



Relatives of the BDR carnage martyrs pray at the Banani Military Graveyard yesterday, which was the 10th anniversary of the incident. PHOTO: COLLECTED

JCD, quota reformists unveil panels

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Aminul said, "We earlier saw that Chhatra League general secretary welcomed Chhatra Dal leaders with flowers and we hope that they will welcome us too."
A good number of BCL activists also collected nomination forms from hall offices as independent candidates, said hall sources.
At a press conference in front of Ducsu building, leaders of quota reform protest announced an independent panel for the Ducsu polls.
They made Nurul Haque Nur vice-president candidate of the panel and Rashed Khan general secretary contender and Faruk Hasan assistant general secretary nominee.
All of them are joint conveners of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Sangrakkhan parishad, the platform that spearheaded the quota reform protest.
JCD declared its panels for Ducsu and hall unions.
Mostafizur Rahman and Anisur Rahman Khandaker Anik have been nominated as vice-president and general secretary candidates of Ducsu, while Khorshed

Alam Sohel has been made assistant general secretary contender.
The pro-BNP student body also announced its vice-president and general secretary nominees for 18 hall unions.
"Though the time is limited [for campaigning], we are taking part in the polls. We don't want any other organisations to get the wholesale advantage in our absence," Al Mehedi Talukdar, JCD DU unit general secretary, told reporters.
Two leftist alliances -- Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote and Samrajjobad Birodhi Chhatra Oikya -- unveiled their combined panel for the Ducsu polls.
Liton Nandi of Chhatra Union has been nominated for vice-president post, Umme Habiba Benojir of Chhatra Federation for general secretary and Sadikul Islam Sadik of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front for assistant general secretary.
At a press conference at the Madhur Canteen, Imran Habib Rummon, coordinator of the alliances, announced the names.
HC CLEARS WAY FOR DUCSU POLLS
In another development, the High Court yesterday cleared the way for holding the Ducsu and hall union polls slated for

March 11.
The schedule for holding Ducsu election will remain as it is, said the bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton during hearing a writ petition filed by Fahmida Mazid, a postgraduate student of international relations and female student affairs secretary of JCD central committee.
The court asked the returning officer for the Ducsu election to dispose of the application filed by Fahmida for including her name in the voter list within 24 hours.
It also issued a rule asking the government and DU authorities to explain why the Ducsu polls schedule excluding the name of Fahmida in the voter list should not be declared illegal.
In the petition, she challenged the legality of the election schedule, saying that there were "anomalies" in the voter list, as her and several others' names had not been included.
The first Ducsu election in 28 years is scheduled to be held on March 11, with polling centres to be set up at the dormitories.
The last date for submitting nomination papers is today.

No red flags raised

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the briefing at the airport.
"We have checked all our airport security scanning system, we didn't find any flaw..." he added.
Yet the question remains as to how the suspect got on the plane carrying what passengers and army officers claimed was a pistol.
A pistol was recovered from Polash's possession during the commando operation that ended with him being killed at Chattogram airport and police said they were not sure whether it was a gun or a toy.
Toy or not, this incident could have far reaching consequences on the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh which itself is trying to be elevated to category-1 from category-2 of the US Federal Aviation Administration so that Bangladeshi carriers could fly to the US.
Aviation experts said the incident would send a negative message to western countries who are already critical of the security standards being maintained at the airport.
They said CAAB had made good progress towards ensuring better security and safety standards and received the ICAO Council President Certificate from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) late last year.
CAAB Chairman Air Vice-Marshal M Naim Hassan at a briefing Sunday might said the incident may put negative impact on the country's aviation industry.
Director of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Group Capt Abdullah Al Farooq talking to The Daily Star yesterday said a passenger, be it domestic or international, and his or her belongings have to go through several checks, including walk-through metal detectors, hand-help metal detectors, dual-view scanners, and explosive trace machines
All the while he or she is under CCTV coverage.
"While entering the airport, the passengers' luggage is checked in the heavy luggage gate. Later, he or she is thoroughly checked at the anti-hijacking point before entering the holding lounge," said the director.
During yesterday's briefing, Civil Aviation Secretary Mohibul Haque said they went through the CCTV footage and have become sure that the suspect did not have anything resembling a pistol on him or inside his backpack.

