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# 18-PARTY MEET

## Jamaat remains alliance partner

### Hartal on Jan 29

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP does not seem to have any plan to sever ties with Jamaat-e-Islami right now.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is rather annoyed with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's urging her to part company with Jamaat and it was reflected in her comments during a meeting of the 18-party alliance last night.

She questioned why it gives Hasina a headache if the BNP keeps ties with Jamaat and said the party will lose votes if people think its association with Jamaat is bad, said meeting sources.

This was the first meeting of the 18-party alliance since November 19 last year.

In the two-hour meeting from around 9:00pm, the alliance decided in principle to observe hartal on January 29, the inaugural day of the 10th parliament.

At one point of the meeting, BNP chief raised the issue of Jamaat, according to a top alliance leader who was present at the meeting.

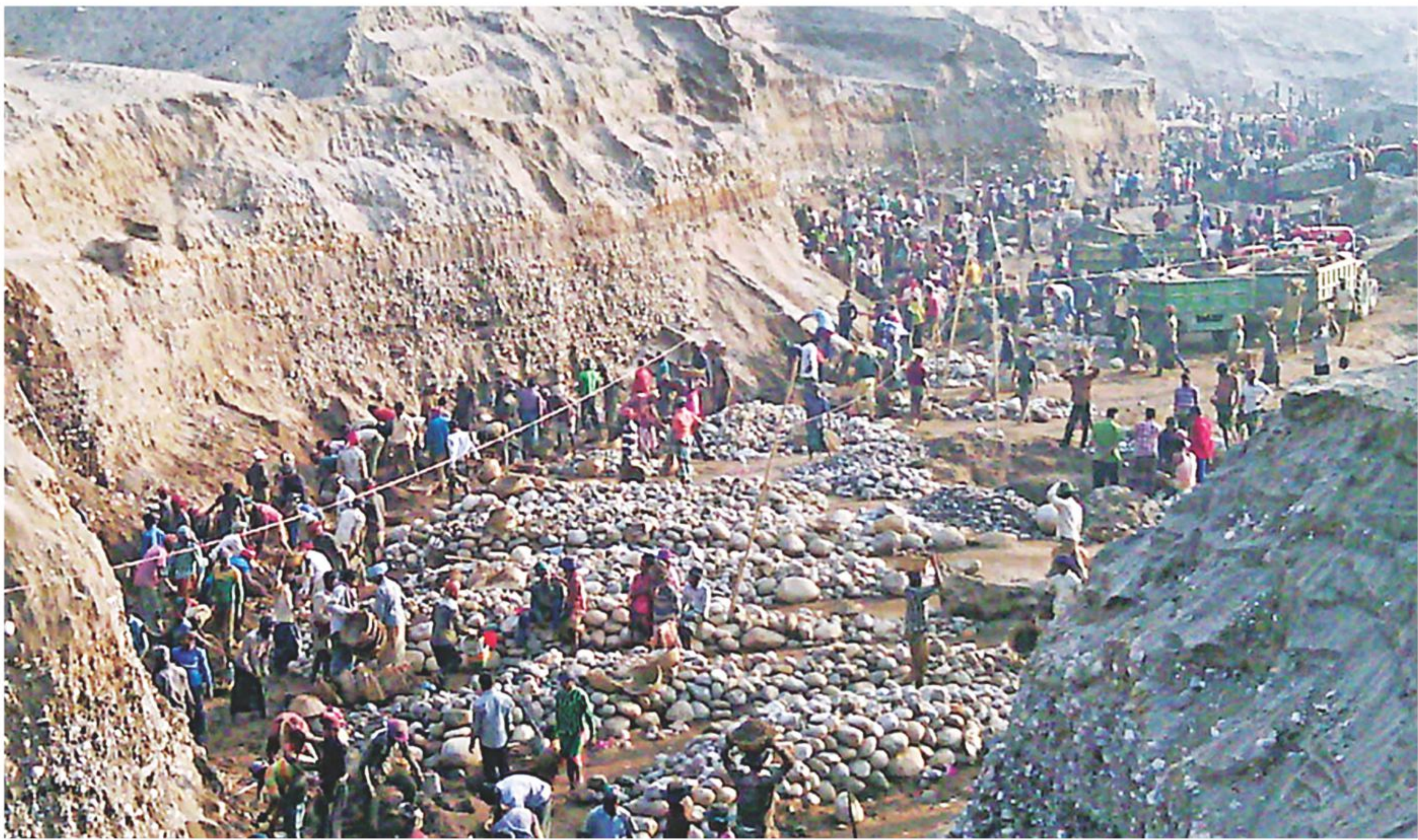
Her stance was supported by other alliance leaders.

Hasina and the ruling Awami League have long been urging the BNP chief to cut relations with Jamaat for its involvement in war crimes in 1971 and recent violence.

After the January 5 polls, Khaleda in her interview to foreign media said her party's relations with Jamaat is only strategic.

However, the BNP chief is scheduled to formally announce the opposition's next course of action through a press conference tomorrow.

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Stone extraction and stealing goes on unabated from a piece of railway land in Bholaganj of Sylhet. The place has been declared a protected area. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## New Sangsad sits Jan 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new Jatiya Sangsad will begin its journey at 6:00 pm on January 29 amid growing uncertainty over the political situation.

President Abdul Hamid yesterday convened the 10th JS with the ninth JS still in existence. Its tenure will expire on January 25.

According to a press release issued by the parliament secretariat, the president convened the new parliament on the advice of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

At its inaugural sitting,

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## KORNAI ATTACK

### Dinajpur SP 'admits cop failure'

STAR REPORT

The Dinajpur police chief yesterday admitted his department's failure in preventing the attack on Hindus in Korna village on January 5.

Ruhul Amin, the superintendent of police, said his force was below strength on election day, having been divided into groups and assigned to polling centres across the district.

But the police will not compromise on bringing the perpetrators to justice, he said at a meeting organised by the district administration at Korna.

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## 10-TRUCK ARMS HAUL CASES

# Verdict on Jan 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong special tribunal yesterday set January 30 for delivering the verdict in the sensational cases of 10-truck arms haul in 2004.

Former BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, former industries minister, war crimes accused and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami and a few high-ranking intelligence agency and government officials are accused in two cases filed in this connection.

Defence lawyers for eight out of 11 accused with a supplementary charge sheet placed their closing arguments

between noon and 5:00pm yesterday.

The tribunal did not allow lawyers of former National Security Intelligence (NSI) director general Brig Gen (retd) Abdur Rahim and former NSI deputy director Maj (retd) Liakat Hossain to place their arguments as the two had expressed no confidence in the tribunal.

A lawyer for Babar asked the court for one more day since Babar's lawyer Abdus Sobhan Tarafder could not attend court yesterday.

In response, Judge SM Mojibur Rahman of the Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 ordered all to submit their closing

arguments in writing by January 23 and said the verdict on the cases would be declared on January 30.

A large amount of arms and ammunition reportedly meant for Indian separatist organisation United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was captured at a jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) in the early hours of April 2, 2004.

The arms and ammo were being loaded on to 10 trucks from two fishing trawlers.

The two cases, an arms case and a smuggling case, were filed with Karnaphuli Police Station the following day.



Former home minister Lutfozzaman Babar, an accused in the 10-truck arms haul cases, is being taken to a Chittagong court yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Anwar quits as JU VC

### Sends letter to president for acceptance

JU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday resigned as the vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University in the face of around a year-long movement by a section of teachers demanding his removal.

"I have already sent my resignation letter to President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, by a messenger," Prof Anwar told The Daily Star.

"I don't know yet whether my resignation has been accepted," he added.

Prof Anwar who was appointed on May 20, 2012, is the fifth JU VC forced to step down following movements.



Prof Ajit Kumar Majumder, president of JU Teachers Association (Juta), described Prof Anwar's resignation as a victory for the teachers participating in the movement.

On January 12, the JU Day, Prof Anwar had announced for the second time that he would soon step down.

He first declared to quit on February 12, 2013 during a press conference at JU Senate Hall as Juta brought the allegation that he had failed to run the university properly.

Later, he backtracked on his decision saying students want him back at JU.

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## Plant 50 trees, report to HC

### Court asks UP chairman accused of felling 7 trees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked a tree feller to plant 50 teak (Shegun) and Mahogany trees at his own cost at the place where he cut down seven trees.

He will have to report to the court about it after six months.

The HC granted a six-month bail to Abdul Majid Biswas, a BNP leader and chairman of Shibpur union in Satkhira, on those conditions.

As per the court order, he will have to plant those trees alongside the Abader Hat-Rajapur road.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Mohammad Ullah also asked the officer-in-charge of Satkhira Sadar Police Station to submit a report on the implementation of the order in six months.

Md Hasanuzzaman, a surveyor of the Satkhira District

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## Mysterious fire in garment factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out on the second floor of an eight-storey garment factory in the capital's Malibagh area last night.

Witnesses and fire brigade sources said the fire began around 8:15pm on the floor which was being used mainly as storage for garment products and raw materials of the factory owned by Al-Muslim Group.

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| PRAYER TIMING              |       |        | January 14 |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
|                            | Azan  | Jamaat |            |
| Fajr                       | 5:30  | 6:05   |            |
| Zohr                       | 12:45 | 1:15   |            |
| Asr                        | 4:00  | 4:15   |            |
| Maghrib                    | 5:36  | 5:40   |            |
| Esha                       | 7:00  | 7:30   |            |
| Source: Islamic Foundation |       |        |            |

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think there would be really any opposition in the new parliament?

Yes

(14%)

No

(86%)

TOTAL VOTES: 575

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the government should form a special tribunal to punish those involved in the recent attacks on Hindus?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

## Thai protesters launch 'Bangkok shutdown'

### PM calls meeting to discuss election timing

AGENCIES

Huge crowds of Thai opposition protesters occupied major streets in central Bangkok yesterday in an attempted "shutdown" of the capital, escalating a campaign to unseat the embattled premier.

The demonstrators want Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to resign to make way for an unelected "people's council" that would oversee reforms to curb the political dominance of her billionaire family and tackle a wider culture of money politics.

Meanwhile, Yingluck invited leaders of anti-government protesters and political

parties tomorrow to discuss an Election Commission proposal to push back the date of the snap election she called from Feb. 2, a senior aide said yesterday, Reuters reported.

Ministers have until now said a delay would be impossible under the constitution, but the Election Commission has said it could be pushed back and one member has suggested May 4.

"The prime minister thinks that there are still some unclear points in the EC's proposal. The best way is to meet and discuss it," Suranand Vejjajiva, secretary-general to the prime minister, told reporters.

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## Deadly 'email sins' identified

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Workers addicted to emails could be damaging their own mental health and that of their colleagues, according to psychologists.

The worst traits include 'ping pong' messages back and forth and 'read receipts', which accompany every missive sent, found a study into what is likely to

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