



Never-ending drama in JP

A day after party MPs decided to be part of govt, Ershad says his party will be main opposition

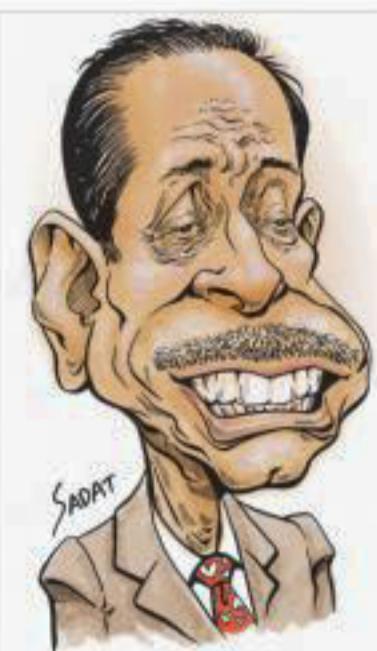
RASHIDUL HASAN

You can call it a typical Jatiya Party flip-flop.

Just a day after the JP Parliamentary Party decided to join the Awami League-led grand alliance government, HM Ershad came up with a decision exactly the opposite.

The JP chairman said the party will be the main opposition in parliament with no representation in the new cabinet. He will act as the leader of the opposition while his younger brother and JP Co-Chairman GM Quader as deputy leader of the opposition.

Ershad made the sudden announcement



through a statement that was sent to different media outlets yesterday, contradicting the decision the Parliamentary Party unanimously took in a meeting on Thursday.

"Since we participated in the election under the banner of the Awami League-led grand alliance, we want to join the government. Who will sit on the opposition bench is not our concern," GM Quader told journalists after the meeting.

He also said, "We doubt if people will accept us as the opposition if we quit the grand alliance now to play the role of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Flanked by newly-elected Awami League lawmakers, party President Sheikh Hasina places a wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO:
BSS

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

AL's victory rally on January 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will hold a grand rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udayan on January 19 to celebrate the party's landslide victory in the December 30 polls.

The programme will start at 2:30pm and AL President Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest, said a press release.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader called upon all leaders and activists of the party to attend the rally to make it a success.

Besides, Quader will hold a joint meeting with the general secretaries of the AL's different fronts and associate bodies at the party's central office on the Bangabandhu Avenue this morning.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

POLLS VIOLENCE

UN rights body voice concern

Calls for prompt, impartial probe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Human Rights Office yesterday expressed concern over the allegations of violence in Bangladesh centring the election and called for immediate investigation into the incidents.

"We are concerned about violence and alleged human rights violations in Bangladesh before, during and after the recent elections on December 30," Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in a press statement issued in Geneva.

There are credible reports of fatalities and numerous injuries on the

NORWAY CALLS FOR PROBE -- PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Khulna-1 reports
based on RO's
announcement
DW video shows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video has emerged showing that the two journalists, sued under the Digital Security Act for publishing "false" information, in fact filed their reports based on the announcement of the returning officer of Khulna-1.

Announcing the results around 9:00pm on Sunday, Khulna Deputy Commissioner Helal Hossain, also the RO, said

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

Two more held over Noakhali gang rape

So far seven suspects arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police yesterday arrested two more people for their alleged involvement in the gang rape of a woman in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila.

They are Hasan Ali Bulu and Jashim Uddin. Their names were not mentioned in the first information report, but police held them based on information gleaned from other arrested accused.

Elias Sharif, superintendent of Noakhali police, said a team from Char Jabbar Police Station arrested Bulu in Chattogram city's West Madarbari area around noon. Another team held Jashim from Nazirhat in the morning.

With the two, seven people, including Awami League leader Ruhul Amin who allegedly ordered his accomplices to rape the mother of four for voting for "sheaf of paddy", have been arrested in connection with the rape that

Wednesday afternoon, the

Mentally challenged girl 'raped'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A 22-year-old mentally challenged woman was allegedly gang-raped in Moulvibazar by three men on Thursday night.

The woman was picked up by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver and taken to an abandoned house when she was returning home from a nearby market

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



"The BNP made a mistake in 2014 by boycotting the general election. Yesterday [Thursday], the party made another mistake by making the decision to not take oath as members of parliament."

OBайдул QUADER
AL GENERAL SECRETARY



Defying a sign forbidding parking, vehicles including police pickups have been parked on a road in front of the city's Bashundhara City shopping mall yesterday. Such illegal parking often causes traffic jams.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

GREATER AUTONOMY DRIVE IN MYANMAR'S RAKHINE

13 killed in attack on police posts

Buddhist fighters' Independence Day assault takes place near Bangladesh border

REUTERS, Yangon

Buddhist Rakhine insurgents killed 13 policemen and injured nine in attacks on four police posts in Myanmar's Rakhine state yesterday as the country marked Independence Day, the official news agency said.

