



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

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

THE DAILY

Star

SECOND EDITION

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY JANUARY 2, 2026



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 341

POUSH 18, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 12, 1447 HJRI

12 PAGES: Tk 15.00

# Dhaka races to heat up as big guns enter the fray

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

MOHIUDDIN 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.

Election 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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

*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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



### 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 bhoir depending on the carat.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



### Consultancy brings Nahid Tk 16 lakh a yr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual income of National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam is higher than that of BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman and Jamaat-e-Islami 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.

Nahid, 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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## BNP aims to transform grief into unity

### Plans to devise strategy centring Khaleda's legacy

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is focusing on carrying the lift in public support it received following the death of Khaleda Zia into the election by strengthening and fully engaging in poll-focused activities.

Senior leaders have said the massive public turnout at the late BNP chairperson's funeral shows renewed voter connection with the party.

In the absence of its chief, who died on Tuesday, the BNP plans to move forward under the leadership of its acting chairman Tarique Rahman by strengthening organisational activities and election-focused programmes across the country.

Party leaders said the poll focused activities will not allow any perception to grow among the public that the party has become weak or directionless following the death of its long-time leader.

They said Khaleda's death just 45 days before the national polls on February 12 made it even more important for the party to project unity and discipline.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said people's outpouring love for Khaleda will make the party stronger.

"Following her passing, people will now fulfil their duty to establish democracy. And by making the next election free, fair and neutral, they will ensure BNP's victory for the sake of the country," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## Supply crunch sends LPG prices soaring

### 12-kg cylinders selling for as much as Tk 2,000; crisis may continue entire January

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Bottled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is now selling for 60 percent more than the government-fixed price on the back of a supply shortage caused by lower imports last month.

As per the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission's (BERC) pricing for December, a 12-kg cylinder was supposed to sell for Tk 1,253 at retail outlets. As the January price has not yet been announced, the December price was supposed to remain in effect.

But consumers are having to pay as much as Tk 2,000 per cylinder.

Take the case of Md Ahaduzzaman, a resident of Agargaon's Taltola area. On Wednesday, he went to at least three shops, but none could provide gas. When he visited the next day, they were asking for Tk 1,800 to Tk 2,000.

"How is it possible that a product's price goes up so much overnight?" he asked.

Several retailers and wholesalers told The Daily Star that the LPG market became volatile in the last two weeks of December.

Prices increased after December 15, said Shahidul Islam, a retailer in the Taltola area, who sold the 12-kg cylinders for Tk 1,800 last week.

"Until then, we used to buy a 12-kg cylinder at Tk 1,300 and sell it for Tk 1,350. But later it spiked," he said.

Shahidul has now suspended LPG sales as he is not getting supplies from wholesalers.

"If we ask for 50 cylinders a day, we are getting only five," he added.

Buying a 12-kg LPG cylinder at the fixed price from wholesalers is not possible now, said Aminur Rashid, a retailer in the Banglamotor area.

The wholesalers are charging up to Tk 200-300 more per bottle, which is affecting the retail price, he said.



Contacted, Mohammed Amirul Haque, president of the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB), the body representing LPG importers, denied increasing the LPG price at the operators' end.

"The hike happened in the market," he said, while urging the law enforcement agencies to take action against those responsible for raising prices.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### 'I feel this entire nation is my family'

### Tarique expresses gratitude for people's love, compassion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing gratitude, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the nation's love and solidarity made him feel the entire country was his family as he bade farewell to his mother, former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

"Yesterday, with a heart full of sorrow and gratitude, I laid my beloved mother, my first teacher in life, three-time prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, to her final resting place beside my father, Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman. The weight of her absence is immeasurable, but your presence, the people of Bangladesh, has made this profound moment feel less alone," he said in a Facebook post.

On Wednesday,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Amir Hossain, 62, a BNP supporter from Kabirhat upazila in Noakhali, arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday to attend the namaze-e-janaza of party chairperson Khaleda Zia. Yesterday, he waited from morning at Zia Uddin for her grave to be opened to the public so he could pay his final respects. Along with BNP leaders and activists, many people from across the country visited her grave, beside that of her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Crowds gather at Khaleda's grave to pay tribute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Party leaders, activists and ordinary people are flocking to the grave of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at Zia Uddin from all over the country to offer prayers and pay their tributes.

Khaleda was laid to rest on Wednesday beside her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman, following a namaz-e-janaza attended by millions.

Security remained tight, with members of the Army, Police, and other law enforcement agencies deployed across Zia Uddin and surrounding areas. Checkpoints were set up at entry points, and crowd movement was closely monitored to prevent any untoward incident.

Visitors began arriving at the mausoleum from early morning yesterday, with many travelling overnight from distant districts.

By around 11:00am, a large crowd had gathered at the entrance, with people waiting patiently to be allowed inside. The entrance was opened shortly after noon.

Once inside, mourners were seen offering prayers, placing flowers and wreaths and standing silently for moments of reflection beside the grave.

Some broke down in tears as they stood near the grave. Among those who travelled from outside Dhaka was Fatema Sharmin, who came from Munshiganj. "I came to feel what it would be like to touch the soil where she is buried," she said.

"We in the BNP have become orphans," said Aminul Islam, who came all the way from Nilphamari.

Visiting Khaleda's grave was emotionally overwhelming, said BNP activist Saiful Alam, a resident of Badda.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2