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Habiganj SAD leader held after viral remarks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Mahdi Hasan, member secretary of Students Against Discrimination's Habiganj unit, was detained last night, a day after his controversial remarks during a confrontation with the officer-in-charge of Shayestaganj Police Station. Habiganj Additional Superintendent of Police Probas Kumar Singha confirmed the matter to The Daily Star around 9:00pm. Contacted, Habiganj Sadar Police Station Inspector (Investigation) Shafiqul Islam said, "Police are interrogating Mahdi over the incident."

The SAD central committee yesterday issued a show-cause notice to Mahdi, asking him to provide a written explanation within 24 hours

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People crossing a bamboo bridge over the Ramchandrapur Canal in Mohammadpur's Chandrima Model Town area, Dhaka yesterday. Thousands rely on this unstable passage daily to commute, facing significant risk.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FEBRUARY 12 POLLS ROs cancel about 220 nominations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Returning officers yesterday upheld the nomination papers of top leaders from three major political parties -- the BNP, Jamaat and the National Citizen Party (NCP) -- after scrutiny, while declaring about 220 nominations invalid.

In Dhaka's 20 constituencies, 81 nomination papers were declared invalid. On Friday, nominations of at least 99 aspirants were cancelled.

Today is the last day for scrutiny of nomination papers. A total of 2,569 aspirants filed nominations for February 12 national polls.

Yesterday, respective ROs after scrutiny approved BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman's nomination for Dhaka-17, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman for Dhaka 15 and NCP Convenor Nahid Islam for Dhaka-11.

Nominations of at least 15 aspirants from the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), three from the BNP, and two each from Jamaat and NCP were cancelled across the country.

Meanwhile, along with others nominations of Jatiya Party faction Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud for Chattogram 5 and 15 others candidates of CPB were cancelled as signatures did not match.

On the other hand, the nominations of independent aspirant Hasnat Quaiyum of Rasthro Sangskar Andolan for Kishorganj-5 and independent candidate Tasnim Jara, who recently resigned from the NCP, were cancelled due

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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.



Salahuddin's asset grew by 6.5 times to Tk 18cr since 2008

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed's assets grew by nearly six and a half times since 2008 to Tk 18.2 crore, while that of his wife Hasina Ahmed by over three and a half times to Tk 12.2 crore.

A comparison of their affidavits and tax returns from 2008 and 2025 also shows an increase in their net worth, according to the BNP leader's affidavit submitted to the Election Commission.

Salahuddin's wife Hasina contested the 9th national parliamentary elections in 2008 from Cox's Bazar-1 constituency, a seat that

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Foyjul Karim, wife have assets worth Tk 7cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolan Bangladesh Naye-e-Ameer Mufti Syed Foyjul Karim owns over 24 acres of agricultural land in Barishal's Charmonai valued at Tk 1 crore, as per his tax return from the last fiscal year.

The couple jointly have movable assets worth Tk 3.74 crore. Separately, Foyjul owns another Tk 3.15 crore worth of properties, according to his affidavit.

His properties include three flats in Rampura and Khilgaon and a store in Rampura Super Market -- all inherited. In addition, he owns about 40 decimals of non-agricultural land in Barishal and Khilgaon, Dhaka.

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Mamunul has Tk 83 lakh in liquid assets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Ameer Maulana Md Mamunul Haque earns Tk 13 lakh annually from teaching and business.

Currently, he has liquid assets worth Tk 83 lakh, and has invested Tk 1 lakh in bonds and shares, according to his affidavits submitted to the Election Commission.

Mamunul, also joint secretary general of Hefazat-e-Islam, has no farm land, but owns non-agricultural properties worth nearly Tk 82 lakh. He is running from Dhaka-13 constituency.

He still has three pending cases against him, two of which are under the Explosive Substances Act filed in 2014

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Hasnat is worth Tk 31.7 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party leader Hasnat Abdullah has assets worth Tk 31.7 lakh, and earned Tk 12.5 lakh from his educational business Elysium Academy last year, according to his affidavit.