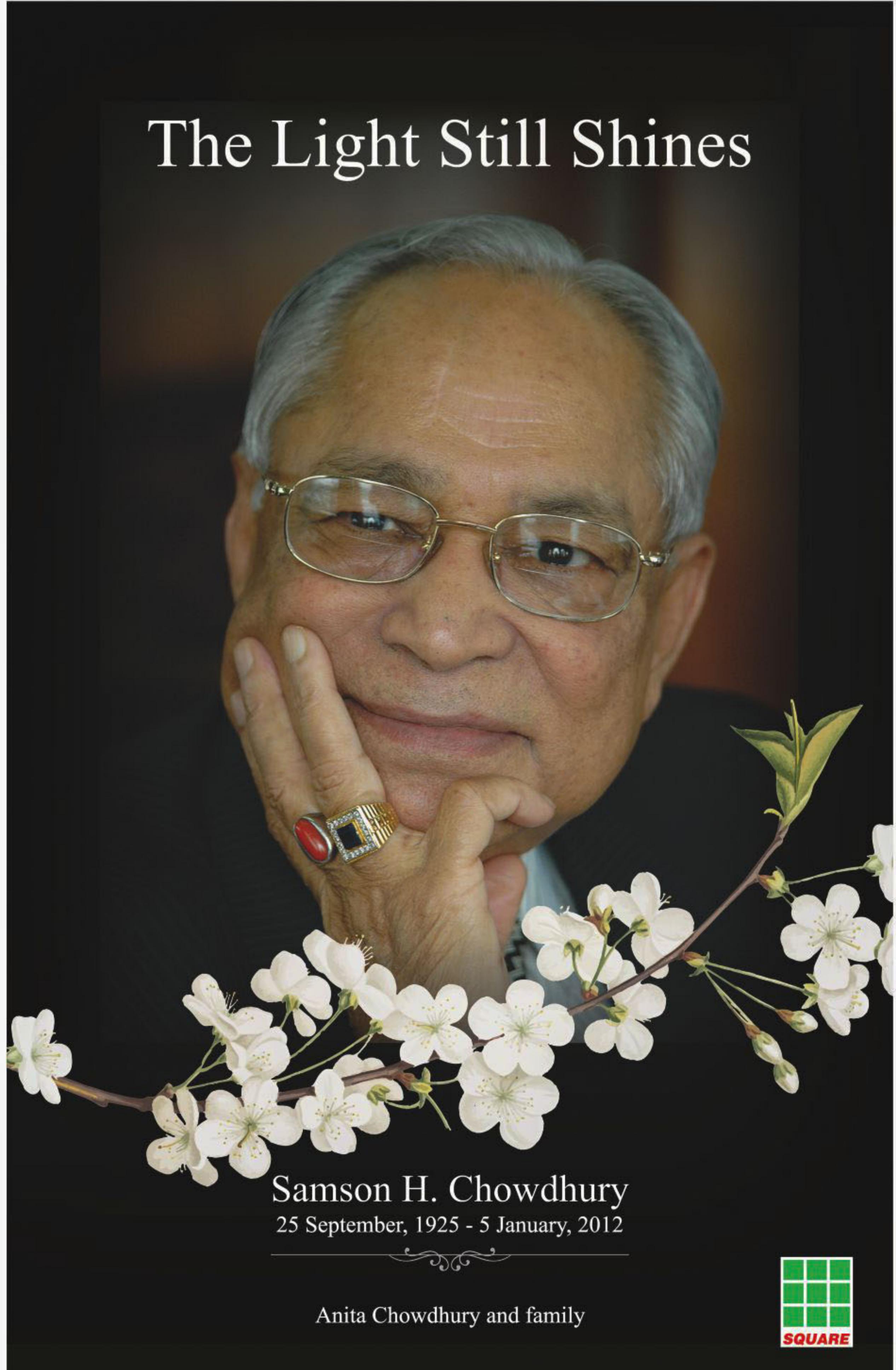
Fighting resurfaced in Rakhine early last month between government forces and the rebel Arakan Army, which wants more autonomy for the

Buddhist ethnic Rakhine minority.

It was also in the restive western state that a military-led crackdown in 2017 prompted hundreds of thousands of minority Rohingya Muslims to flee westwards to neighbouring Bangladesh.

The separate conflict between the military and Arakan Army rebels forced 2,500 civilians from their homes by the end of last year, according to the United Nations.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Samson H. Chowdhury
25 September, 1925 - 5 January, 2012

Anita Chowdhury and family

