



**A mangled human hauler after it collided head-on with a bus on Rajendrapur-Kapasia road in Gazipur's Rajendrapur area yesterday morning. At least four passengers of the hauler were killed in the accident.** PHOTO: COLLECTED

## One year

FROM PAGE 16  
Samiha Zaman from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

His daughter was scheduled to land at 7:30pm. Around that time, Maroof called the land phone at his house and told the house help "to allow a person to take his laptop", Maroof's brother Rifad had earlier said.

Three men, tall, well-dressed and wearing caps, went to his house and took his laptop, desktop and camera. Maroof was unreachable after that, Rifad said, adding that his car was later found abandoned in Khilkhet area.

Law enforcers could not identify the men even though there were CCTV footages of them in the house. Speaking to The Daily Star on Sunday, Officer-in-Charge of Dhanmondi Police Station Abdul Latif said they were yet to find any clue about the former ambassador's whereabouts.

"We are trying," he said, adding that they could not identify the three men either.

Maroof was among a dozen victims of enforced disappearances since August of last year. At least five of them returned while law enforcers are said to have arrested three others afterwards.

The whereabouts of Maroof and some others are still unknown.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), as many as 544 people have allegedly become victims of enforced disappearances between 2010 and July 2018 in Bangladesh.

Over 300 of them are still missing. On November 15, 2018, the European Parliament adopted a joint resolution on the human rights situation in Bangladesh where they explicitly highlighted the disappearance of Maroof.

The resolution called on the Bangladesh authorities "to conduct independent investigations into reports of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and excessive use of force, including the cases of Maroof Zaman... and to bring those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards..."

Rights activists alleged incidents of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings, especially "shootouts", were being used as tools to create panic among the masses.

The number of enforced disappearances increases when the number of so-called shootouts decreases.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Human rights activist Nur Khan Liton said, "It is regrettable that we have not gotten any information about Maroof Zaman in the last one year. The actions of law enforcers to trace him have not been seen at all."

"Incidents of disappearances of people like ambassadors or lawmakers are carried out to create an atmosphere of panic in order to mute others."

Nur added that the law enforcers' failure to find such victims raises questions of whether they were involvement in the incident.

Marking one year since Maroof's disappearance, his family once again urged the government to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the disappearance and bring the perpetrators to book.

## Nasa

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collect about two ounces (60 grams) of material from the asteroid's surface, and return it to Earth for further study.

Bennu is a carbon-rich asteroid, chosen from some 500,000 asteroids in the solar system because it orbits close to Earth's path around the Sun, is the right size for scientific study, and is one of the oldest asteroids known to Nasa.

Scientists hope it will reveal more about the early formation of the solar system, as well as how to find precious resources like metals and water in asteroids.

Japanese space agency JAXA first proved sample collection from an asteroid was possible.

JAXA's Hayabusa spacecraft crashed-landed into the surface of its target asteroid and managed to return a few micrograms of material in 2010.

A live Nasa broadcast of the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft's formal arrival began at 16:45 GMT.

OSIRIS-REx stands for Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer.

## Road crashes kill 9

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around an hour later, locals had rescued the injured and sent some of them to Rajendrapur Cantonment Hospital.

The recovered dead bodies and six of the injured -- Nishan Ahmed, 28, Khairul Islam, 40, Dulal, 43, Khalil Miah, 38, and two others -- were taken to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital, said Pranay Bhusan Das, a resident physician of the hospital. The bodies were kept in the hospital morgue for autopsies.

Dulal was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital due to critical injuries.

Police sources said they seized both vehicles involved in the accident.

Similarly, at least four people, including two children, were killed and two others injured when a passenger bus and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on in Urul Mirar Tek area on the Feni-Basurhat road around 2:15pm.

Police officials and witnesses said when the bus, on its way to Basurhat from Feni, reached the area near Dudhukha Bazar it collided with the auto-rickshaw coming from the opposite direction.

