

SEAT-SHARING

AL firm at 26, JP wants at least 5 more

RASHIDUL HASAN

Negotiations with the Awami League have not yet been fruitful for the Jatiya Party as the ruling party won't withdraw its nominees from more than 26 constituencies for the JP aspirants to win easily.

The parties were still negotiating as of 1:30am today. Unless the ruling party withdraws more candidates, there is a chance the JP will not participate in the January 7 national election, said sources in the party.

JP Chairman GM Quader, Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chumnu, and co-chairmen Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Kazi Feron Rashid were at a meeting over the matter at senior co-chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud's Gulshan home as of 1:30am today.

The JP, the main opposition in parliament, wants easy wins in at least 31 constituencies.

AL leaders participating in the election as independents in over 260 constituencies have further complicated the situation for the JP because even if the AL withdraws its nominee in a constituency, the person running on JP ticket will still have to compete against an AL leader who is an independent. And this is likely to happen in the 26 constituencies that the AL is "giving" to the JP.

The only way JP can secure the easy victory it desires is if the AL nominees and the so-called AL independents retire from the race. But the AL has so far made no promises of "interfering" with the independents.

Delegations of the two parties met four times this month, but failed to reach a consensus. Yesterday's multiple meetings also ended without firm decisions.

The JP also failed to convince the AL to leave any of Dhaka's 20 constituencies for it.

Quader, his wife and presidium member Sherifa Quader, JP MPs Salma Islam and Syed Abu Hossain Babla filed nominations for Dhaka-17,

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People hold on to a large national flag after paying respect to the martyrs of the Liberation War by laying flowers at the National Memorial in Savar to commemorate Victory Day yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BNP leaders come out for Victory Day march

Party calls dawn-to-dusk hartal for tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding a major public event peacefully in front of its locked headquarters in Dhaka's Nayapaltan, the BNP yesterday urged all to continue the anti-government movement until there is success.

This was for the first time in 49 days some top BNP leaders turned up at a programme – Victory Day procession – as many of their party colleagues have been arrested, jailed, or went into hiding after police launched a crackdown following the violence over its October 28 grand rally.

Chanting anti-government slogans, several thousand BNP leaders and activists from the districts adjacent to Dhaka joined the procession despite fear of arrest. A large number of law enforcers were deployed in Nayapaltan area.

The party held a brief rally before taking out the procession. A makeshift stage was set up on a truck in front of the party office which has been under lock and key since October 28.

From the rally, which began around 2:30pm, the BNP sent out a message to its leaders and activists to overcome the fear of arrest and continue the one-point movement demanding general election under a non-party neutral administration.

"The movement for restoration of democracy will continue until it is successful. We all will have to be on the streets to press home our demand," said Nazrul Islam Khan, a member of the BNP standing committee, at the rally.

BNP has enforced a series of nationwide hartals and blockades since October 29 to press home its demand.

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SERIES GENOCIDE IN 1971

Three times a survivor

AHMAD ISTIAK

It is difficult for 68-year-old Shikha Biswas to decide if she is fortunate or not.

For the last 52 years, she has been bearing the trauma of witnessing not one, but three incidents of genocide in the span of three days.

In May 1971, a 16-year-old Shikha, who was fleeing from her ancestral village in Khulna with her family in the hope of taking refuge in India, witnessed three mass killing events in greater Khulna's Badamtala, Chuknagar and Jhaudanga.

Running for her life from one place to another, she



Shikha Biswas

miraculously survived all three, but the sheer brutality of the Pakistani military still haunts her to this day.

"52 years is a long time. But how can I forget the numerous lifeless bodies soaked in blood? The memories are still so vivid after so many years."

Historians say that during the nine-month-long Liberation War, a large portion of the population in what was then East Pakistan fell victim to genocide by the Pakistani military and their collaborators.

Many of those who survived the war often carried the

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THIS IS THE FINAL PART OF THE 5-PART SERIES.

