



7 to run against Hasina

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina finds herself pitted against seven opponents in Goipalganj-3 constituency.

Most of her rivals are little known.

Former Tungipara Chhatra League leader Kamal Hossain, now a businessman in the capital, will compete as an independent against the Awami League president in the January 7 election.

Kamal enjoys some levels of recognition in the area by virtue of being in the pro-AL student body. But locals say none of the other six live in the constituency and that they do not know them.

Hasina's nomination was filed by her cousin Sheikh Helal on Wednesday.

Another contender named Syeda Lima Hasan appeared to struggle to remember what party she belonged to when she was talking to a reporter yesterday. People around her then reminded her that

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THE PLASTIC PROBLEM

At one end of the world, leaders from different countries have gathered to discuss climate change and how to save the environment from further deterioration. At the other end, monkeys are chewing plastic and polythene discarded by tourists of the Sundarbans in Khulna. Plastic pollution is slowly killing life not only at sea but also on land, as accidental consumption can lead to the death of many animals. Plastics also threaten the ability to keep the global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius – an objective of the COP conferences – as greenhouse gases are emitted throughout the plastic life cycle.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Israel, Hamas extend Gaza truce by a day

US officials say Blinken told Israelis to protect civilians

REUTERS, Gaza

Israel and Hamas struck a last-minute agreement yesterday to extend their ceasefire for a seventh day, while mediators pressed on with talks to extend the truce further to free more hostages and let aid reach Gaza.

The truce has halted bombing and allowed some humanitarian aid into Gaza after much of the coastal territory of 2.3 million people was reduced to wasteland by seven weeks of Israeli bombardment.

Gazans have been able to use the week-long truce to venture out, visit

abandoned and destroyed homes, and dig scores more bodies out of the wreckage. But residents and international agencies say the aid that has arrived so far is still trivial compared to the besieged enclave's vast humanitarian needs.

Meanwhile, the armed wing of Hamas claimed responsibility for a deadly shooting in Jerusalem, which Israel called further proof of the need to destroy the group, although there were no signs of this scuppering the Gaza truce or release of hostages.

Shortly after the agreement yesterday, Nobel laureate Prof

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GRAMEEN KALYAN

HC scraps verdict on profit sharing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the Labour Appellate Tribunal's verdict that justified the demand of 106 former workers of Grameen Kalyan seeking a part of its net profit earned from 2006 to 2013.

The HC observed that the tribunal has no jurisdiction to give an interpretation on whether the workers of Grameen Kalyan are entitled to part of its profit under the Labour Act.

Nobel laureate Prof

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JP headed for yet another split?

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, is facing another split centring the conflict between its Chairman GM Quader and Chief Patron Raushan Ershad over MP nominations, party insiders said.

Raushan, also the leader of the opposition, on Wednesday night announced that she would not participate in the national election because tested leaders of the party were undermined.

She was frustrated that she could not secure an appointment with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for help in

resolving the crisis in the JP like the premier did in the past, several party leaders loyal to Raushan told The Daily Star last night.

The opposition leader sought an appointment with the PM about a week ago.

"Raushan madam has become very frustrated as she cannot take part just because of non-cooperation from the party chairman and the secretary general," Golam Moshi, political secretary to the opposition leader, told this correspondent yesterday.

He said the followers of Raushan will hold an extended meeting of the JP after

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Bangladesh's stand-in captain Najmul Hossain Shanto leaps for joy after reaching his fifth Test ton on Day 3 of the first Test against New Zealand in Sylhet yesterday. The left-handed batter became the first Bangladesh player to score a century on captaincy debut. His unbeaten 104-run knock helped Bangladesh take a 205-run lead at stumps.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Clinical' Shanto puts Tigers in command

SABBIR HOSSAIN from Sylhet

Najmul Hossain Shanto oozed class during a record-breaking ton against New Zealand on the third day of the Sylhet Test yesterday, setting the platform for Bangladesh to grab a rare win in the red-ball format.

He strung together two big partnerships, first a 90-run stand with Mominul Haque before an unbeaten 96-run stand with Mushfiqur Rahim, allowing the hosts to finish the day on 212 for three in their second innings and, more importantly, with a 205-run lead.

Shanto's dismissal in the first innings had been near inexplicable when he got out to a full toss off Glenn Phillips. Despite finding the sweet spot of the bat during

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CCP28 CLIMATE SUMMIT

Loss and damage fund launched

Rights groups laud decision, says world 'needs billions rather than millions'

AFP, Dubai

The launch of a climate "loss and damage" fund yesterday drew praise and hundreds of millions of dollars in pledges at the UN's COP28 talks but also warnings that much more is needed to help vulnerable nations.

"We have delivered history today," the UAE's COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber told delegates who stood and applauded after the decision's adoption in Dubai.

The announcement was followed immediately by financial pledges, including 225 million euros (\$246 million) from the European Union, \$100 million from the United Arab Emirates, \$40 million from Britain, \$17.5 million from the United States and \$10 million from Japan.

But the money pledged so far fall well

short of the \$100 billion that developing nations – which have historically been least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions – have said are needed to cover losses from natural disasters.

Rachel Cleatus, policy director of the climate and energy programme at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the financial commitments should be "in the billions, not millions".

"Millions would be an insult given what's happening already around the world,"

Cleatus told reporters.

The fund will be housed in the World Bank for four years, a decision that developing nations begrudgingly accepted as the Washington-based institution is dominated by Western powers.

WORLD TO HIT 1.4C OF WARMING IN RECORD HOT 2023: WMO – PAGE 7



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