



## BNP men protest party ticket snubs

STAR REPORT

Protests by BNP men continued in several constituencies against their preferred leaders not getting the party tickets for the next national election.

In Tangail-3, supporters of former minister Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad yesterday blocked roads in Ghatail upazila demanding his nomination after SM Obaidul Haque Nasir, the party's central committee member, bagged the ticket.

The protesters blocked the road for around 30 minutes at Ghatail College intersection of Tangail-Mymensingh highway at Ghatail College intersection.

In Tangail-5, BNP men staged demonstration in the district town demanding nomination for the party's central Publicity Affairs Secretary Sultan Salauddin Tuku. The seat remains vacant.

In Cumilla-6, supporters of Hazi Aminur Rashid Yeasin brought out torch procession and staged a demonstration on Monday night at the city's Kandirpar area demanding his nomination.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



PHOTO: TITO DAS

A floating restaurant made with plastic barrels, wood, and tarpaulin on a canal in Shimulia village of Jhalakathi. Such restaurants have drawn people's attention, and food lovers flock there, especially on holidays and weekends. The photo was taken recently.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

## Merging 5 lenders, new Islami bank launches this month

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD MEHEDI HASAN

Sammilito Islami Bank, a new Shariah-based state-run bank that will be formed through the merger of five troubled banks, is set to launch this month, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur.

"We are keeping the Letter of Intent ready -- it will be issued as soon as the application is submitted," he told The Daily Star on October 30.

Once the new bank is launched, depositors will get a maximum of Tk 2 lakh from the deposit insurance fund.

The development comes after the finance ministry and the BB put in all-out effort to establish the new lender for the interest of depositors of the five troubled banks: First Security Islami, Union, Global Islami, Social Islami and EXIM. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

Despite state ownership, the bank will function in a competitive banking environment, Mansur said, adding that the government will remain a temporary owner.

"It will be the bank with the highest capital base," he said.

The authorised capital of the bank will be Tk 40,000 crore (each share of Tk 10, totalling 4,000 crore shares).

However, the paid-up capital of the bank will be Tk 35,000 crore.

Of this, Tk 20,000 crore will be provided by the government, designated as Class-A shareholders, according to the draft notification of the finance ministry.

Another Tk 7,500 crore will come from the permanent deposits of other depositors in the transferring banks and

## A family affair in Kurigram-4

Brothers pitted against each other with BNP, Jamaat tickets

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Voters in Kurigram-4 (Chilmari, Roumari, and Char Rajibpur) are in a spot of bother as two brothers are set to run against each other, with BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami tickets.

This turn of events has left relatives and villagers bewildered, as the bothers have been making sharp remarks against each other in public events.

BNP has primarily nominated Azizur Rahman, while his younger brother Mostafizur Rahman Mostak has been chosen by Jamaat. They are from Jadurchar village of Roumari upazila.

The unusual sibling rivalry has captured the attention of voters throughout the constituency. Locals say both are well-known in the area, but their simultaneous candidacies have left voters uneasy and reluctant to openly support either side.

Locals said the brothers have already begun campaigning.

Sahab Ali, a grocery shop owner in Char Rajibpur, said, "Neither of the brothers is very popular or has done much for public welfare. If a stronger candidate from another party contests, neither of them stands a chance. Their rivalry could even spark family disputes or lead to clashes."

Their relative, Mohsin Ali from Chilmari, told

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



## Attacks on journos up in October

HRSS says political violence killed 117 people this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political violence killed at least 117 people and injured 6,092 others in 756 incidents across the country till October, the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) said yesterday.

In its monthly report, the HRSS said incidents of political violence and attacks on journalists increased in October.

Last month alone, the organisation recorded 64 incidents of political violence in which at least 10 people were killed and 513 others injured. Of these, 57 stemmed from internal feuds within the BNP or clashes between the BNP and other parties.

BNP's intra-party conflicts accounted for nine of the 10 deaths, the report added.

