

**"Jerusalem has always been under Palestine, so why are they taking the initiative to divide Jerusalem not belonging to them, but to divide the Arabs and the Jews? They have no rights."**  
MALAYSIAN PM MAHATHIR MOHAMAD (PAGE 8)

**"If any war criminal somehow wins the election, we will not allow him into the 11th parliament."**  
SHIPPING MINISTER SHAJAHAN KHAN (PAGE 3)

**"The passport we carry, the pride we feel, stand on a sacrifice -- the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs. We should never forget that."**  
Prof. Meghna Guhathakurta, daughter of martyred intellectual Prof. Jyotirmoy Guhathakurta (PAGE 3)

**Govt may try to obstruct fair polls**  
*Dr Kamal fears*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The continued attacks on and police harassment of Jatiya Oikyafront leaders and activists are raising fears about what may happen on the polling day, Dr Kamal Hossain said yesterday.

The government may try to obstruct a free and fair election because "it has sensed that people do not support them", he told a press conference at Oikyafront's office in the city's Paltan area.

"It is surprising that they [opposition nominees and leaders] are being attacked and are being arrested and put behind bars too."

"If these incidents continue to take place, it is logical to be worried about what may happen on the voting day."

What is more

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Violence just won't let up

**Six BNP candidates attacked; 200 people hurt across country**

STAR REPORT

Electoral violence continues in many parts of the country as polls campaigns of six BNP candidates, including Abdul Moyeen Khan and Abdullah Al Noman, came under attack allegedly from Awami League men yesterday.

Over 170 BNP leaders and activists were injured in the incidents in 12 districts. AL leaders, however, denied involvement of party men in the attacks.

Besides, around 25 AL supporters were wounded in clashes with BNP men in different parts of the country.

Meanwhile, GM Nazrul Islam, BNP candidate for Satkhira-4 and a Jamaat-e-Islami leader, was arrested in connection with a case over plotting subversive acts.

This was the second arrest of a BNP candidate. Earlier on Thursday, Fazlul Haque Milon, a contender for Gazipur-5, was arrested over a number of cases.

Electoral violence broke out on December 11, the second day of electioneering, when two AL men were killed and 70 others hurt in Noakhali and Faridpur.

Until yesterday, at least 13 BNP candidates and 875 supporters of the party were wounded as ruling party men allegedly attacked the opposition men, according to media reports.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



The waves of red-green adorn the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar as thousands gather to place wreaths there on the 48th Victory Day yesterday. People from all walks of life paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the independence of this country.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## V-DAY OBSERVED Memories of martyrs shine on

BSS, Dhaka

The nation yesterday celebrated the 48th Victory Day, marking the moment the country was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month-long bloodstained war for liberation.

Forty-seven years ago on December 16 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent country under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, after the sacrifice of the lives of three million people and the honour of nearly half a million women.

Different socio-political, educational and cultural institutions and organisations arranged a series of programmes to celebrate the nation's glorious victory.

The government also celebrated the day with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## ELECTIONEERING

# AL dominates, BNP struggles

**Sheikh Hasina to hold four rallies in Dhaka, Sylhet and Rangpur**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around two weeks before the national polls, the Awami League-led alliance candidates are dominating the electioneering scene in cities, district towns and even villages while the picture is quite the opposite for the contestants of the BNP-led alliance.

Against the backdrop of numerous incidents of electoral violence in the last week, which left two dead and over 200 injured, the election atmosphere has become subdued.

Over a hundred places experienced such violent clashes between supporters of BNP and AL. An uneasy calm prevails in cities

and district towns as many have kept themselves away from campaigning, according to reports of our district correspondents. The situation in the capital is no exception as it too saw such violence.

Meanwhile, the opposition party men are campaigning on a limited scale for what they claimed was to avoid arrests and harassment by police and attacks by political opponents.