hours before the flight. Wearing sneakers, a T-shirt, and apparently jeans, he entered the domestic terminal complying with all security checks there.
"While he was outside and inside the building, he looked very tensed and distressed," said an airport security official who had seen the CCTV footage. He was seen waving the air ticket at times when he was wandering.
An Ansar member on duty at the entrance had checked Polash's body with a handheld metal detector. The black backpack he was carrying went through X-ray scanners, the official said.
Around the same time, several uniformed members of security forces also entered the airport after getting screened and Polash was nonchalant.
HOW DID IT GET THROUGH?
As journalists asked how Polash got a pistol in the plane, the state minister, the secretary and the CAAB chairman, said they would know after the probe ends.
The probe body, formed by the civil aviation ministry on Sunday, was asked to file its report within five days.
Asked if it was a pistol or a toy, Mohibul said, "The investigation will be able to reveal this."
"They [the probe committee members] are scheduled to go to Chattogram today [yesterday] to talk to the pilot, cabin crew, and passengers of the plane. They will also inspect the aircraft," he said.
The CAAB chief said gunshots were heard midair and the crew members said they saw the smoking gun "but it doesn't prove that it was a pistol because we are yet to find bullet holes or shells inside the plane."
"Some toys look like real guns, can make realistic sounds and create smoke," he said.
On Sunday, he said the suspect could have gotten the pistol from others at the holding lounge.
Meanwhile, Rab Director (legal and media) Mufi Mahmud Khan yesterday told reporters the bomb-like object found in Polash's backpack had no explosives.
"It is totally fake. We are sure he made it with wires and circuits [PCB]," he said citing Rab's bomb disposal unit.
Biman's flight BG-147, a Boeing 737-800 with 143 passengers and seven crew members, made an emergency landing at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram.
After a two-hour stand-off, Polash was killed in a commando operation in the plane.
An aircraft of Biman left Chattogram for to Dubai with 134 stranded passengers around 12:15pm yesterday, said ABM Sarwar E-Zaman, manager of Shah Amanat International Airport.
"The airport operations are running smoothly today [yesterday]," he said, adding that security has been beefed up.

CASE FILED
Meanwhile, a case was filed last night in connection with the plane hijack attempt.
Debabrata Sarker, technology Assistant at the Shah Amanat International Airport, lodged the case with Patenga Police Station, Utpal Barua, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star.
Quoting cabin crew and passengers, the case statement reads that the suspected hijacker attempted to enter the cockpit 15 minutes after the plane took off from the Dhaka airport.
"He was seen carrying bombs and arms-like objects at that time," the statement read.
Midair, he shouted that he had some demands that the prime minister needed to be heard, or otherwise, he would destroy the aircraft with explosives, the statement read.
"Then he exploded two cracker-like objects inside," the statement said, adding that it created panic among the pilot, crew and the passengers.
The complainant claimed he was on-duty at the time and heard about the situation over walky-talky.
"I monitored the conversation between the pilot and air traffic controller. I informed the matter to everyone. The airport manager then asked security officers, armed police battalion and Ansar to go to the runway," it read.
The aircraft landed around 5:41 pm. Passengers and crew got out of the aircraft through the emergency exits.
Zahidul Islam, assistant commissioner (Patenga zone) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said the body of the suspect had been handed over to them.
"No evidence or anything else has been handed over to us," he added.
[FM Mizanur Rahman also contributed to this report]

Confusion reigns

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Welding the firearm, the suspect kept shouting to intimidate other passengers and threatened to blow the aircraft, which was about to land in Chattogram around 5:42pm, the minister said in his statement in the House.
He also said the captain of the aircraft through his professionalism and bravery kept the suspect engaged by talking to him all the time.
The passengers and the crew were safely evacuated from the plane, Mahhub added.
A commando team of the Bangladesh Army and a smart contingent of Rab then entered into the aircraft and neutralised the attacker, he said.
The hijacker was shot and he died later, he said.
Minutes after the evacuation, Tang, a Malaysian business-class passenger, said trying to break into the cockpit the suspect "fired three shots at the cockpit door but could not get in".
Talking to this newspaper, a cabin crew of the aircraft whispering anonymity yesterday said he didn't hear any gunshot inside the aircraft.
Several passengers claimed that one crew member was shot and another was injured during the evacuation. Officials,

