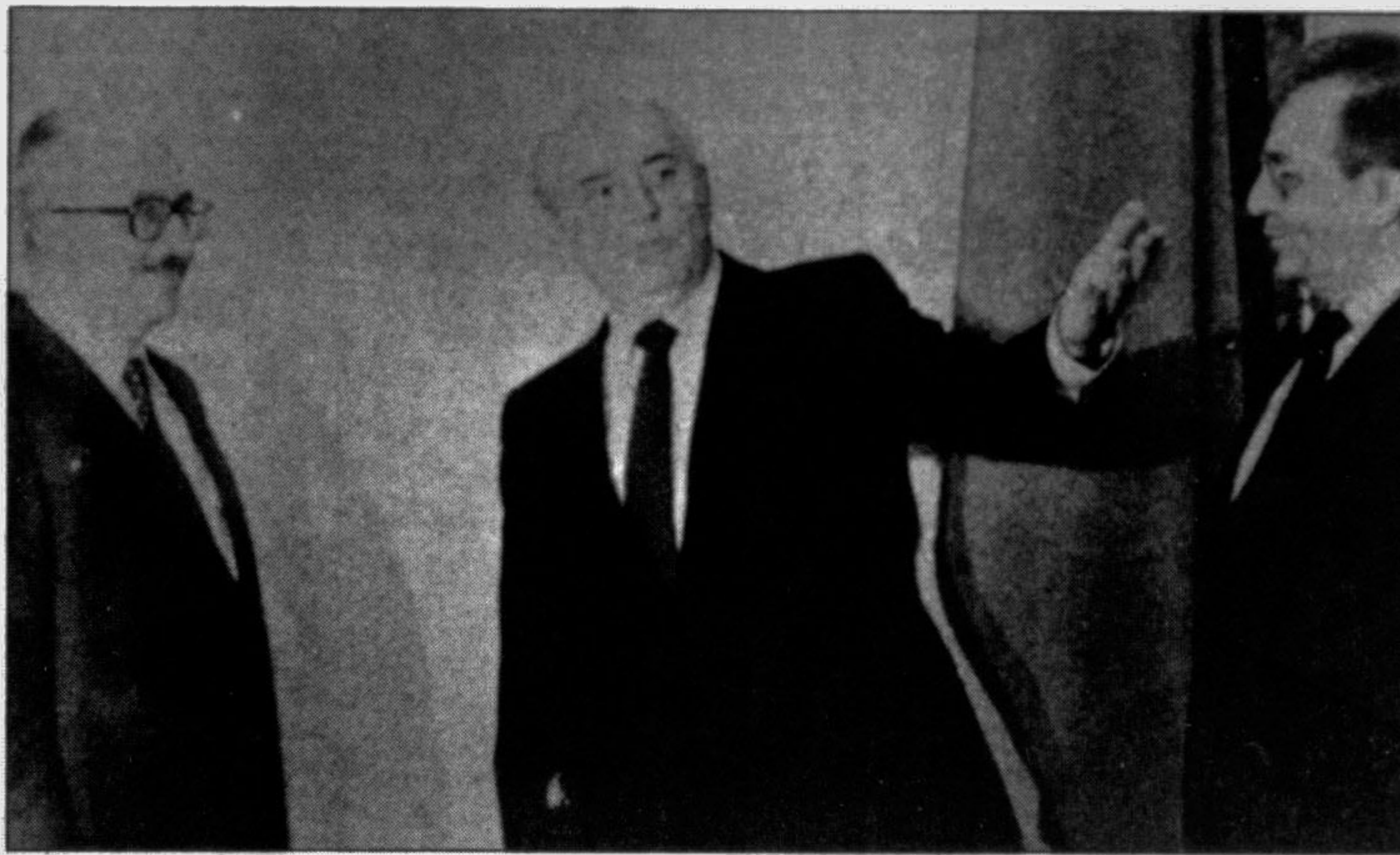
RIYADH, Feb 18: Allied helicopters rescued an American pilot 40 miles (60 km) inside Iraqi-held territory after he parachuted out of his F-16 fighter, a US military spokesman said today, reports Reuters.

### Explosions at London stations

LONDON, Feb 18: An explosion ripped through London's Victoria Station during the morning rush hour Monday, 45 minutes after a man claiming to represent the Irish Republican Army issued a telephone warning. One person was killed and at least 37 were injured, officials said, reports AP.

The blast came just hours after a blast at Paddington train station that caused no injuries.

# Baghdad looking for a face-saving deal, diplomats say Aziz takes home Gorbachev plan



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (C) gestures as he receives Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz (L) at the Kremlin on Monday as Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnyk (R) looks on. — AFP photo

## Ground war in 3 days?

The United States is continuing military operations to drive Iraq from Kuwait despite a new diplomatic effort by Soviet President Gorbachev to end hostilities while Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said on Monday that the Gulf war would continue as long as Iraq occupied Kuwait and Iraq troops remained on his border. The fighting will continue with God's will, as long as its

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- ★ War to continue till Iraqi pullout: Fahd
- ★ Skirmishes along Saudi border
- ★ Massive anti-Saddam protest leaves 10 Baath partymen dead
- ★ Iraqi Scud attack on Israel
- ★ US troops get final briefing

DHAHRAN, Feb 18: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday gave Iraq's Foreign Minister a peace proposal requiring unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, as allied troops prepared for a desert showdown, report agencies.

"President Gorbachev proposed a specific plan of action to settle the conflict...by political means," Vitaly Ignatenko told a news conference. The Iraqi Foreign Minister held 3 hours of talks with Soviet leader Gorbachev in Moscow.

He said Aziz was leaving for Baghdad to report to President Saddam Hussein on the move. He gave no details.

"It (the plan) is now in the diplomatic punch of Tariq Aziz on board a Soviet aircraft to Iraq," Ignatenko said. "We expect a reply without delay to these proposals."

Ignatenko, speaking after Gorbachev and Aziz met in the Kremlin, said the plan envisaged political measures which he believed were understood by the Iraqi side.

The plan, the first set of concrete Soviet proposals put forward since the war started a month ago, had been brought to the attention of the leaders

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## 20 injured in Chittagong, Brahmanbaria JSD(Rab) candidate killed

From Our Correspondent

KUSHIA: JSD(Rab) candidate Marfat Ali of Mirpur Bheramara (Kushtia-2) constituency was assassinated by some unidentified assailants on Saturday night.

The incident was occurred at around 8 pm while Mr. Marfat Ali was returning home after attending a projection meeting near a graveyard at Isalmari village under Khursha union of Mirpur upazila.

Mirpur police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it to district hospital for autopsy.

Mr Marfat Ali, 45, was the former chairman of the Mirpur upazila. He was also a freedom fighter.

The other candidates who are contesting from this constituency are: Hasanul Haque Inu of JSD(Inu), Abdur Rob

Chowdhury of BNP, Abdul Wahed of Jamaat-e-Islami and Kobbad Ali of Awami League.

BSS adds from Chittagong: At least ten persons were injured in a clash between rival student organisations at Azampur in Fatickchhari, Upazila Sunday, police said Monday.

Police took seven person into custody following the clash. Mohibullah, an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

The clash ensued when processions of BCL(H-A) and Islami Chhatra Shibir came face to face with counter slogans. Firearms and other lethal weapons were allegedly used in the clash, police said quoting eye witnesses.

BCL(H-A) brought out the

procession in protest against the killing of BCL(H-A) leader Helaluddin in the city on Saturday morning while the Shibir took out the procession to condemn alleged attacks on Shibir workers at Fatickchhari following the killing of Helaluddin.

UNB says from Brahmanbaria: Supporters of two candidates for coming elections clashed here this afternoon resulting in injuries to about ten people.

Witnesses said a procession heading towards Nabinagar upazila in support of Jatiya Party candidate Kazi Anwar Hossain was attacked on way by supporters of independent candidate Advocate Golam Murshed.

Jatiya Party later staged a demonstration at upazila town.

## Anti-Corruption files case against Mizan, Sekander

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has instituted a case with Motijheel thana against former Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, his wife and two sons, who are directors of Messrs Pioneer Pharmaceutical Limited, for obtaining financial benefit by illegally securing exemption from the

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## Announcement

The official list of constituency-wise candidates for parliamentary elections on February 27 is being published in The Daily Star from today. Today's list includes candidates from Rajshahi division, Khulna division and part of Dhaka division. The list of candidates from rest of Dhaka division, and full list of Chittagong division will be published tomorrow.

## Ershad's trial stayed

Supreme Court Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Monday stayed further proceedings of the criminal case before the Special Tribunal against former president H.M. Ershad for two weeks.

Mr. Justice Mostafa Kamal of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court passed the stay order upon application in his chamber. The petition is likely to be placed before the full court on the expiry of two weeks.

Kazi Shahadat Hossain, counsel for the petitioner moved the petition while Mr. Aminul Haq, Attorney General opposed the it.

Earlier on February 14 a High Court Division Bench comprising Mr Justice Abdul Bari Sarkar and Mr Justice

Habibur Rahman rejected Ershad's petition for quashing the arms case against him. The judgement cleared the way for hearing on the case by the Special Tribunal No 1 on February 16, but the accused failed to appear before the Tribunal due to illness.

