

BNP, Jamaat on collision course

Polls timing, proportional representation divide the longtime allies

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami now seem to be poles apart over when the local and parliamentary elections should be held and the proportional representation system in the House.

The fact that their relationship is strained became clear as day last week when the parties took opposing stances on the timing of the polls and on proportional representation.

Yesterday, both parties made statements that hint at new political dynamics ahead of the 13th national polls.

After a Jamaat delegation called on Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the Nirbachon Bhaban yesterday morning, its Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar told reporters that the party demanded that the national election be held after completing reforms to the state institutions relevant to the electoral process.

"We are against proportional representation. We will not support proportional representation in any way because people of the country are not accustomed to it."

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir



He claimed the people want local government polls before the national election and that his party is with the people. He said they also demanded proportional representation in the House.

An hour later, asked about the Jamaat's stance, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "We are against proportional representation. We will not support proportional representation in any way because people are not accustomed to it."

Proportional representation is an electoral system in which the distribution of seats corresponds with the proportion of the total votes cast for each party. For example, if a party gets 40 percent of the total votes, the system will allow it to get 40 percent of the seats in parliament.

In Bangladesh, the first past the post (FPTP) system is practised, in which the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in a constituency wins a seat in parliament.

The Electoral Reform Commission has proposed having an upper and a lower house. It recommended a proportional representation system for the upper house.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Police using force to disperse protesting students in front of the Secretariat in the capital yesterday. The students of Narsingdi Textile Engineering College had gathered to protest the sudden closure of their institution, as they have long been advocating for the college to be transferred from under the control of the Handloom Board to the Ministry of Textiles.

PHOTO: STAR

Complaint filed with ICT over 'killings of 848 BNP activists'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday lodged a complaint with the chief prosecutor's office of the International Crimes Tribunal over what the party claimed were the killings of its 848 leaders, activists, and supporters during the July mass uprising.

A team led by Salauddin Khan, leader of pro-BNP organisation Krishak Dal, and several others handed over the application.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

JULY UPRISING ATROCITIES Hasina bore command responsibility

Says UN rights office spokesperson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina held command responsibility over the military, police and paramilitary forces and is therefore directly responsible for their actions during the July uprising, an OHCHR spokesperson told The Daily Star yesterday.

There could have been as many as 1,400 protest-related deaths and



Rory Mungoven

13,529 injuries from July 15 to August 5, according to a report, unveiled on Wednesday, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Asked whether Hasina is directly culpable, Rory Mungoven, chief of the Asia-Pacific region for OHCHR, pointed out that all the forces answered to her.

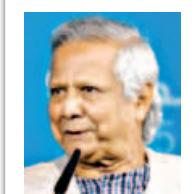
SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

National polls probably this December

Says Yunus at World Govts Summit in Dubai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said that the national election could be held in December.



At an interactive plenary session at the World Government Summit 2025 in Dubai, Yunus suggested that the election would take place as early as possible, "probably in December this year".

The session was moderated by Becky Anderson of CNN at the WGS

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Shab-e-Barat tonight

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed throughout the country tonight with due religious fervour and devotion.

The occasion is usually observed two weeks before the start of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star offices will remain closed today on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat. Therefore, the newspaper will not be published tomorrow. Our website will keep you updated 24/7.

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Farm Fresh

