



# The Daily Star

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## TALKS ON EC FORMATION BNP, JP to seek polls- time govt

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP, Jatiya Party, and the LDP have planned to ask the president to form an election-time cabinet before the next parliamentary polls.

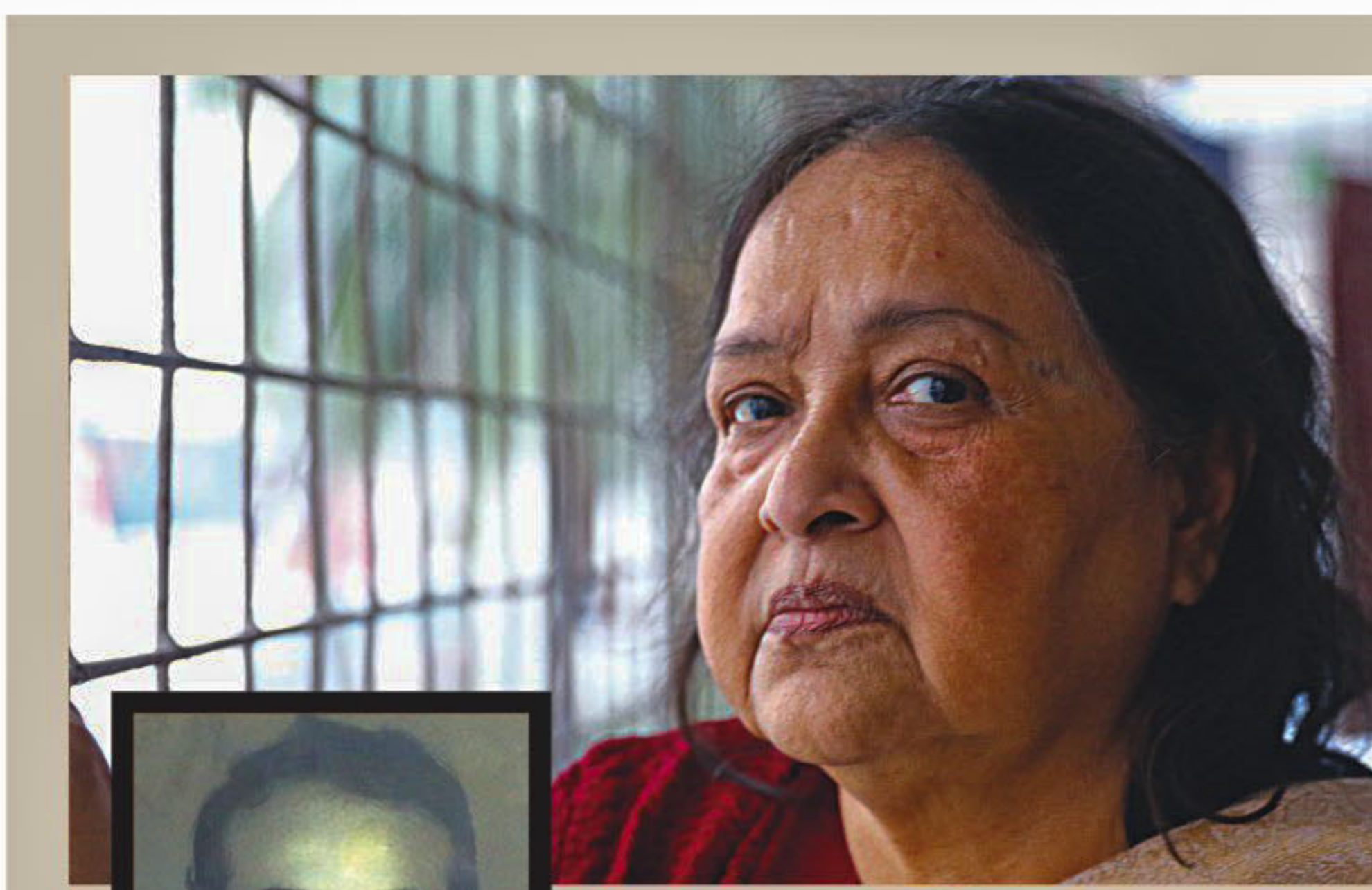
They want to propose this when they meet the president to talk about the formation of the Election Commission.

