

DHAKA THURSDAY JANUARY 8, 2026

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 347

POUSH 24, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 18, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS CAMPUS: TK 15.00



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Seat-sharing knot tightens for Jamaat, IAB

Inclusion of NCP in alliance further complicates calculation

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MAMUNUR RASHID

The daunting task of striking a seat-sharing deal has grown increasingly complicated for Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolan Bangladesh with the two parties fielding candidates in more than 240 overlapping constituencies.

Jamaat and IAB -- two of the largest Islamist groups in the country -- had been in talks for over three months to consolidate Islamist votes under an alliance of eight mostly Islamist parties.

Despite prolonged discussions, the talks collapsed just short of the December 29 nomination deadline, leading both parties to submit nominations in hundreds of seats and deepening uncertainty within the newly announced alliance.

Election Commission data show that Jamaat filed nominations in 276 constituencies on the final day, while Islami Andolan submitted papers in 268 seats.

An analysis of the nominations reveals that Jamaat and IAB candidates are set to compete directly in at least 240 constituencies across the country, often in seats where senior leaders themselves are contesting.

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Swechchhasebak Dal leader shot dead in Dhaka

Another man bullet-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants shot dead former Swechchhasebak Dal leader Azizur Rahman Musabir and injured another man in the city last night.

Musabir, who served as the general secretary of Dhaka City North Swechchhasebak Dal, the volunteer wing of the BNP, was shot near the Super Star Hotel in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar around 8:30pm.

He was rushed to BRB Hospital on Panthapath but was pronounced dead on arrival, Fazlul Karim, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon Zone), told The Daily Star.

The injured, Sufian Byapari Masud, is the general secretary of the Tejgaon Thana Van Workers' Union.

Party members said Musabir attended a programme with a group of Shariatpur residents at the Super Star Hotel in the evening.

After the event, