



DHAKA-10 SEAT NCP-led alliance plan stalls over nomination row

SHAMIMA RITA

A dispute over nominating a candidate for the Dhaka-10 seat caused the planning of a four-party alliance led by the National Citizen Party to collapse at the last moment on Thursday, party insiders say.

Opposition from two influential student advisers, who argued against building any “third force” and instead pushed for joining the BNP, further derailed the effort.

For days, the NCP had been negotiating with Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party, United Peoples (UP) Bangladesh, and Rastro Songkar Andolon to form a new electoral bloc.

Just as the partners were preparing to announce it at a press conference in Shahbagh, the initiative unravelled.

Sources say both LGED Adviser Asif Mahmud, a key power centre within the NCP, and AB Party Joint General Secretary Nasreen Sultana Mily intend to contest the national polls from Dhaka-10.

Mily has already begun nomination groundwork. Though Asif has not

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Workers unload textbooks from a truck at Kawnia Manik Mia High School in Barishal yesterday. The books arrived from Dhaka for free distribution to schools ahead of the new academic year.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Jamaat mulling major overhaul of nomination list

Party to field student leaders, minority reps, new faces

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jamaat-e-Islami is bringing major changes to its nomination list by incorporating top student union leaders from Dhaka University and other institutions, civil society members, journalists, cultural figures and representatives of minority and ethnic groups.

The party would also leave a number of seats in support of strong candidates from its seven like-minded parties, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair told The Daily Star.

The mostly Islamist electoral alliance plans to reveal the list after the election schedule is announced in early December, according to him.

“You will see major changes and attraction in the final list of our nomination as we want to make it inclusive,” added Zubair, who also heads the party’s media wing.

He said several frontline student leaders of the July uprising who won the central vice-president and general secretary posts in recently held student union polls at Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University and Chattogram University, would be nominated for contesting the upcoming national election to woo young voters.

“We have also asked the student leaders that their respective duties in the central student unions of their universities are not hampered if they win the national election,” Zubair said.

Leaders of Jamaat’s student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir swept all these elections, securing almost all VP and GS posts.

Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar told The Daily Star that considering the new political context and the young generation’s expectations, the party has

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Man shot dead hours after B’baria turf clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
B’baria

A man was shot dead late Thursday night in Brahmanbaria town, hours after three people were injured in an earlier shooting triggered by a turf clash in the same area, police and family members said.

The deceased was identified as Saddam Hossain, 32.

Witnesses and family sources said tensions escalated around 7:00pm Thursday, when alleged followers of “Lion Shakil” fired rubber bullets at supporters of district Swechhchasebak Dal convener Delwar Hossain Dilip near Kandipara Madrasa Road, injuring three people.

Later that night, Saddam was allegedly called out of his home by men known to him. Shortly afterwards, locals found him lying on Kandipara Road with gunshot wounds. He was rushed to Brahmanbaria General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Family members claimed that followers

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METRO RAIL LINE-6

Revision proposes cost cut by Tk 755cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country’s first metro rail project is set to see a cost reduction of around Tk 755 crore as the Planning Ministry prepares to place the third revision of the Metro Rail Line-6 proposal before the ECNEC tomorrow for approval.

The project cost will come down to Tk 32,717 crore from Tk 33,472 crore in the second revised estimate, thanks to lower land acquisition expenses under the government-funded portion. However, costs under foreign loans will rise due to the depreciation of the taka against the US dollar.



project loans will increase by Tk 477 crore, or 2.42 percent.

Overall, compared to the second revised estimate, the third revision reduces the total cost by Tk 754 crore, or 2.25 percent, bringing it down from Tk 33,472 crore to Tk 32,717 crore.

The proposal attributes the reduction in government funding to the fact that additional land acquisition was not required at the Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Shahbagh, Dhaka University, and Motijheel stations.

As a result, 3.56 hectares less land was needed, saving Tk 1,212 crore. Proposals have also been

- Total cost now estimated at **Tk 32,717cr** instead of **Tk 33,472cr**
- Govt share to drop by **Tk 1,232cr** due to less land acquisition
- Foreign loan portion to rise by **Tk 477cr** due to taka depreciation
- Project deadline extended to Dec 2028

The project deadline will also be extended by three years, to December 2028, according to the proposal.

Inaugurated in December 2022, the 20.1km Uttara-Motijheel section of MRT-6 is already in operation, while work on the 1.16km Motijheel-Kamalapur extension is underway.

According to the proposal, the government’s share of the project cost will decrease by Tk 1,232 crore, or 8.95 percent, while expenditure under

made to reduce costs in several other areas.

However, consultancy expenses and foreign loan repayment obligations have increased, including a proposed rise of Tk 270 crore in foreign loan repayment.

In December 2012, the ECNEC approved Tk 21,985 crore for the construction of the metro rail line from Uttara to Motijheel, with JICA contributing Tk 16,594 crore in loans. The line

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Social media chaos fuelling mob violence Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir



yesterday warned that unchecked activities on social media are fuelling mob violence, spreading false campaigns and obstructing the country’s democratic transition.

“Anyone can say anything. Negative campaigns against political leaders, public figures and businesses are being carried out in a way that does not strengthen democracy,” he said at the opening session of the biennial council of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists at Jatiya Press Club.

Fakhrul said social media had become a global problem due to a lack of accountability.

He also urged journalists to strengthen their unions and avoid aligning with any political party, saying this was the only way to protect their professional rights and ensure true media freedom.

Speaking about the national election, he said the entire nation was waiting for the February polls, hoping to return to a democratic system. “Democracy means I may not agree with you, but I will defend your right to express your views,” he said.

DENIAL OF JAIL VISITS

Pakistan ex-PM Imran’s sister files contempt petition

DAWN ONLINE

Aleema Khan, sister of former Pakistani prime minister and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, has filed a contempt of court petition against the superintendent of Adiala Jail for denying her permission to meet her brother, despite a directive from the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The IHC reinstated a twice-a-week meeting schedule for the incarcerated former premier.

The petition was filed after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, along with several other PTI members, staged an overnight sit-in outside Adiala jail in Rawalpindi, where Imran has been imprisoned since 2023.

The sit-in was staged as CM Afridi was denied a meeting with Imran for the eighth time on Thursday.

Previously, Imran’s sisters, including Aleema, had also staged sit-ins outside the prison in Rawalpindi on multiple occasions after they were barred from meeting the former premier.

The PTI ended its latest sit-in yesterday morning, with the KP CM announcing that they would be approaching the IHC, where Aleema has now filed a contempt plea.



The bridge over the Atrai River in Shilimpur of Naogaon’s Patnitala lies unusable due to the absence of approach roads. Locals say work on the bridge, crucial for thousands of residents in Enayetpur, Mahadebpur, Pathakatahat, Manda, and Shilimpur, has progressed very slowly for more than three years, forcing people to take long detours. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

39 deported from US arrive in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States has sent back 39 Bangladeshis, who arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka early yesterday via a special US military flight.

After landing at 5:30am, airport authorities and BRAC provided transport support and emergency assistance.

Among the returnees, 26 are from Noakhali, while others are from Cumilla, Sylhet, Feni, Lakshmipur, Chattogram, Gazipur, Dhaka, Munshiganj, and Narayanganj.

According to BRAC’s Migration Programme, at least 34 of the 39 migrants had travelled to Brazil with clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

From Brazil, they made it to Mexico, and then entered US without documents. Of the remaining five, two travelled directly to the US and three entered from South Africa.

After applying to stay, US authorities completed legal procedures before ordering their return.

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