The talks are scheduled to start on December 18.

The BNP, which was invited to the talks on the first day, is likely to request the president to take the initiative to form an election-time government through discussions with political parties.

The Jatiya Party is scheduled to meet the head of state on December 20. It too

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**Syeda Salma Haque, wife of martyred physician Azharul Haque, inset, in the balcony of her house on Elephant Road in the capital. The nation will observe Martyred Intellectuals' Day tomorrow and pay tribute to the luminaries, like Azhar, who were brutally murdered by the Pakistan army and its local collaborators during the Liberation War.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Secret operation of a young surgeon

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

He always kept his duties above everything.

Even when his mother and wife were undergoing treatment at a hospital the day after the Pakistan army crackdown on March 25, 1971, Dr Azharul Haque did not walk away from his duties to patients and to the nation.

As dawn broke on March 26, the 30-year-old surgeon started treating wounded people flocking to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He just took a brief time out to see his ailing mother and wife that day.

"It was the beginning ... He treated wounded freedom fighters secretly till his last breath," said his wife Syeda Salma Haque.

Azhar had to pay dearly for his commitment to the independence of Bangladesh. He was abducted along with another physician, Dr Humayun Kabir, on November 15, 1971 by the infamous Al-Badr Bahini.

They were brutally tortured to death and their bodies were found the next day.

Sensing imminent defeat in the war, the Pakistan army

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## Miladunnabi today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) will be observed across the country today with due religious solemnity.

On this day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Muhammad (pbuh) was born in Makkah of Saudi Arabia with divine blessings and messages of

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## HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices remain closed today on account of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, you can always visit our website [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) for the latest news.

## 'SANTAL HOUSE' Al Jazeera video shows arson in cop presence

Police deny allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exclusive Al Jazeera footage appears to show police helping set fire to a Santal home in Gaibandha's Gobindaganj upazila.

In a 2:21-minute Al

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## RULES FOR LOWER COURT JUDGES SC says president 'misinformed'

SC asks govt to issue gazette  
notification on the rules by Jan 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president has been misinformed about issuance of gazette notification on the rules determining discipline and conduct of lower court judges, the Supreme Court observed yesterday.

It asked the law ministry to issue a gazette notification on the conduct rules by January 15 next year, adjourning the hearing on the Masdar Hossain case, also known as the separation of the judiciary case, till that date.

The apex court came up with the directive a day after the

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

LOWER JUDICIARY CONTROL

## Does president exercise powers 'unconstitutionally'?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha's remarks that the constitutional provision empowering the president to control posting, promotion, and discipline of lower court judges contradicts the basic structure of the constitution are very significant and should be taken seriously.

While speaking at a programme at the Supreme Court Bar Association on

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ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL STUDENTS

## VAT on tuition fees illegal: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared the imposition of value-added tax (VAT) on tuition fees of English medium schools illegal and directed the authorities concerned to stop collecting VAT from January next year.

A bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury and Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah delivered the verdict upon hearing on a writ petition filed by two guardians seeking cancellation of VAT.

The court came up with the judgment on the ground that VAT on English medium education is discriminatory since no VAT was imposed on fees of other institutions, petitioners' counsel Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star.

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## 1 killed as Rab, robbers 'trade bullets' in bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An alleged robber was killed and four others were injured when Rapid Action Battalion members and a robber gang "traded bullets" in a bus in the district's Bheramara upazila Sunday night.

Rab detained the four wounded and recovered firearms and bullets from their possession.

The dead is Abdul Salam, 32, of Boribari area of Pabna's Atikula.

Mosaddek Ibne Mujib, company commander of Rab-12, said they had

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