All the passengers and the driver of the auto-rickshaw were injured in the accident, police sources said.

They were taken to hospital. Two of the injured died on the way to Feni Adhunik Sadar Hospital and another

died while being taken to Basurhat Hospital, while one child died on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), they added.

The dead were identified as Khadiza Begum, 45, and her son Md Shakil, 12, and her nephew Abdur Rahim, 3, of Feni; and auto rickshaw driver Md Ismail, 30, of Noakhali.

Abdul Quader, on-duty doctor at Feni Adhunik Sadar Hospital, said of the two other injured, one was taken to CMCH and the other to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Officer-in-Charge of Dagonbhuiyan Police Station Md Abu Zafar Saleh said police seized the bus but its driver fled the scene.

In Faridpur, a man was killed and two others injured when a pick-up and a truck collided head-on, on the Dhaka-Barishal Highway in Peyarpur area of Faridpur around 2:30am.

The dead was identified as Md Raju, 38, of Panchagarh, the driver of the pick-up.

Quoting locals, Md Saifuzzaman, senior station officer of Faridpur Fire Service, said, "After the accident, three were injured, including the driver of the truck and Raju. All of them were taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, where an on-duty doctor declared Raju dead."

He added that police seized both the vehicles involved in the accident.

## BNP 141, AL 3

FROM PAGE 1  
rejected 557 (22.64 percent) of 2,460 nominations.

Aspirants, whose nominations were rejected, can appeal to the EC by tomorrow. The EC would start hearing the appeals from Thursday.

BNP leader Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Gonoforum candidate Reza Kibria and 82 others have appealed to the EC yesterday.

Nasiruddin's nomination was rejected for being convicted in a graft case in 2008 and Kibria's was rejected for failing to pay the fee for a credit card.

The BNP may file appeals today or tomorrow against the ROs decision to reject all three nominations of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, party sources said.

Khaleda has been in jail since February 8 after being sentenced to five years in prison in a graft case. She was also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in another corruption case in October.

She filed three nominations -- Bogura-6, -7 and Feni-1.

Meanwhile, most of the 23 candidates rejected in Rajshahi did not get the certified copy of the rejections even yesterday.

The document is required for an appeal to be filed with the EC.

According to EC sources, the Jatiya Party had filed 233 nominations and 38 of them were rejected.

Party	Nomination filed	accepted
Awami League	281	278
BNP	696	555
Jatiya Party	233	195
Islami Andolon Bangladesh	299	281
JSD (Inu)	53	39
CPB	77	69
Gonoforum	61	44
Workers Party of Bangladesh	33	32
Independents	498	114
Nominations submitted: 3,665		
Nominations accepted: 2,279		
SOURCE: EC SECRETARIAT		

At least three dozen dissidents of ruling AL were rejected by the ROs, a blessing for the ruling party. The party still has over three dozen more rebels to deal with, said a senior AL leader.

He said the party, this time, will not hesitate to take stern action against dissidents. AL high command would try to ensure that the remaining dissidents quit on or before December 9, the last day for withdrawal of candidature.

"If needed, the prime minister will intervene... one thing is sure that the rebels will not be returning to the party, even if they win," said the leader.

## 2 AL men

FROM PAGE 1  
organising secretary of Sadar upazila AL, and his rival Sultan Khan, who had recently joined the AL after leaving Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sultan's nephew Ratul Hasan said, "My uncle contested for the post of union parishad chairman. But he was defeated by Abu Sayed. Their rivalry has continued since then."

"My uncle recently joined the AL and decided to campaign for the party-nominee for the national election. As we gathered near our home to start campaigning, supporters of Abu Sayed launched an attack on us with firearms and sharp weapons," he added.

Many of Sultan's men were injured in the attack. Of them, Lashkar and Malek died on the way to hospital, Ratul said.

