



NEXT NAT'L POLLS Intel agencies helping AL find suitable candidates Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different intelligence agencies have been conducting surveys regularly to help Awami League find acceptable candidates for the next national election, said AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader.



This was being done in addition to the party's internal mechanism, he said at a press conference at his Secretariat office yesterday.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said he does not find anything wrong in using government agencies for a political party.

Asked about the AL's roadmap for the general election, he said, "We usually get a survey report in every

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Sand-filling in a wetland, also considered a flood zone, goes on unabated in Khilgaon's Nagdarpar area in the capital. Land grabbers have put up signs on water bodies and built structures there to develop housing settlements. Experts have warned that filling up marshlands would make the capital highly vulnerable to earthquake hazards and other natural disasters, while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on numerous occasions urged that lowlands and flood zones be kept safe. However, her request seems to have fallen on deaf ears. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ATTACK ON AHMADIYYAS 'The culprits are around you' Victims scream as railways minister visits affected areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday faced an outraged Ahmadiyyas community, who came under attacks by Islamist outfits on Friday, during his visit to the affected areas in Panchagarh.

Around noon, the minister, also Panchagarh-2 lawmaker and president of the district Awami League, visited Shalshiri village, where members of the Ahmadiyya community live, to express his sympathies to the victim families.

The victims alleged to him that some of the attackers were present there right at that time.

Many of them shouted, "The attackers are still around you [minister]." After that, they began chanting slogans, demanding punishment to the culprits.

The minister appeared to be embarrassed with the

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BLAST IN SCIENCE LAB AREA Building had no fire safety system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shirin Mansion, the three-storey commercial building in the capital's Science Lab area, where a deadly explosion took place on Sunday, lacked any fire safety features or other means of preventing a fire, said a top fire service official.

The walls and roof of the building caved in and projectiles and glass shards shot across the area after the blast on the second floor around 10:50am, killing three people and injuring at least 50 others.

There were offices of an insurance company and a stationery product supplier on the second floor.

"There was no fire safety equipment or anything that could stop a fire in the building...The second floor has been so damaged that it needs to be reconstructed," said Hafizur Rahman, deputy assistant director at Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, who led the rescue operation at the scene on Sunday.

Fire service officials said they were yet to form a probe body over the incident.

"We primarily suspect gas accumulation to be the reason behind the blast. We are investigating it further and looking into other possible

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AMENDING DSA Govt to sit again with stakeholders Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law minister has suggested that the government sits again with stakeholders to identify the problem areas of the Digital Security Act.

"Let us sit together to mark out the problems concerning the law and work together for a solution," said Law Minister Annisul Huq, speaking at a seminar organised by International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law and Counterpart International.

"This meeting can even happen before Ramadan. Anyone can give their opinions there."

The minister, while addressing the audience of "Shaping of Third Sector - Laws and Policies" at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, said, "Repealing the law is not a logical solution. Many have

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FIRE AT ROHINGYA CAMPS Many pointing at conflict between Arsa, RSO

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Sunday's fire that made 12,000 stateless Rohingyas homeless in a Cox's Bazar refugee camp was the result of enmity between armed groups Arsa and RSO, said sources inside the camp.

Rohingyas said they became victims of the fighting between the two groups.

Officials, however, said the fire was possibly an act of sabotage.

"It could be sabotage. We have got some video clips and we are suspecting that the fire was set off intentionally. We got information that a shooting took place before the fire incident in the area," Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, refugee relief and repatriation commissioner, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He also said that a seven-member committee, headed by Cox's Bazar Additional District Magistrate Abu Sufian, was formed to investigate the incident. It was asked to submit a report within three working days.

"Once we receive the probe report, it will be clear to us whether it was sabotage. Stern action will be taken against the perpetrators if it is found to be sabotage," Mizanur added.

Sources said members of Arakan Rohingya

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Three killed as bus, train collide in Ctg

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed after a bus got on a level crossing and was hit by a train pulling tankers in the EPZ area of Chattogram yesterday.