STORIES ON PAGE 5

Tough battle for AL in Ctg

Closed doors, confused locals

Three new parties, little-known faces

Minority voters a big factor in Khulna



The BIWTA is building a walkway inside the area demarcated as the Turag river, violating a 2009 High Court directive on saving the rivers around the capital from encroachment. The photo was taken from Goran Chatbari near Mirpur Baribanh recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Tigresses keep making history in South Africa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

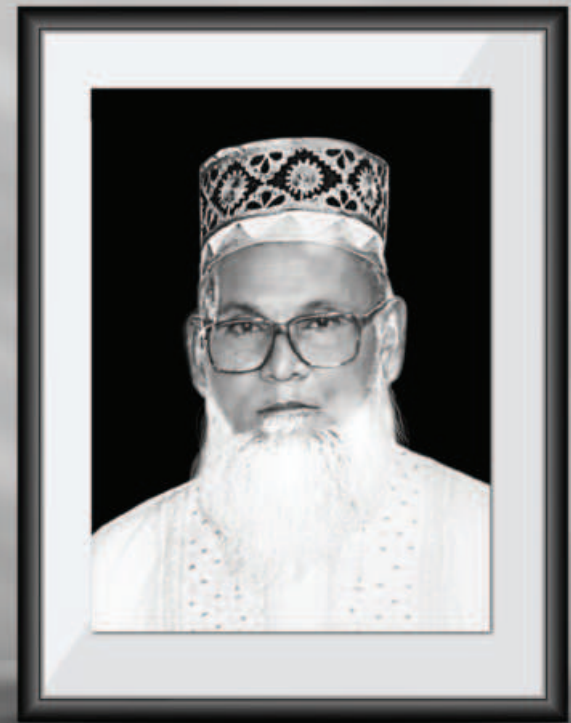
Bangladesh women's cricket team added another entry to their list of monumental victories in 2023, when they completely outplayed South Africa and won their first-ever ODI on South African soil at the Buffalo Park in East London on Sunday.

Batter Murshida Khatun set up the victory with a career-best 91 not out off 100 balls and the spin attack led by Nahida Akter, who took 3-33, catapulted the Tigresses to a thumping 119-run victory.

Murshida's innings, laced with 12 fours, propelled Bangladesh to 250-3, their highest-ever total in ODIs

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IMMORTAL IN LOVE & RESPECT



Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam (1928-2017)
Founder Chairman, Walton Group

Honor comes inevitably in mind with the name Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam, Founder Chairman of Walton Group and the Pioneer of Electrical, Electronics, Home & Kitchen Appliance and Digital Device Manufacturing Industry in Bangladesh who breathed his last on 17 December, 2017. We always feel his presence following the path he laid for us. We pray that his soul finds eternal peace in Jannah, Ameen.



FROM CANDIDATES' AFFIDAVITS

Hasina has assets worth Tk 4.36cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's total assets stand at Tk 4.36 crore, according to her affidavit submitted to the Election Commission.

Her affidavit states that she earned Tk 1.07 crore last year and a significant portion of this came from agriculture, which saw a four-fold rise compared to what she earned in 2018.

According to Hasina's tax return, her income is Tk 1.91 crore.

Her income from securities also doubled. This corresponds with the fact that in the past four years, the nation's premier has purchased fixed deposits and savings certificates worth Tk 75 lakh.

Hasina is contesting the 12th parliamentary election from Gopalganj-6.

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Kamal donated Tk 31cr to family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and his wife own Tk 133 crore in assets.

This is according to his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission. He is running in Cumilla-10.

Together, Kamal and his wife's total assets have fallen by Tk 64.5 crore since 2018, but this decrease is only about 30 percent of their total properties.

Kamal said he has donated Tk 31 crore to his wife, two daughters, and five grandchildren over the past four years.

This caused a dip of about Tk 24 crore in his net worth, said the finance minister in his affidavit.

Similarly, their movable properties collectively fell by Tk 75.5 crore, but this

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Tazul's assets swell to Tk 119cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Tazul Islam, minister of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives, saw his assets grow by two and a half times, to Tk 119 crore.

This is according to his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission.

In the last four years, the minister has purchased Tk 6.12 crore worth of postal certificates and savings bonds, leading to a ten-fold increase in this asset.

His tax return states that in the last year, he got a rebate of Tk 75,000 on his purchase of securities.

He had an income of Tk 4.2 crore in the last fiscal year, according to his affidavit.

His agricultural income also soared by over 21 times, going from Tk 2.4 lakh in 2018 to Tk 55 lakh this year.

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