"Most of these violent incidents stemmed from power struggles, political rivalries, clashes over rallies, disputes regarding committee formation, extortion,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

## UN chief decries 'continued violations' of Gaza ceasefire

Heavy Israeli shelling hits Khan Younis as drones circle the skies

AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday warned against violations of the ceasefire in Gaza that halted two years of devastating war in the Palestinian territory.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Guterres said he was "deeply concerned about the continued violations of the ceasefire in Gaza. They must stop and all parties must abide by the decisions of the first phase of the peace agreement."

Since midnight and into yesterday morning, massive Israeli activity was conducted in the eastern parts of Khan Younis. Heavy Israeli shelling hit several farms and housing facilities in Khan Younis as drones circle Gaza's skies. UNRWA said around 75,000 displaced Palestinians are sheltering in its schools and facilities, many of which are damaged and severely overcrowded, reports Al Jazeera online.

"For many displaced women and girls, daily life means coping without dignity, safety, or adequate hygiene. Limited access to healthcare and basic hygiene supplies makes each day a struggle," UNRWA said in a social media post.

The United Nations said yesterday it had distributed food parcels to one million people in Gaza since the ceasefire, but warned it was still in a race to save lives.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said on Monday evening that countries are still working on a UN Security Council mandate for

an international stabilisation force in Gaza, and will decide on any troop deployments once a framework is complete.

Fidan spoke after he and ministers from several Muslim-majority countries met in Istanbul to discuss the fragile US-brokered ceasefire in Gaza, reports Reuters.

Cyprus wants to create a regional organisation



to promote security in the Middle East, its president said yesterday, saying it could be a platform to anchor stability in one of the world's most volatile neighbourhoods.

Discussing the idea publicly for the first time, President Nikos Christodoulides said Nicosia was working on "maturing the necessary political conditions" to create a regional safety and cooperation organisation.

"If you like, a sort of Nato or a sort of OSCE of the Middle East, that would underline the benefits of promoting regional cooperation," Christodoulides told a conference in Nicosia.

## 13 killed in road crashes

6 die as truck hits auto-rickshaw

STAR REPORT

All six people on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw were killed after a truck hit the vehicle in Noakhali's Kabirhat yesterday.

With this, at least 13 people were killed in separate road accidents in Noakhali, Habiganj, Thakurgaon, and Tangail yesterday.

In Noakhali, the accident took place around 2:30pm in front of Kabirhat Islamia Alim Madrasa, when the auto-rickshaw driver lost control of the vehicle after its front axle broke and got on the opposite lane, said police and witnesses.

Md Rubel Mia, a witness, said a truck coming from the opposite direction hit the auto-rickshaw and dragged it for a distance.

The victims are Md Suman, 30, of Companiganj upazila; auto-rickshaw driver Md Shah Alam, 47, of Basurhat municipality in Companiganj; Tanim Hasan, 22, a student of Noakhali Government College from Senbug; Monira Begum, 22, of Rampur village, Companiganj; Kulsum Akhter, 45, of the same village; and Israt Jahhan, 22, a third-year honours student at Noakhali Government College.

Md Shahin Mia, officer-in-charge of Kabirhat Police Station, said three died on the spot. One survivor was declared dead at Kabirhat Upazila Health Complex and two were declared dead on arrival at Noakhali 250 Bed General Hospital.

The truck driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene.

In Habiganj, three were killed and 20 others injured in a head-on collision between two buses on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Shayestaganj upazila.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Police seized several battery-run rickshaws in the capital's Shyamoli area yesterday for getting on a thoroughfare. Law enforcers have launched a drive against such vehicles, which are banned on major roads, as they often cause accidents and congestion.

## Ex-DMP chief rewarded OC for 'crushing student protest'

SI tells ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Days after police firing left two people dead and two others injured in the capital's Rampura on July 19 last year, former DMP chief Habibur Rahman rewarded the then Rampura police OC with Tk 1 lakh for "crushing student protests", a police officer told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Testifying as the fifth prosecution witness in the crimes against humanity case against five police officials, including Habibur, Sub-Inspector Golam Kibria Khan said the former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner handed over the cash during a visit to the station on July 21 or 22 last year.

Kibria, who was posted at Rampura Police Station at the time, told the tribunal that on July 18, he heard over the station's radio operator that Habibur had ordered officers to fire Chinese rifles to disperse demonstrators.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2