



DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 30

MAGH 29, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 20, 1444 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00

PRESIDENTIAL POLLS AL to reveal name of its candidate today

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Awami League is going to announce its presidential candidate today, the deadline for submitting the nomination papers for the post.

The ruling party's nominee will be the next president of the country as other political parties, which have representation in parliament, are unlikely to propose any name for the presidential election, and the ruling party has the majority in the parliament.

Earlier on February 7, Awami League Parliamentary Party at a meeting gave power to Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina to nominate the party's candidate.

After the meeting, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the party will

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TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE

Death toll likely to 'more than double'

Says UN as
authorities confirm
25,000 deaths

STORIES, PHOTO ON PAGE 7, 12



A man brandishing a firearm from a BNP procession at Bormi Bazaar in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday. Local Awami League activists say the man is a BNP activist while the latter maintains that he is not.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

200 hurt in AL-BNP clashes

Most of them BNP activists; 19 arrested in Tangail, Jamalpur

STAR REPORT

At least 200 people, mostly BNP activists, were injured in clashes with the ruling Awami League activists and policemen in different districts yesterday.

Besides, four policemen were injured in two districts.

In Tangail, police arrested at least 13 BNP men.

The clashes happened as both parties held programmes across the country.

BNP's pre-scheduled programme was to march in every union parishad to press home its 10-point demand, including the

next national election under a caretaker government.

The AL also held "peace rallies" at the unions.

In Natore town, at least 20 BNP men were injured in a clash with ruling AL men in Pirganj Bazar area.

BNP activists were gathering there around noon when AL men tried to drive them away which triggered that left 20 BNP men injured.

Local AL leaders, however, said the BNP men attacked them first.

But police said no clash took place in the area.

Two clashes between the parties were also reported in Naldanga upazila where at least 10 BNP men were injured.

In Jamalpur, witnesses said BNP supporters were preparing to start marching at Kamal Khan Bazar around 1:00pm when police went there and asked them to leave.

As a clash ensued, a group of local AL men joined the assault.

Locals said at least 28 people, including a policeman, were injured.

Police fired 34 rubber bullets and four teargas shells to calm the situation,

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JOYDEBPUR-ISHWARDI DOUBLE LINE

Not before 2028

Project revived but 4yrs already lost; BR now to implement it with Japanese assistance following China's pullout

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After China abruptly withdrew from its role of financier of the Joydebpur-Ishwardi Double Line Project a couple of years ago, Bangladesh Railway (BR) is now reviving it with Japanese assistance.

However, the deadline set for 2024 will now have to be extended for at least another four years.

The delay will not only increase the project implementation cost, but also deprive the country for at least four more years from getting due benefit from the dedicated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge over the Jamuna, which is expected to open in early 2025.

The 14,250.61-crore project was taken up in November 2018 to turn the 162-km Joydebpur-Ishwardi section into a dual-gauge, double line to meet the growing demands for rail operations.

On the other hand, the dedicated dual-gauge, double-line railway bridge over the Jamuna is being built at a cost of Tk 16,780.95 crore to get the desired benefits of the line, which links the capital with the country's northwestern part.

As the bridge is to open in early 2025, the double-line bridge will be fed by a single line until the second line is built.

BR has now prepared a separate Tk 318.49 crore project for carrying



✓ Bangabandhu Rail Bridge to open in early 2025 but the double line connecting the bridge will not be completed before 2028.

✓ Smoother railway communication with north-west and southern regions unlikely before completion of the double-line project.

out the preparatory works for the double-line project.

After completion of the legworks, it hopes to start the physical works by the end of 2025, one year after the original deadline of completion, and complete it within 2028-2029, officials said.

Delay in schedules of trains connecting the capital with the north-western and southern regions have been all too common over the last few years, due a lack of capacity of the single line; and speed and weight restrictions on the existing road cum railway Bangabandhu Bridge.

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আর্তের সেবা, দারিদ্র্য নিরসন ও সমাজকল্যাণে
আপনার অসামান্য অবদান চিরভাস্বর হয়ে রইবে

আশার প্রতিষ্ঠাতা মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরীর
দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি



মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরী
১ জানুয়ারি ১৯৪৯ - ১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১

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