

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT



MEMORIES OF JUBORAJ

Friends and colleagues go back to moments with Khaled Khan

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READY TO RUN GOVT

Kejriwal claims AAP would do better than BJP or Congress

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Six murdered in city house

Dispute between religious sects might be the reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals slit the throats of six people, including a "pir" and his son, at a house in the capital's Gopibagh yesterday evening.

Lutfar Rahman Faruque, 60, who would claim himself to be a "pir" (spiritual leader), his son Sarwar Islam Faruque, 30, and Lutfar's followers Manjur Alam, 27, Shaheen, 25, Mujibul Sarkar, 25, and Russell, 22, were found dead at Lutfar's rented house on RK Mission Road around 6:45pm.

Disputes between religious sects might have been the reason behind the killings, said Ziaul Hasan, additional director general of Rab.

Lutfar used to describe himself as a follower of Imam Mahdi, and wrote religious books, he said.

Mehedi Hassan, additional deputy commissioner (Wari zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star it appears that a gang of 10 armed men committed the murders between 5:45pm and 6:15pm.

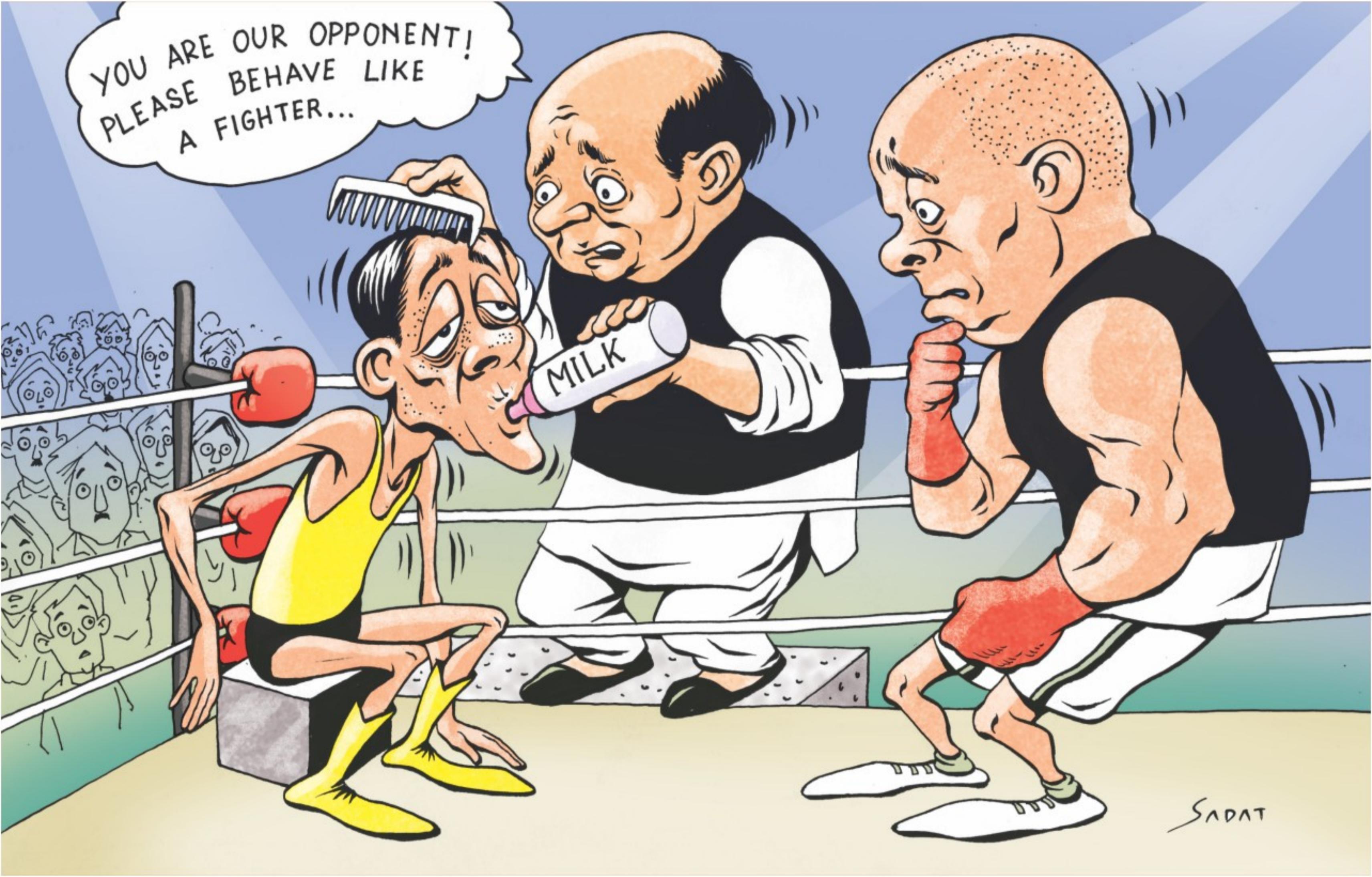
It was a planned murder, he said.

