



Venezuela President Nicolas

Maduro on talks with US

YOUR
RIGHT
TO KNOW

DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 3, 2026



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 342

POUSH 19, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 13, 1447 HIJRI

12 PAGES: Tk 15.00

ACC to scrutinise affidavits of aspirants

Candidates who provide false info could face charges

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR and DIPAN NANDY

For the first time, the Anti-Corruption Commission will scrutinise the affidavits of general election aspirants to hold them accountable for their declared assets and liabilities.

The affidavits detail candidates' assets and liabilities, including those of their dependents at home and abroad. For years, such declarations were rarely questioned and were often treated as routine paperwork rather than tools of accountability.

The ACC's move gains significance in light of recent amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), which strengthen the Election Commission's (EC) powers to act against candidates who submit false information, if proved.

Under the amended law, the EC can cancel candidature even after an election victory if falsehoods in affidavits are proven at any point during an MP's five-year term. The commission may hold a hearing and revoke the membership if violations are proven.

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.



Fakhrul's income rose by Tk 57,700 in 7 years

Porwar's assets worth Tk 1.14cr

Earns around 4.67 lakh annually

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Member Secretary Akhter Hossen has declared his annual income of Tk 5.05 lakh, earned from agriculture, business, and employment.

The information was disclosed in the affidavit he submitted to the Election Commission along with his nomination papers to contest the 13th Jatiya Sangsad election from Rangpur-4.

According to his affidavit, Akhter and his wife Sanjida Akter jointly own movable assets worth Tk 43 lakh. Of this, Akhter has movable assets worth Tk 24.19 lakh at acquisition value, with an estimated current value of Tk 27 lakh.

His declared movable assets include Tk 13 lakh in cash, Tk 2.99 lakh in

GM Quader's wealth grows despite fall in income

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Lalmominhat

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader's annual income has declined 10-fold since the last election, but his cash holdings and assets have increased, according to a comparison of his affidavits for the last and the upcoming national election.

In the latest affidavit, Quader, contesting from Rangpur-3, listed his profession as politician and party chairman. He has reported a total of Tk 4 lakh as his annual income -- Tk 1.9 lakh from shares, savings certificates and deposits, and Tk 2.1 lakh as allowances as leader of the opposition.

In 2024, however, he had declared an annual income of Tk 44 lakh,

Wife earns more than him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who filed nomination papers for contesting the February 12 polls from the Thakurgaon-1 constituency, has reported a marginal increase of Tk 57,700 in his annual income over the past seven years.

According to the affidavit submitted to the Election Commission, his current annual income stands at Tk 11.83 lakh, earned from agriculture, business, consultancy, honorariums and bank profits.

Of this, Tk 1.80 lakh comes from agriculture

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

JAISHANKAR'S VISIT

A positive move but requires more understanding

TANIM AHMED

While the recent overtures from New Delhi to BNP may be seen in a positive light and an expedient move, it requires earnest introspection on India's part to explore why bilateral relations between these two neighbours remain frosty at best.

The gathering of foreign dignitaries at BNP chief Khaleda Zia's funeral was remarkable, to say the least. Ministers from Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives and India attended the funeral as did the speaker of Pakistan's national assembly. Envoy from about 40 countries joined

NEWS ANALYSIS

the event as did millions who flooded the streets at the heart of Dhaka and brought it to standstill for several hours. There were condolence messages from premiers around the region including China.

The funeral had suddenly become a regional event befitting a great stateswoman, not just the leader of one of Bangladesh's largest political parties or just another former prime minister. But most significant, in all this was perhaps, the attendance of the Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar. One of the most visible figures of the Indian cabinet, Jaishankar also delivered a personal message from the Indian prime minister Narendra Modi. The foreign dignitaries met Khaleda's son, who is now BNP's acting chair and de facto head of the party, Tarique Rahman.