Neither Abu Sayed nor any of his supporters could be contacted over the phone until 9:00pm last night.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Sheikh Rasel Ali Masud, another organising secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila AL, claimed both Sultan and Sayed had a longstanding dispute "over local issues".

"This is not political enmity. It may be personal," he added. Contacted, Pabna Superintendent

of Police (SP) Md Rafikul Islam said additional police had been deployed in the area and who were investigating the incident.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals.

### BNP ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AL MEN

BNP leaders in Natore yesterday alleged that over 50 BNP men were attacked by AL men in different areas of the district since the announcement of the poll schedule on November 7.

They made the allegations at a press conference at the district's BNP office.

The leaders also alleged that the district election authorities were keeping mum while the AL-nominated candidates were violating electoral code of conduct.

However, local AL leaders, at a meeting with local journalist at the district's AL office, denied the allegations and said the attacks took place due to internal feuds within the BNP.

Contacted, Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) Jesmin Akhter Banu claimed they had not received any complaint regarding violations of the electoral code of conduct.

[Our Pabna and Natore correspondents contributed to the story]

## Swechchasebak League leader hacked to death in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals hacked a local leader of Swechchasebak League to death in Chattogram's Patiya upazila last night.

The deceased was identified as Jamal Uddin, 35, son of late Mohammad Yasin of the upazila.

He was the president of Kolagaon union unit of the pro-Awami League body.

Locals said a group of attackers swooped on Jamal with sharp weapons in front of Kolagaon School.

The attack left him critically injured. The incident happened around 10:30pm.

He was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

However, the duty doctor declared him dead, said ASI Alauddin Talukdar of the police outpost at the hospital.

The motive behind the killing could not be known.

Details of the incident were not available as the local police, despite repeated attempts, could not be reached over the phone for comments.

## Man beaten to death in Pabna for Tk 15,000

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A 50-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death over non-payment of a loan in Pabna's Sujaganar yesterday.

The dead is Kashinath Haldar of the upazila's Bhoanipur village.

Kashinath's son-in-law Patan Haldar had borrowed Tk 15,000 from a local "loan shark" Abul Kalam a few months ago, with Kashinath being the guarantor, said the victim's son Milon Haldar.

Patan went to India a few days back and hearing the information, Kalam and his associates started forcing Kashinath to repay the amount, he added.

On Sunday night, Kalam's men attacked Kashinath as he could not repay the money after being asked several times, said Milon, adding that his father died on the way to hospital.

Milon filed a case against Kalam and his mother-in-law Romesa Khatun with Sujaganar Police Station on Monday morning, said Md Sariful Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police arrested Romesa yesterday while Kalam, the key accused in the case, was still on the run, said the OC, adding that the body was taken to Pabna Medical College for autopsy.

## Trial

FROM PAGE 2  
Earlier in the day, the tribunal appointed five state lawyers -- Shahid Uz Zaman, Mahfuzur Rahman Chowdhury, Setara Fouzia Salam and Farhana Kuddus Sweetie -- to defend the six accused.

Another lawyer Faruque Ahmed was appointed by two other accused -- Aslam Hossain alias Rash and Raqibul Hassan alias Regan.

In his deposition, Ripon said he got a message over wireless that some criminals were firing inside the café around 7:45pm on July 1, 2016.

Soon after receiving the message, he along with his patrol team members went to the spot and saw the militants firing shots. The firing incident left some 30 to 35 policemen injured. They were admitted to United Hospital for treatment.

Of them, the then officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station Salauddin Khan and assistant commissioner of Detective Branch of police Rabiul Karim died.

In the meantime, then inspector general of police visited the hospital and went near the spot. Around 7:40am on July 2, army commandos, as per instructions from the higher authorities, conducted an operation to rescue the hostages and arrest the criminals.

The commandos rescued 19 people, including two foreigners, alive. A total of 26 bodies, including those of five militants who were killed in the operation, were recovered from the spot.