however, said nobody was injured.
Contradicting these, Chattogram Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star that the suspect had a "fake pistol". Pressed further, he said, "You can quote me on this. It's a fake pistol."
Contacted again yesterday, he said he would be able to tell whether the firearm was a fake one once it is handed over to police.
There are also diverging accounts about what was found on the suspect's body.
General Officer Commanding Maj Gen SM Matiuur Rahman of 24th Infantry Division said, "The commandos first asked him to surrender but he was aggressive. As he refused to give himself up...the commandos took action and he got injured in the ensuing shootout."
Hours after the incident, he told reporters, "Our pilot initially took him [the suspect] to be a foreigner, but he was basically a Bangladeshi... He had a pistol. We had not found anything else inside the plane."
Minutes before Matiuur's claim, Air Vice-Marshal M Naim Hassan, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, said, "I have so far come to know that he carried a firearm and a bomb was tied to his body."
A day later, Mufi Mahmud Khan, Rab's legal and media wing director, yesterday told reporters that "the bomb-like object found on his body had no explosive substance. It's fake. We are sure that he made a fake vest-like object with wires and circuit [boards]."
However, Mohibul Haque, secretary of the aviation ministry, said, "Eight to ten passengers, including the suspected hijacker, boarded the aircraft from the domestic terminal. In the CCTV footage, it appears that there was a bag on his shoulder, which was checked properly by Ansar members through the scanning machine. The scanner didn't show anything [like a pistol]..."
Finally, CAAB Chairman Naim yesterday told reporters, "Gunshots were heard in midair and the crew reported that they saw the smoking pistol. But that doesn't prove that it was a real pistol. We are yet to find bullet marks or shells inside the airplane."
"There are some toy guns which look like real ones, can make sounds and even create smoke... So, before getting the investigation report, we can't make any sweeping comment about the incident."

Ninth grader
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He also threatened to kill her daughter if she disclosed the incident, she added.
The victim shared it with her mother. The family members then informed villagers.
The villagers assured them of settling the matter through arbitration and asked them not to go to police. Seeing no move for the arbitration, the mother filed the case.
Sub-inspector Ejajur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, said they were trying to arrest the accused.

4 'robbers'

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Two members of the Rab team were also injured during the gunfight, he said.
Local police claimed that Tofazzal was accused in 13 cases filed with different police stations.

VENEZUELA POLITICAL CRISIS Trump 'with you 100 percent'

US VP assures opposition leader Guaido at Lima Group meeting
AGENCIES

United States Vice President Mike Pence passed on a message from Donald Trump to Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaido yesterday, telling him "we are with you 100 percent."
Pence and Guaido met in Colombia's capital Bogota during a meeting of regional allies the Lima Group to discuss its next move regarding Venezuela's crisis and the strategy to oust President Nicolas Maduro.
Guaido, Venezuela's self-declared interim president, urged the international community on Sunday to consider "all measures" to overthrow Maduro after clashes at border crossings left at least three protesters dead and 300 others wounded near the Brazilian border.
"In the Lima Group we're fighting to find a peaceful solution," Peru's Foreign Affairs Minister Hugo de Zela said.
"We have reaffirmed again and again our commitment to a democratic transition (of government) and the restoration of constitutional order in Venezuela," added Colombia's Foreign Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo.

He had

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Their marriage had lasted for over eight months.
"He committed a crime and tarnished the image of the country. I would not accept even if my father did something like this."
"I am saying that he got what he deserved."
About her introduction with Polish, she said, during the shoot of her 2017 film "Naioir", its director Rashid Palash invited her to his birthday party.
It was there where she met Polish Ahmed.
"I attended the programme as a guest and there were many people in the programme. I was introduced to one Mahibijan [alias Polish], who was producer..." she said.
Polash had apparently used a different identity at first.
"A person cannot say such lies and use such disguises. His family also asked how a person could have so many names."
After the introduction, they began to speak over the phone.
"Then on March 3, 2018, we got married. I divorced him on November 6 of the same year."
Since then, Shimla said she had no communications with Polish. She, however, said she had spoken to him two weeks before Qurbani Eid.
"I can't recall exactly [the date]," she said.
She said during their last conversation, Polish said he was going to England for work and would return in four or five months.
Afterwards, he called her several times but the actress maintained she did not receive any of his calls.
When asked if he had called her on or before Sunday, she, however, said he had not as she had changed her number after the divorce.
When asked if she had ever found him involved in criminal activities, Shimla said, "No. No. Never ever."
Biman's flight BG-147, carrying 143 passengers and seven crew members, made an emergency landing at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram following an attempted "hijacking".
After a two-hour stand-off, Polash, the suspect, was killed in a commando operation.

10th anniv

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Besides, BGB took up an elaborate programme, including a Quran Khwani, doa and milad mahfil, across the country to mark the anniversary, the agency added. A special doa and milad mahfil will be held at Palkhana Central Mosque today after Asr prayers.
On February 25 in 2009, several hundred BDR personnel rose up in armed revolt during a three-day "BDR Week" at Palkhana and carried out the killing.
The mutiny finally ended on February 26 with the surrender of firearms, ammunition and grenades after negotiations between the government and the BDR rebels.
Following the mutiny, the paramilitary force was renamed BGB.
After the incident, several cases, including murder and loot, were filed.