The Tribunal ordered for setting up a three-member Medical Board to examine the former President and submit a report to it by February 19. It also set February 20 for hearing on the case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) filed the case with Cantonment thana on January 5 accusing Ershad of possessing eight unauthorised arms and 174 bullets.

The case was filed under

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The Ordinance amending the Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act-74 must be withdrawn immediately.

And the final Wage Board award must be announced without further delay.

Repeal all black laws including Special Powers Act '74.

## 90 election observers from abroad

By Moinuddin Naser

About 90 foreign observers from different countries and international organisations will oversee the parliamentary elections, foreign office sources said.

According to the Coordinating Cell at the Foreign Office, 76 persons from six international organisations have all

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## AL dashed people's hopes: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday sought



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia waving to supporters who gathered on the way side at Malibagh in city on Monday. — Star photo

people's mandate in favour of her party for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Addressing a series of election meetings in Dhaka city she reminded people of the nightmarish days during the period between 1972 and 1975 and urged them to reject those forces who killed democracy and created famine.

Begum Zia said that people's hopes and aspirations were belted due to misrule by Awami League after the liberation of the country. She claimed that BNP period was the 'golden era' in Bangladesh and people lived a happy life.

Begum Zia said that people had not forgotten the sufferings during 1974. She happily noted that people never committed mistakes in casting their votes in the past and she hoped this time BNP would get the mandate of the people to rule the country. She was con-

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## Khaleda plotted an army coup: Hasina

From Our Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 18: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has said though BNP boycotted the 1986 elections it conspired with the generals to seize power.

Hasina was addressing a campaign rally at Bangabandhu Uddyan in Barisal on Sunday. She alleged that born in the cantonment, both the parties snatched people's rights, plundered public wealth and smuggled those out of the country.

"If voted to power, the two parties will again snatch people's rights away the cantonment", the AL chief cautioned. Sheikh Hasina claimed it was only her party which was committed to constitutional change-over of power, not through military coup or killing.

Referring to the blames against the Awami League regime by different political

parties, she said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman launched various steps to reform the war-torn Bangladesh after his 23 years of struggle against the Pakistani military 'Juntas'. But after his killing in 1975, the 'Juntas' reappeared in the independent Bangladesh.

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina addressed public meetings and wayside gatherings at Pirozpur, Hularhat, Kowkhal, Swarupkhali, Banoripara, Jhalkathi, on the third day of her six-day election campaign in the southern parts of the country.

### Tungipara

UNB reports from Tungipara, Faridpur: Sheikh Hasina on Monday appealed to the people to take revenge against misrule of the Zia-Ershad regimes by casting their ballots in favour of her party in

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## New strategy by major parties likely

By Reazuddin Ahmed

Major political parties are frantically trying to make eleventh hour electoral adjustments with smaller parties to avoid duplication of like-minded candidates.

Both the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) are engaged in backstage parleys with their like-minded parties for last-ditch arrangements to raise the prospect of winning.

The candidates of Awami League and BNP are locked in straight electoral battles in about 225 seats, according to available information. Rest of the seats are keenly contested by Jamaat, smaller partners of Eight-party alliance, Muslim League and the independents.

In many constituencies, both the Awami League and the BNP are facing challenges from the like-minded candidates who are likely to split the votes the parties are banking on.

The crisis is acute in about 40 to 50 seats.

Awami League offered 36 seats to the smaller partners of Eight-party alliance to avoid such a situation. But the Awami League's move to persuade many candidates of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), NAP, Ganatantri Party to stay off the race had failed. Even Awami League candidates in some constituencies did not withdraw from the race

although the symbol boat was given to like-minded parties.

BNP is facing major challenge of vote split by Jamaat-e-Islami candidates. Zaker Party candidates are also posing threats to many BNP candidates. There was a move at the initial stage to have unannounced electoral adjustments between BNP and Jamaat. But the move did not succeed owing to mishandling of the issue by some leaders in both the parties, sources said. The political observers view that both BNP and Jamaat could gain from adjustments of seats. Insiders in both the parties, however, hinted that there might be a last minute move for an understanding on at

least 30 to 40 seats.

Both BNP and Awami League are expected to redraw their election strategy after the hustings are over. There might be some dramatic changes in candidature in some constituencies, according to insiders in BNP and Awami League. According to opinion poll conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) both Awami League and BNP are running neck-and-neck in the elections. The political analysts feel that the prospective winners will have to change election strategy at the last moment to save the erosion of votes from their won vote bank.

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