



A firefighter walks past a destroyed anti-aircraft unit at La Carlota military air base, after US President Donald Trump said the US has struck Venezuela and captured its President Nicolas Maduro, in Caracas, Venezuela, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

US will ‘run’ Venezuela

Says Trump after military attack topples Maduro, eyes selling ‘large amounts of Venezuelan oil’; ousted leader, wife to face ‘US justice’

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday said that the United States will “run” Venezuela and tap its huge oil reserves after snatching leftist leader Nicolas Maduro out of the country during a bombing raid on Caracas.

Trump’s announcement came hours after a lightning attack in which special forces grabbed Maduro and his wife, while airstrikes pounded multiple sites, stunning the capital city.

Trump did not go into detail what he meant but told a press conference in Florida: “We’re going to be running it with a group.”

“We’re designating people,” he said, mentioning that cabinet officials standing with him would be in charge.

In another surprise, Trump indicated that US troops could be deployed in Venezuela.

The US is “not afraid of boots on the ground,” he said.

Although the operation is being framed as a law-enforcement action, Trump made clear that regime change and Venezuela’s oil riches are the major goals.

“We’re going to have our very large United States oil companies, the biggest anywhere in the world, go in, spend billions of dollars, fix the badly broken infrastructure,” he said.

“We’ll be selling large amounts of oil,” he said.

Earlier, Trump in a Truth Social post said, “The United States of America has successfully carried out a large scale strike against Venezuela and its leader, President Nicolas Maduro, who has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the country.”

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US ALLIES, FOES ALARMED BY ACTION – PAGE 2, MORE ON PAGE 5



PHOTO:AFP

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro aboard the USS Iwo Jima after being captured in a US military operation.



RMG workers walk towards their factories on a foggy winter morning yesterday. Due to early shifts and limited public transport, many workers have to walk to their workplaces before sunrise. The photo was taken in the Ulail area of Savar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Seat-sharing talks testing Jamaat-IAB ties

MAMUNUR RASHID

Uncertainty has emerged over whether the electoral seat sharing arrangement between Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolan Bangladesh will ultimately hold, despite both parties having worked for nearly three and a half months to consolidate Islamist votes under a single platform.

Leaders and activists within the alliance say Jamaat may keep between 180 and 185 seats for itself, allocating the remaining seats among alliance partners. Islami Andolan is expected to receive the second-highest number of



seats after Jamaat, followed by the National Citizen Party (NCP).

However, the Chormonai Pir-led Islami Andolan is demanding a larger share. Its leaders are dissatisfied with Jamaat’s proposal to allocate fewer seats and are particularly aggrieved by the decision to give as many as 30 seats to the newly formed NCP, which they believe has been given undue importance. The stance of

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, led by Mamunul Haque, mirrors that of Islami Andolan.

From the outset, eight parties, including Jamaat and Islami Andolan, were part of the seat-sharing talks. On December 28, a day before the deadline for submitting nomination papers, the NCP and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), led by retired Colonel Oli Ahmed, joined the alliance. Later that night, reports emerged that Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party) had also joined, bringing the total number of alliance partners to 11.

Senior leaders of Islami Andolan

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Rebels a cause of headache for BNP

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP’s fight in the national election is shaping up on two fronts: against rival parties outside and against rebel contenders within, threatening to split its vote base.

The party is grappling with internal unrest as dozens of members push ahead with independent electoral ambitions, openly defying the official line despite warnings and actions.

Already, more than 190 rebel candidates have submitted nomination papers across 115 constituencies, from traditional BNP strongholds to the capital.

BNP has issued strong warnings to leaders contesting the polls as rebels, saying strict disciplinary action will follow. Nine leaders have already been expelled for submitting nomination papers in seats shared with alliance partners.

BNP leaders said not all are rebels; the party has prepared alternative aspirants for over 15 seats in case its main nominees are disqualified due to issues such as defaulted loans, cases or other complications.

Backups have also been arranged, considering illness or old age among some contenders. If a primary candidate is ruled out, the alternative will be declared as the final nominee.

BNP has issued strong warnings to leaders contesting as rebels, saying strict disciplinary action will follow. Nine leaders have already been expelled for submitting nomination papers in seats shared with alliance partners.

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Politics bowls Fizz out of IPL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian cricket board’s decision to have Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman released from the IPL yesterday constitutes a glaring example of politics interfering in sports, observed cricket aficionados.

The 30-year-old, the only Bangladeshi representative in the glamorous Indian Premier League this year, was released by his franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on the instructions of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). This marked the first time a cricketer had been let go by an IPL side for political reasons.

A Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director, who attended an emergency board meeting last night, told The Daily Star that the board will be sending an email to the ICC and the IPL governing body regarding the issue.

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~১৬,০০০ কোটি

টাকার নেট ডিপোজিট প্রবৃদ্ধি

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২৩৪ টি শাখা • ১৮৭ টি উপশাখা • ৬২০ টি এজেন্ট • ৭১৫ টি এটিএম

ইউসিবি'র উপর আপনাদের ভরসা আর অবিরাম সমর্থনের জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে কৃতজ্ঞ।