On July 4, Ripon filed a case with Gulshan Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act accusing the militants of creating "unrest" in Bangladesh and trying to turn it into a "terrorist state".

On November 26, the tribunal framed charges against eight alleged militants in the case. Two of them are still on the run.

## Army clashes with rebels kill 15 in eastern DR Congo

AFP, Bukavu

Fifteen people have been killed in eastern DR Congo in clashes between troops and rebels loyal to a former general, the army said yesterday.

It said the fighting was continuing yesterday in Fizi, a region of South Kivu, a mineral-rich province which is prone to ethnic tensions.

## JP grows restive

FROM PAGE 1

HM Ershad, who returned to his Baridhara residence from Dhaka Combined Military Hospital on Saturday, made the change in the JP's second-in-command position surprising the party's rank and file.

Hawlder's fall from the JP chief's grace came a day after his nomination papers were rejected by the returning officer concerned on grounds of loan default.

Ershad was unhappy with Hawlder due to allegation of "nomination business" against him, JP insiders said. A number of party leaders, who were not nominated for the December 30 polls, staged agitation in front of Ershad's Banani office last week.

Another reason for the change is that Hawlder failed to manage the ruling Awami League to ensure the nomination of two JP heavyweights -- lawmakers Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and Salma Islam -- from the two constituencies, party insiders said.

Aggrieved Salma has submitted nomination papers for Dhaka-1 as an independent candidate.

Hours after his new appointment as the JP secretary general, Ranga at a briefing at the party chief's Banani office yesterday afternoon said actions would be taken if anyone in the party was found involved in "nomination business".

"If needed, an investigation committee will also be formed to look into the matter," he said, adding, "misunderstandings also appeared in the party ahead of the last parliamentary polls and that was why it did not get desired results".

Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star couldn't contact Hawlder, a presidium member of the party, for comments yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star earlier, he had categorically denied his involvement in "any sort of nomination business", saying a "vested quarter was spreading propaganda" against him.

Contacted, JP Co-chair GM Quader, younger brother of Ershad, yesterday said he had no idea about the change before it was made.

Herefused to make further comments.

A sudden change in the party's secretary general post is nothing new.

In April 10, 2014, Ershad ousted Hawlder from the post, which he had been holding since 2002, and appointed Bablu to it in recognition of his "significant role" in the party.

Around three years later, Ershad removed Bablu from the post on

charge of negligence in discharging duties, and reinstated Hawlder.

Since November 20 this year, Ershad has remained unreachable for most of the party men. Only a few leaders, whom he wishes to meet or talk to over the phone, can contact him, said the JP leaders.

Earlier in mid November, he stayed in a house at Gulshan, instead of his residence in Baridhara, for several days.

This led to intense speculation within the party as Ershad is known as an unpredictable character in the political arena.

Formed in 1986, the JP, led by Ershad, first split in 1999 centring the party's then secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju's decision not to quit Hasina's cabinet as communications minister.

Ershad later formed an electoral alliance with the BNP and launched street agitation against the AL-led government.

Under alleged "pressure" from the then AL-led government, Ershad announced quitting the BNP-led alliance. His announcement resulted in another split in the party before the 2001 parliamentary election. This time Nazir Rahman Manzur led the revolt and formed another faction of the JP.

In 2006, Ershad went into hiding facing pressure from the then ruling BNP to join its alliance. On December 18 that year, he suddenly appeared at a Paltan Maidan rally organised by AL, and announced his decision to join the AL-led alliance.

Ershad led his party to remain in the AL-led grand alliance to contest the 9th parliamentary election in 2008, held two years behind the schedule due to the emergency amid political turmoil.

After seven years, when another parliamentary election was in the offing, Ershad became the centre piece of a long-drawn drama for his flip-flops over joining the January 5 polls in 2014.

Announcing that the JP will not participate in the election, he had asked his party candidates to withdraw their nomination papers.

Giving rise to questions and confusions, he was taken to the CMH from his Baridhara residence on December 12, 2013.

