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## Some central leaders left out of AL ticket

Party meets allies today to talk seat-sharing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several central leaders including four organising secretaries of Awami League (AL) did not get nominations, though the party has almost finalised its candidates for the December 18 parliamentary polls.

Post-1/11 role of the leaders might be the reason for their not being picked to be on the party ticket, said AL sources.

As of last night, AL Parliamentary Board headed by its President Sheikh Hasina has settled on nominations for around 285 constituencies.

Candidates for the remaining seats including those in Dhaka and Chittagong cities will be confirmed today. The same day the party will start sending out formal letters to the nomination getters.

Some of the nominations

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## Huge explosives haul after JMB man held

70kg explosives, 150 grenade cases recovered from Mirpur, Shanir Akhra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 70kg of explosives following the confessional statement of an ehsar (full time member) of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) whom they arrested Saturday at Mirpur in the city.

They also seized 40kg of nitric acid, 150 cases of improvised grenades, a large quantity of bomb-making materials and equipment, and over 2,000 books on jihad raiding two houses in Mirpur and another house at Shanir Akhra in the capital.

Rab Additional Director General Col Gulzar Uddin Ahmed said, "The JMB stockpiled the explosives and the books as they were preparing for fresh attacks and recruit-

ment."

Maj Momtazur Rahman, chief of the bomb disposal unit of Rab, told The Daily Star, "It is possible to make over 500 bombs with the seized explosives."

According to Rab officials, JMB chief Saifur was staying at a house in Mirpur-10 and he disappeared after Kamal was arrested.

Kamal told reporters at Rab headquarters that they had been carrying out activities for jihad against the government which

enforces man-made laws. He said they have the expertise to make bombs.

Col Gulzar said the JMB men had been recruiting people.

Despite a number of major arrests made during crackdowns on Islamist militants in the last few years, over 250 trained operatives of JMB are still at large and many of them are reportedly trying to regroup.

Fugitive JMB operatives have now become a matter of grave concern for the law-enforcement agencies which have no clue to their whereabouts and activities.

Their concern has recently increased as they received bits of intelligence information from across the country that the fugitives are now holding secret meetings under a new leadership.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Saifur, Nizami, Mojahid freed on HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP minister M Saifur Rahman, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid were released from jail yesterday on High Court bail.

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star that Nizami and Mojahid were released from Dhaka Central Jail at about 5:15pm while Saifur from the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) at about 6:50pm.

Jamaat and BNP activists gathered at the jail gate and the BSMMU to greet their leaders blocking roads, causing severe traffic jam in adjoining areas, witnesses said.

"It is impossible to take part in the election slated for December 18. The government must create a congenial environment before holding the elections," said former finance minister Saifur.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## BNP may buy few days, not months

4-party sits but fails to decide on poll participation; Khaleda may brief media today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite tremendous public demand and pressure from donor countries for holding the parliamentary poll on the announced date of December 18, it might be deferred for a few days if BNP-led alliance gives formal assurance of contesting in it on the new date without any condition, according to sources.

Alliance leaders said they think their coalition will be able to take part in the election if it is held in mid-February next year, but the authorities already informed them that it could be deferred only by a few days and only if BNP confirms its participation.

Top leaders of the alliance including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia met last night to discuss the new development, but

they again failed to reach a concrete decision regarding the alliance's participation in the election, currently slated for December 18.

BNP leaders Khandaker Delwar Hossain, RA Ghani, Saifur Rahman, ASM Hannan Shah and Nazrul Islam Khan, and Jamaat's Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid were present at the meeting among others.

Later, Khaleda, Mojahid, and Khaleda's former parliamentary affairs adviser Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury met exclusively for two hours, following which Mojahid told reporters, "We want to wait another day before taking the final decision."

Meanwhile, BNP leaders said Khaleda might make her party's position on the matter public today.

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## CA's meeting with DCs, SPs today on poll law and order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed is to hold a meeting with the deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs) of districts at his office today on law and order ahead of the December 18 parliamentary elections.