But in light of India's lukewarm response and a notable reluctance to engage with the interim government, Jaishankar's visit and Modi's

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

HADI KILLING

Charge sheet by Jan 7: DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are preparing to submit the charge sheet this week in the murder case of Ingilab Moncho, a spokesperson for Sharif Osman Hadi, accusing absconding Faisal Karim Masud, the key accused, and several others.

"The investigation is now at the final stage," said Shafikul Islam, additional commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police and chief of the Detective Branch (DB), which is probing the killing.

"We are hopeful that the charge sheet in the murder case will be submitted by January 7," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

When asked about the possible number of accused to be named in the charge sheet, he did not specify an exact figure but hinted that it could be between eight and 12.

Hadi, an aspiring candidate for Dhaka-8, was shot in the Paltan area on December 12 while campaigning



SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Amid dense fog and chilly winds, an elderly woman wrapped in a shawl shivers along the rail tracks near Kashiadanga slum in Paba upazila of Rajshahi yesterday afternoon. Residents across the northern districts are struggling against the biting cold, with fewer people leaving their homes. The hardship is felt most by the homeless and day labourers.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

BNP'S POLLS ACTIVITIES

Tarique to begin countrywide tour next week

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is set to ramp up its election activities nationwide, with acting chairman Tarique Rahman taking a central role in courting voters for the February 12 polls.

"Since the election schedule has already been announced, we want to keep ourselves busy with election-related activities -- we want to move forward under the leadership of our leader Tarique Rahman," said Syed Emran Saleh Prince, joint secretary general of BNP.



Tarique is likely to begin his countrywide tour from next week. The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the planning process.

He will visit all eight divisions of the country, starting with Rangpur and ending with Dhaka.

He will travel in the bulletproof bus that has been imported for him and address public rallies along the way.

While in Rangpur, he might visit the family of Abu Sayed, a 25-year-old student activist at Begum Rokeya University whose death on July 16, 2024 from police bullets was the turning point in the July uprising.

Such gestures are intended to link the party's campaign with the broader public sentiment that followed the uprising.

In that leg of the trail, he will also cover Rajshahi and Bogura. Tarique is contesting from the Bogura-6 constituency in the election.

After North Bengal, he will head to Mymensingh.

The route has been designed to build momentum in the regions before ending the tour in the capital, according to people with knowledge of the plans.

The visits are intended to help him see the country in person after 17 years in exile

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Manna, Azad among 34 disqualified in scrutiny

STAR REPORT

At least 34 aspirants in nine districts have lost their chances to contest the upcoming national election, as their nomination papers were scrapped during scrutiny by returning officers.

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad and Nagarik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna are among those disqualified.

Azad, who sought to run from Cox's Bazar-2, was disqualified for failing to submit proper documents related to one of his cases, said Returning Officer MA Manna. His lawyer Md Arif said an appeal would be filed against the decision.

Manna's papers for Bogura-2 were turned down due to incomplete information on his cases and inconsistencies in his financial statement, said Returning Officer Toufiqur Rahman.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR 2026
CONNECTING BUSINESSES, CULTURES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Organised by
Dhaka International Trade Fair

Showcasing the best of Bangladesh under one roof

Venue	Initiated in 1995 as a trade and recreation hub
Date	Bridges local and global businesses
Visiting Hours	Showcases innovation, culture, and diversity
Weekdays	Celebrates three decades of global partnerships and success
Weekend	



327
Booths & Pavilions

316
Local

11
Foreign

KEY FEATURES

EXPORT ENCLAVE	A specialized area featuring the prime exportable goods of Bangladesh
BANGLADESH SQUARE	A still-image exhibition honoring the martyrs and injured of the Language Movement, the Liberation War, and the July 2024 movement
SENIOR CITIZENS' CORNER	A space for quality time, featuring cozy seating arrangements
POLYTHENE-FREE FAIR	DITF 2026 will be a polythene shopping bag-free fair
E-TICKETING	DITF 2026 will use e-ticketing, for faster and easier entry



Please scan
the QR code to
book your ticket.

www.epb.gov.bd