However, a section of JP leaders decided to join the polls. The party chairman was elected a lawmaker in the January 5, 2014 polls as he "could not" withdraw his candidacy from Rangpur-3.

Later, he was appointed a special envoy to the prime minister with the status of a minister. He is still holding the post.

## PM thanks colleagues

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She said this during an unscheduled discussion in the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office.

Sources said technocrat minister Yeafesh Osman, who had resigned, at the meeting recited a poem he wrote. Three other technocrat ministers had also joined the meeting.

At the meeting, the government formed a five-member cabinet committee, led by the cultural affairs minister, to review the recommendations of the 9th wage board to enhance salaries and other benefits of journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies.

Other members of the committee are ministers for industries, home, information, and labour, said Cabinet Secretary Shaful Alam who briefed reporters about the meeting outcome at the Secretariat.

He said the cabinet set January 28, 2019, deadline for issuing the final gazette of the wage board.

On January 29 this year, a 13-member committee was formed with Justice Mohammed Nizamul Huq, a

former judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, as its chairman.

Yesterday, the cabinet reviewed the committee's recommendations and formed the cabinet committee.

The cabinet secretary said the recommendations made by the cabinet committee would be final.

He said the wage board committee had recommended six grades for newsmen. It suggested 80 percent pay hike in three grades and 85 percent in the other three. They would get 20 percent of their basic salaries for Baishakhi festival.

The committee recommended 70 and 65 percent of basic salary as house rent for newsmen in Dhaka and Chattogram.

The cabinet also gave final approval for the amendment to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Land acquisition) Regulation, 1958. It would now be an ordinance.

The cabinet also gave final approval to the draft of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University Act, 2018.

## World 'way off course'

FROM PAGE 16

2015 Paris climate accord.

But host Poland -- heavily reliant on energy from coal -- will push its own agenda: a "just transition" from fossil fuels that critics say could allow it to continue polluting for decades.

Nor are any of the world's largest emitters represented at the highest level in Poland.

The Paris deal saw nations agree to limit global temperature rises to below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) and under 1.5C if possible.

Officials from nearly 200 countries now have two weeks to finalise how those goals work in practice, even as science suggests the pace of climate change is rapidly outstripping mankind's response.

One of the key disputes is finance.

Under Paris, richer nations -- responsible for the majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions -- are expected to contribute funding that developing nations can access to make their economies greener.

But US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris accord has dented trust among vulnerable nations, who fear there is not enough cash available to help them adapt to our heating planet.

### \$200 BILLION PLEDGED

The World Bank yesterday announced \$200 billion (175 billion euros) in climate action investment for 2021-25 -- a major shot in the arm for green initiatives but one which needs bolstering by state funding.

exacerbated by rising sea levels.

"Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," Guterres said.

The UN's own expert climate panel in October issued its starkest warning to date.

To have any hope of reaching the 1.5C goal by the end of the century, it said emissions from fossil fuel use must be halved by 2030.

Poland is one of many nations heavily reliant on coal and wants this round of talks to reflect the role fossil fuels play in its economy.

The country was set to unveil a declaration calling on states to "recognise the challenges faced by sectors, cities and regions in transition from fossil fuels... and the importance to ensure a decent future for workers impacted by the transition."

### MUST ACT NOW

As Poland pushed the continued use of coal, it fell to the president of Nauru, a Pacific island nation that is critically threatened by rising sea-levels, to point out the most obvious barrier to climate action: fossil fuel use.

Baron Divavesi Waqa said the Paris agreement "doesn't radically disrupt the fossil fuel industry... these powerful interests emerged from Paris unscathed and we ignore that reality at our peril."

Frank Bainimarama, prime minister of Fiji and president of last year's COP, said developed nations must act now to save the planet.

"Or, God forbid, (we) ignore the irrefutable evidence and become the generation that betrayed humanity," he said.