On the other hand, AL supporters and party men set up election offices and decorated campaign gates in their respective constituencies with songs blaring out of loudspeakers.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



## FROM CAMPAIGN TRAIL

### BARISHAL

## Where is BNP?

TUHN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and SUSHANTA GHOSH

The Barishal-1 constituency comprises two upazilas -- Gournadi and Agailjhara.

If one visits the upazilas now, just two weeks before the national election, they may get an idea about the polls seeing thousands of posters in favour of Awami League and some of Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

A question may arise in their minds of whether BNP has fielded a candidate there. It's because they won't find any poster supporting the party's candidate except in very few areas in the southern part of Gournadi. They would not also find a party or electoral office in any of the upazila headquarters, let alone any visible campaigning.

The AL leaders said the development works done by current AL lawmaker Abul Hasanat Abdullah had left no scope for the BNP to come up with any issues before the election. On the other hand, BNP has

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

### KHULNA

## OIKYAFRONT CAMPAIGN

# Women the key force

SHARIFUL ISLAM and DIPANKAR ROY

The Jatiya Oikyafront candidates in the six constituencies of Khulna are heavily depending on female activists for their campaigns as most of the men are either on the run or under cover fearing police.

Male leaders and activists are seldom seen campaigning. They remain silent or in hiding to avoid police harassment, locals said, adding that using female activists in the campaigns is a strategy of the alliance.

Jamaat leaders have been nominated by the Jatiya Oikyafront in two constituencies of Khulna.

More than half the constituents in Khulna are women and it makes sense to deploy female activists, BNP leaders said.

Meanwhile, the Awami League campaign has gathered significant momentum. Alongside the nominees, AL leaders and activists are campaigning. Women leaders and activists are also seeking votes going door to door.

In the BNP tent, Principal Tarikul Islam, joint-secretary of city BNP, said, "Male activists are engaged in hanging posters and outdoor activities. So, we wanted to involve women in the campaigns more."

"It should not be considered as our strategy. It is the reality," said the BNP leader.

Azizul Bari Helal, the BNP nominee in Khulna-4 (Rupsha, Terakhada, Digholia), said AL activists were attacking BNP leaders and activists campaigning for him and they were also facing police harassment.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### NOAKHALI

## No sight of 'sheaf of paddy'

RAFIUL ISLAM

Setting foot in Noakhali-5 constituency -- made up of Kabirhat and Companiganj upazilas -- one may think that no one from the BNP is contesting for this seat in the December 30 polls.

Hardly any posters sporting the party's electoral symbol -- "sheaf of paddy" -- can be seen around.

This is despite the fact that heavyweight candidate and BNP leader barrister Moudud Ahmed is running for the seat against Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and six others.

Though there are very few BNP campaign materials, posters and banners

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

**Heartiest Congratulations**  
Be proud of your hard work and achievement.



**Mr. Mohammad Ali Khokon**

We, the Maksons family, on behalf of the Board of Directors and employees, are delighted to convey our heartfelt congratulations to **Mr. Mohammad Ali Khokon, Managing Director, Maksons Group** for being elected as President, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association BTMA Election-2019-2020. We strongly feel that the overall activities of [BTMA] shall take a new dimension under your leadership and will take BTMA to a new height.

Board of Directors and Employees



**Maksons Group**

## CLIMATE SUMMIT IN POLAND Nations agree Paris rulebook

**Critics say declaration not ambitious enough to avert climate catastrophe**

REUTERS, Katowice

Nearly 200 countries overcame political divisions late on Saturday to agree on rules for implementing a landmark global climate deal, but critics say it is not ambitious enough to prevent the dangerous effects of global warming.

After two weeks of talks in the Polish city of Katowice, nations finally reached consensus on a more detailed framework for the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to limit a rise in average world temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

"It is not easy to find agreement on a deal so specific and technical. Through this package you have made a thousand little steps forward together. You can feel proud," Polish president of the talks Michal Kurtyka told delegates.