On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court, in the country's largest-ever murder case, sentenced 152 people to death, 161 to life imprisonment and 256 to jail for three to 10 years. It also acquitted 277 other people.
On November 27, 2017, the High Court confirmed the death penalty for 139 out of 152. Besides, the court upheld life sentences for 146 convicts, awarded different terms of imprisonment to 196 and acquitted 41 others.
In another development, the BNP yesterday alleged that those who were behind Palkhana massacre had not been identified yet as the investigation report by the army regarding the incident was not made public, reports UNB.
The party also demanded February 25 to be announced as "national mourning day", the agency added.

Olivia Colman

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concerted effort to shorten the run time, amid a night marked by greater inclusiveness and that spread the wealth among the nominees.
Award voters extended honors to a number of blockbusters, including "Black Panther," which earned several technical awards; and "Bohemian Rhapsody," the biography of Queen and the band's frontman, Freddie Mercury, earned four Oscars -- the most of any film -- including Rami Malek's first for the central role.
The eclectic nature of the winners -- including several surprises -- seemed indicative of what was already deemed one of the most wide-open races in years, given the lack of consensus among guild awards leading up to Sunday's event.
Perhaps no surprise came bigger than best actress, as "The Favourite's" Olivia Colman upset seven-time nominee Glenn Close, who had marched through awards season with enough victories to make her a presumptive favorite.
As for politics, a recurring theme involved the Trump administration's immigration policies, including an early joke from Maya Rudolph that among the things that wouldn't be happening during the telecast, "Mexico is not paying for the wall." For his part, Malek referenced being a first-generation American, the son of Egyptian immigrants.
Still, the most overt and rousing rejoinder belonged to Spike Lee -- a winner for adapted screenplay for his movie "BlacKkKlansman" -- who pointed to the 2020 election, urging people to "be on the right side of history. Let's do the right thing!"
Congressman and civil-rights icon John Lewis also received a prolonged

ovation, introducing "Green Book."
Marvel's "Black Panther" looked like a contender by claiming a pair of early awards, and made history in the process: Ruth E Carter and Hannah Beachler became the first African-American women to win for costume design and production design, respectively. The film was also honored for its musical score.
"Roma" didn't walk away empty handed, earing best foreign-language film. Its director, Alfonso Cuaron, was honored for directing and cinematography for the black-and-white period drama, a deeply personal look back at the women who raised him.
Cuaron marks the fifth time a Mexican director has won that award in the past six years, a stretch that includes his previous win for "Gravity" in 2014.
Guillermo Del Toro -- who presented the statuette to Cuaron -- was the victor last year for "The Shape of Water." The third member of the "Three Amigos," as they are affectionately known, is Alejandro G. Iñárritu, a winner for "Birdman" and "The Revenant."
Mahershala Ali received his second Oscar in three years for "Green Book," and the film also won for original screenplay, despite separate controversies related to its director and writer.
With his prior award for "Moonlight," Ali becomes only the second African-American actor with multiple Oscars, joining Denzel Washington.
US President Donald Trump yesterday accused veteran film director Spike Lee of a "racist hit" job after he won his first competitive Oscar and urged voters to mobilize for the next election.
"Be nice if Spike Lee could read his notes, or better yet not have to use notes at all, when doing his racist hit on your President," Trump tweeted.

It's mostly

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Rahim were hardly seen during the campaign which officially began on February 11.
The situation did not change even on the penultimate day for electioneering.
DNCC election returning officer Abul Kashem said that electioneering will end at zero hour tonight, adding that the electoral campaign was being held peacefully.
Contacted, Shafin Ahmed said he carried out electoral campaign in areas adjacent to Karwan Bazar.
In the mean time, Atiqul Islam made mass contacts and held several street meetings at Karail Slum, Wireless Gate and in Sat Tola Slum areas of Mohakhali in the morning.
He also addressed election rallies in Baunia Bandh area of Mirpur and Khilkhet in the evening, said his election coordinator AKM Mizanur Rahman.
Mizanur said Atiqul's wife Sagufa Islam, accompanied by late DNCC mayor Annisul Huq's wife Rubana Huq, held mass contacts at different

areas of the city seeking votes.
Locals said candidates for councillor posts in the 36 new wards were also electioneering but the campaigns did not get momentum, nor was the atmosphere festive as the elections were boycotted by the BNP and most left-leaning and Islamist parties.
Abul Kashem said they imposed restriction on all types of motor vehicles from the midnight of February 27 to the midnight of February 28 as part of the security measures for the election.
He also said they slapped a restriction on motorcycle movement from the midnight of February 26 till midnight on March 1.
A public holiday has been announced in DNCC area for February 28 due to the city corporation polls. The public administration ministry issued a circular in this connection yesterday.
The DNCC mayoral post fell vacant following the death of Annisul Huq on November 30, 2017.
He was elected mayor on April 28, 2015.