The killers, however, spared Lutfar's wife Salma, four other women, two children and Lutfar's relative Golam Mostafa, who were inside the house at that time.

Law enforcers later rescued the eight, whose hands and legs were tied and mouths gagged.

Lutfar lived with his wife, son Sarwar and his wife and their child on the first floor of the four-storey building "Aina". Lutfar's follower Manju and his wife also lived with them.

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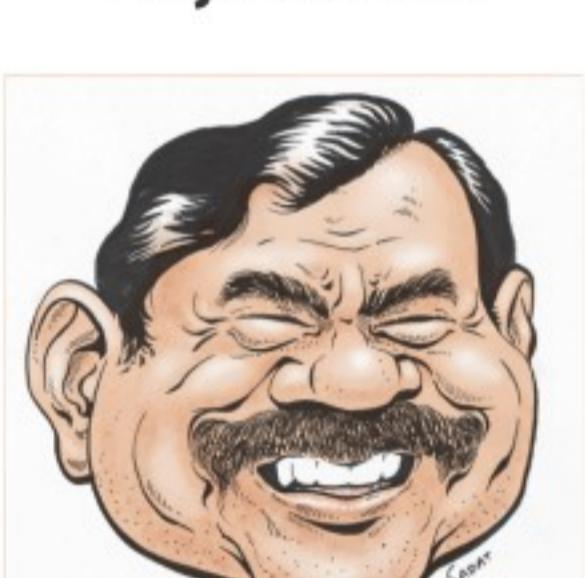
POLITICS OF FORTUNE

As all candidates in the 10th parliamentary polls have submitted their wealth statements and those of their family members to the EC, The Daily Star has scrutinised the statements of some Awami League contestants and found that all of them have become richer over the last five years, some rather astonishingly. We compared these statements with those submitted by them before the ninth parliamentary polls.

Mahbubur Rahman



Mahbubul Alam Hanif



Shajahan Khan

Majestic landlord

Tk 41.88 lakh in 2008 with 20 acres agriculture land; now has Tk 7.61 crore with 2865 acres of land!

Fortunate one

Presently has assets of Tk 7 crore (has Tk 14 crore bank loan). Purchased 70 acres land in last five years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During his party's tenure as government in the last five years, Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif has bought 70 acres of land at a cost of Tk 4.95 crore.

According to his wealth statement submitted this month to the Election Commission, 67 acres of

The minister has become richer by four

4 times richer

Tk 1.03 crore in 2008; now has Tk 4 crore (Excluding his wife's assets, his buses & cars. Both got Rajuk plots - which is illegal)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violating the plot allotment rules, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan and his wife Syeda Rokeya Begum have secured two plots from the Rajuk at Purbachal, says the minister's affidavit to the Election Commission.