After he struck the gavel to signal agreement had been reached, ministers joined him on the stage, hugging and laughing in signs of relief after the marathon talks.

Before the talks started, many expected the deal would not be as robust as needed. The unity which underpinned the Paris talks has fragmented, and US President Donald Trump intends to pull his country - one of the world's biggest emitters - out of the pact.

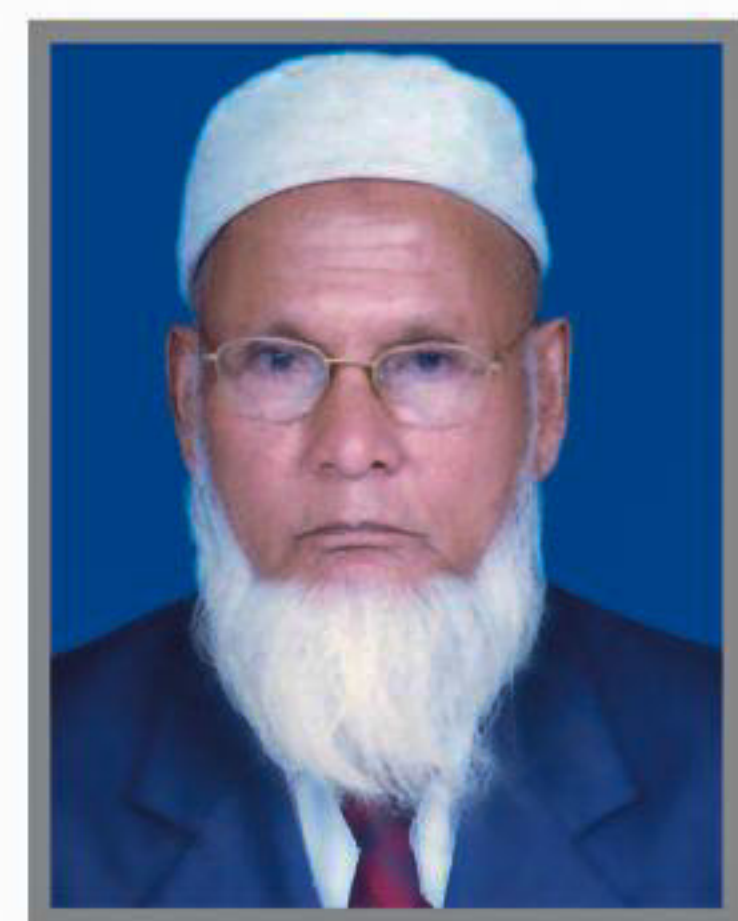
At the 11th hour, ministers managed to break a deadlock between Brazil and other countries over the accounting

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## পরম শ্রদ্ধায় স্মৃতিতে অল্লান

আলহাজ্ব এস এম নজরুল ইসলাম (১৯২৮-২০১৭)

পৃথিবীর মায়া ছেড়ে পবাই চরণে যান একদিন  
কীভাবে বৈদ্য থাকে কর্মের মাঝে চিরদিন



বাংলাদেশের ইলেকট্রিক্যাল, ইলেকট্রনিক্স ও অটোমোবাইলস শিল্পের পথিকৃৎ, ওয়ালটন গ্রুপের সম্মানিত প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান, আলহাজ্ব এস এম নজরুল ইসলামের আজ প্রথম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী। ২০১৭ সালের এই দিনে তিনি আমাদের এক অসীম শূন্যতায় ফেলে অস্তিম যাত্রা করেন। তাঁর আকস্মিক প্রয়াণে আমরা হারিয়েছি এই শিল্পের স্বপ্নদ্রষ্টা ও একনিষ্ঠ অভিভাবককে। তবুও তাঁর দেখানো স্বপ্নের পথ ধরে এগিয়ে চলছে ওয়ালটন। তিনি আমাদের মাঝে বৈদ্য থাকবেন তাঁর মহৎ কর্মের মাধ্যমে। আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।



ওয়ালটন পরিবার