



"The peace agreement is 90 percent ready. Ten percent remains. And that is far more than just numbers."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

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Dhaka races to heat up as big guns enter the fray

Chiefs of major parties return to ballot battles in capital after decades

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

Dhaka braces for a high-voltage election as top leaders of three major parties -- the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the National Citizen Party -- submitted their nominations on Tuesday.

The chiefs of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, Nagarik Oikya, the Biplobi Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Labour Party, Bangladesh Nationalist Front, and the Nationalist Democratic Movement chief, who left his party several days before nomination submission to join the BNP, have also entered the fray.

Alongside them, senior and influential figures from other parties, an enforced disappearance victim, a former national footballer, and a leading campaigner against enforced disappearances are set to contest.

Adding further intensity, heavyweight

independents are preparing to run in multiple constituencies.

A total of 238 aspirants have submitted nominations for the 20 constituencies in the capital, widely regarded as the epicentre of the country's political activities.

Electoral Commission data shows that 19 BNP aspirants, including the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman (Dhaka-17), have submitted their nomination papers. The party has also extended support to Saiful Huq, general secretary of the Biplobi Workers Party of Bangladesh, for Dhaka-12.

Seventeen Jamaat-e-Islami aspirants, including its Ameer Shafiqur Rahman (Dhaka-15), have submitted nominations. Seven aspirants from NCP, including its Convener Nahid Islam (Dhaka-11), have also entered races in the capital.

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Ameer

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As the February 12 election nears, affidavits submitted by candidates open a window into their assets, liabilities, and personal histories. The Daily Star is running stories based solely on these filings.



Tarique earns Tk 6.76 lakh a yr from shares, bonds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's annual income is Tk 6.76 lakh, all of which comes from shares, bonds and bank deposit schemes, according to his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission.

His wife, Dr Zubaida Rahman, earns Tk 35.6 lakh annually as shown in the latest tax statement, although the affidavit did not mention the source of income.

According to the affidavit, Tarique has Tk 1.23 crore in bank. Of this, Tk 31.6 lakh is held as cash

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Shafiqur earns Tk 3.6 lakh a yr from farming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman declared an annual income of Tk 3.6 lakh, all from agriculture.

According to his last tax statement, the net worth of his wealth is Tk 1.5 crore, and he holds Tk 60.8 lakh in cash, and has current savings worth Tk 4.9 lakh.

Shafiqur, who holds an MBBS degree, has shares worth Tk 27.2 lakh, and 10 bhoris of gold whose value was shown at Tk 1 lakh. The price of gold today ranges from Tk 1,52,857 to Tk 2,24,182 per bhorti depending on the carat.

Nahid, a 27-year-old graduate from Dhaka University, also paid Tk 1.13 lakh in taxes last year -- nearly Tk 80,000 more than the Jamaat chief Dr Shafiqur Rahman.

According to the affidavit, Nahid earns Tk 16 lakh annually from consultancy, which is more than twice as much as Tarique and over four times more than Shafiqur.

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