Hasnat, who is running from Cumilla-4 constituency, holds Tk 13.5 lakh in cash, and a little more than Tk 3 lakh in bank in the name of Elysium Academy.

Elysium Academy is located in Mirpur DOHS. Hasnat, 27, holds a master's degree in English, is newly married, and owns gold worth Tk 26 lakh.

He aims to spend Tk 10.6 lakh from his own income in the upcoming election and plans to crowdfund Tk 30 lakh for his election campaign.

BDR EXPLOSIVES CASE 161 languish in jail as trial drags on

They served their time or have been acquitted in murder case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

For the family of ex-BDR member Mollah Sayeed Hossain, the wait for his release is likely to get longer.

The former sepoy from Satkhira remains behind bars in an explosives case over the 2009 Pilkhana carnage even though he has already served his sentence in a murder case over the carnage.

"My brother's 10-year jail term in the murder case ended seven years ago. Yet, he has not been released. My elderly parents are very ill. They wait for his return every day, hoping to embrace their son before death," said Sayeed's brother Abul Hasan.

"With hopes for a better future, my brother joined the BDR sports unit in March 2006. He soon became the family's main breadwinner," he told The Daily Star.

Sayeed is among 161 people -- mostly ex-members of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) -- who still languish in prison, despite having already served their jail terms or being acquitted in the murder case.

Of them, 153 were sentenced to 10 years in prison by the High Court, while the rest were acquitted of murder charges in 2013, according

to case records.

Their release is still stalled by the explosives case, which remains pending at a Dhaka tribunal with no significant progress, said lawyers concerned.

One such person is Maksudur Rahman, a former BDR Lance Naik, who has been in prison for 16 and a half years. His prison sentence in the murder case ended several years ago.

Voicing frustration at the prolonged detention, his wife Sharmin Akter said, "The horrific Pilkhana tragedy shook the entire nation. But the way it shattered my family is difficult to express in words."

Without Maksudur by her side, Sharmin faced great difficulties in raising her two children.

"Nobody can fathom how difficult my children's lives have been without their father. We have been waiting for him every single day for over 16 years," she said.

Legal experts say the prolonged detention of the 161 people exposes deep flaws in the country's justice system, underscoring the urgent need for a law to compensate victims for unjust imprisonment.

Supreme Court lawyer Ishrat Hasan said, "The

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- Police pressed charges against more than 800 people in the explosives case in 2010
- Trial proceedings began the following year
- More than two-thirds of the 1,287 witnesses have yet to testify

Cops examining video of Hadi murder suspect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are examining a video of Faisal Karim Masud, the prime accused in the murder of Inquilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi, which recently surfaced on social media, said Md Sazzat Ali, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

"We will speak after the examination is complete," he said yesterday while responding to a question at the Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh's Best Reporting Award ceremony at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Earlier on December 28, the DMP said Faisal and his associate Alamgir had fled to India through the Haluaghat border. Later, two video clips of Faisal -- who has been on the run since the shooting -- surfaced on Facebook in which he said that he was not involved in the murder and that he was in Dubai, not India.

Meanwhile, Inquilab Moncho continued holding demonstrations demanding justice for Hadi, also an aspirant independent candidate from Dhaka-8.

But the platform's scheduled "March for Justice" programme did not take place.

Several attempts were made to contact Abdullah Al Jaber, member secretary of Inquilab Moncho, but he

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Amid oncoming traffic, a vendor crouches to cross Mirpur Road through a broken section of the divider at the Gabtoli Bus Stand, risking an accident at any moment. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Trader dies days after being hacked, set on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

A businessman who was hacked and set on fire in Shariatpur's D a m u d y a upazila on Wednesday night died yesterday morning while undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka.

Khokon Chandra Das, 50, was a resident of Tiloi village in Kaneshwar union. He ran a pharmacy shop in the local market and also worked as an agent of mobile financial services (MFS).

The attack took place around 9:30pm on Wednesday as Khokon was returning home after closing his shop. Armed assailants intercepted him, hacked him with sharp weapons, and set him ablaze using flammable substances.

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