He is expected to give directives to heads of district administration and police on law and order and for creating an atmosphere for the polls to be held in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

All DCs, who are also returning officers for the national election, and SPs have been called to the meeting at 10:00am with the chief adviser in the chair.

"We have been asked to attend the meeting where the chief adviser will give necessary instructions for maintaining law and order," a DC told The Daily Star last night.

The Election Commission (EC) also held a meeting on law and order at its secretariat last week and reviewed the overall situation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## AL, BNP want 24 election observers out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday lodged objections with the Election Commission (EC) to 20 organisations monitoring the December 18 national election and BNP to four.

The parties asked the commission for disqualification of the observer bodies they do not find impartial enough.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 6 HC judges take oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six of the seven newly appointed additional judges of the High Court (HC) took the oath of office yesterday.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin administered the oath at the Judges' Lounge of the Supreme Court (SC) in the morning.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



This photo shows cases of improvised grenades seized from three JMB dens during Rab raids conducted following the confessional statement of JMB member Mohammad Hanif, inset, arrested Saturday.

## Tac set free for a month by SC

Commission chief wants to make best use of this period but uncertain about fate of those who confess

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for one month Thursday's High Court order, which declared the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) and its activities illegal and unconstitutional.

As per the SC order, Tac can now resume its functions halted for three days.

As the SC order breathes life into Tac, its Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan told The Daily Star last night they would speed up their work to finish all the pending tasks before the stay expires.

"We've got a temporary stay on the High Court order. I'll begin hearing on appeals pending with the commission from tomorrow

(Monday) as I've received some documents regarding the stay late today," said Habibur Rahman.

"We'll also try to speed up our activities so that we can finish our job by this time," he added.

The Tac boss is, however, uncertain about the fate of the graft-accused confessing to committing corruption if the SC upholds the HC verdict.

"The graft-accused will be in an uncertain situation. How can I give any guarantee regarding the matter? I can't do so. It'll be decided through legal procedures," he observed.

The Tac did not carry out any office activities yesterday with its three commissioners including the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Talking polls and beyond

### 1/11 should change politicians' attitude

Says barrister Shafique Ahmed

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and WASIM BIN HABIB



Barrister Shafique Ahmed, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, favours an agenda-based meeting between Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, which he said would bring "concrete and acceptable" solutions to the existing crises.

"The leaders can discuss their previous mistakes, or they can discuss the election or the economy of the country. Many concrete and acceptable solutions may come out if the meeting is held on the basis of an agenda

and the government should set it," he said.

Barrister Shafique thinks the country would plunge into another spell of uncertainty if the parliamentary elections are deferred on grounds that a party is not taking part.

"It would be regrettable if any political party refrains from participating in the election," he said in an interview with The Daily Star. The nation, which is "expecting the election to be held on schedule", would not accept any move by anyone to defer it, he added.

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Find details of the interview on page 11

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## Three Bangladeshis killed in 'drunk shooting' by BSF man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people including a mother and her child were shot dead and another was injured yesterday as a 'drunken' member of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) ran amok at Mahipara of Tetulia upazila in Panchagarh.

The villagers caught the BSF member with firearms and handed him over to the BDR.

The deceased were identified as

Majeda Begum, 30, her two-year-old son Mamun and Golam Mostafa, 55.

Majeda's husband Shahidul Isalm, 40, sustained bullet injuries in the incident. His condition was stated to be critical.

A BDR high-up confirmed the killings of three Bangladeshis and the detention of a BSF member.

Taherul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tetulia Police Station, told The

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### The Daily Star IN NEW SIZE

In compliance with NOAB decision The Daily Star will be published in new size from tomorrow, 18 November 2008. Accordingly, the new size of The Daily Star pages will be 20½" (height) x 13" (width).

Our esteemed advertisers are requested to please take note of the above change and send their advertisement materials in new size for publication from 18th November 2008 onwards.

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