The deceased are: Md Azizul Haque, 30, a pointsman for Bangladesh Railway, bus passengers Md Asaduzzaman, 30, and Miton Kanti Dey, 25.

The bus went on to the level crossing ignoring Azizul's signal to stop in front of the Meghna Oil Company depot on Airport Road around 9:40pm.



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Shakib Al Hasan and teammates celebrate following the dismissal of England debutant Rehan Ahmed in the third and final ODI in Chattogram yesterday as the Tigers' talisman became the first Bangladesh cricketer to bag 300 wickets in ODIs. Shakib fired on all cylinders to inspire his side to a 50-run win and deny the visitors a clean series sweep.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

3 students die in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Three students were killed after an unidentified vehicle hit their motorcycle in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Md. Alamgir Hossain, 22, of village Gograhali in Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj, Md. Sujon Hossain, 21, and Siam Ahmed, 22, of village Nondonpur in Puthia upazila of Rajshahi. The victims are students of Nobab Siraj-Ud-Doula College, Natore.

The students were heading toward Natore from Sirajganj on a bike when a vehicle hit them at Mannan Nagar area around 6:30am, leaving them dead on

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Suicide blast kills 9 Pak police officers

AFP, *Quetta*

A suicide bomber killed nine police officers and wounded 16 others yesterday in an attack on their truck in southwestern Pakistan, officials said.

Security forces have been battling a years-long insurgency by militants in Balochistan demanding a bigger share of the province's wealth, as well as attacks by the Pakistan Taliban (TTP). "The suicide bomber was riding a motorbike and hit the truck from behind," senior police official Abdul Hai Aamir told AFP.

The incident took place near Dhadar, the main town of Kachhi district, about 120 kilometres southeast of Quetta in Balochistan. Photos of the aftermath showed the police truck upside down on the road with its windows shattered.

Mehmood Notezai, police chief for Kachhi district, told AFP the officers were returning from a week-long cattle show where they

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Shakib denies England

SPORTS REPORTER

It was Shakib Al Hasan's day and that led to Bangladesh winning the dead rubber third ODI against England by 50 runs at Chattogram's Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium yesterday, denying England a clean sweep.

Usually, the venue is packed to the rafters when Bangladesh play, but with the series already lost ahead of the game, empty stands greeted players during training sessions and the game itself. But Bangladesh were motivated to do well, evidenced by skipper Tamim Iqbal's words at the presser after the game: "We know we are a good ODI side and we wanted to win against a very, very good team."

With the bat, Shakib held up the innings at one end and then proved equally crucial with the ball as he scalped a four-fer in an incredible win.

Having elected to bat, the Tigers were in early trouble after Sam Curran removed Liton Das and Tamim. Mushfiqur Rahim has been struggling and he looked patchy at the start of his innings, as did Najmul Hossain Shanto.

But they weathered that period as England looked to force errors. Once they settled, the pair managed to put on a crucial partnership of 98 which ended with the unfortunate run-out of Najmul after he made 53.

Shakib came to the crease and produced another partnership with

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Major (Retd) Sadek Ali
(1942-2023)

We Mourn

Major (Retd) Sadek Ali passed away peacefully in United Hospital on Monday, 6th March 2023 at 3:35 pm. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ellaihi Rajعون.

Born in 1942, Sadek Ali was educated in St. Gregory's High School, Dhaka College and Dhaka University, from where he obtained a BA (Hons) & MA in English. He joined the Army Education Corps and took voluntary retirement as Major in order to pursue other careers. He was the Managing Director of Gumti Enterprises, Chairman of Kasba T. Ali College, Honorary Consul of Lebanon and more. He leaves behind his wife, Advocate Salma Ali, the President of the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), daughter Amna Ali, granddaughters Suha and Zaha, and a host of relatives, friends and admirers.

He was the son of former Minister and Ambassador, President of Supreme Court Bar Association (twice) the late Tafazzal Ali, and Mrs. Sarah Ali.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at the Azad Mosque on Tuesday, 7th March after Zuhr prayers, and he will be buried at Banani Graveyard.

- Bereaved family members