The minister has become richer by four

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It's all made easy for AL

Ruling party aspirants face weak candidates of small parties in most of 146 constituencies in Jan 5 polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Amid a boycott by the BNP-led opposition alliance, the ruling Awami League will face its allies in many constituencies in the January 5 polls, reducing the already one-sided election to a complete sham.

In Dinajpur, the Workers Party candidates are the only opponents of the AL contenders for five of the six parliamentary seats.

Fielding five candidates in the district seems a big achievement for the party, led by Rashed Khan Menon, a minister in Sheikh Hasina's election-

time government.

The left-leaning party nominated only two candidates there in 1991 polls, one each in 1996 and 2001. They together bagged 1,580 votes in the three elections. Their security deposits were forfeited, according to the Election Commission reports.

In the 2008 polls, no constituency in Dinajpur had a candidate from the WP as it teamed up with the AL. In this district, the battle of ballot usually remains limited to the AL and its archrival BNP.

So, in the absence of the BNP, the outcome of the January 5 race in

Dinajpur has become crystal clear. An AL candidate has already been declared elected unopposed in one of the six constituencies.

But the easy fight does not necessarily mean an easy job for the Election Commission. It has to complete all necessary preparations, including printing of ballot papers, according to the EC officials.

Around 11,000 polling officials, including presiding officers, have already been recruited for conducting polls in the 672 centres of the five

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IT'S BNP'S FAULT: PM -- PAGE 3

BNP opposes army role in 'farcical' polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday lambasted the government and the Election Commission for the move to deploy the army as strike force to ensure peaceful holding of the January 5 "farcical election", and alleged that it is a plot to leave the army pitted against the people.

"We are surprised to see the news of deploying the patriotic army for the unilateral and farcical

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ABANDONED BOMB IN RAJSHAHI

5-yr-old hurt critically

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another child had his hand blown off by an abandoned bomb yesterday.

Five-year-old Nahidul Islam Mahin of Rajshahi thought the red ball-like object on the ground was a toy.

The crude bomb blew off his left hand from the wrist down, and splinters from the blast peppered his face.

Professor BK Dam, head of orthopaedic surgery at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where the child was taken, told our correspondent that the splinters have also damaged his eyes.

Mahin's right eye was bleeding profusely when our correspondent went to see the child.

Mahin, son of a domestic help, had



Five-year-old Mahin at RMCH yesterday after he picked an abandoned homemade bomb on the premises of an Awami League office in Upashahar area and it exploded.

PHOTO: STAR

Lokman of Shisha Haat in Naogaon climbs what looks like a sand dune, but it is actually paddy. The wholesaler accumulated the paddy but was in difficulty shipping it to mills during the long series of blockades. Inset, wholesalers buying paddy in sacks at a weekly bazaar in Nilphamari.

PHOTO: SOHEL PARVEZ



Rice traders, millers in grave trouble

Blockade forces several thousand rice mills to suspend operation

SOHEL PARVEZ

Md Lokman Ali, a paddy wholesaler at Shisha Haat of Naogaon, has been banking on Friday, the only blockade-free day between December 17 and 24, to send out the 815 tonnes of paddy congesting his warehouse.

Storage space, after all, is of the essence to him now, with the newly-harvested aman paddy, the country's second biggest crop, flowing in everyday.

After desperately searching for trucks since Thursday, he managed 22 trucks, enough to send off 330 tonnes to millers at

Tangail on Friday evening.

"I suppose I will have to wait until next Friday to send out the remaining stock. It is really frustrating," said an annoyed Ali, who normally buys 100 tonnes of paddy daily and dispatches them to millers on the same day.

The irregular delivery of paddy, on the other hand, has caused half of the country's 17,000-odd rice millers to suspend production, said Md Layek Ali, convener of Bangladesh Auto Major and Husking Mill Owners Association.

Star's
VISIT TO
NORTH

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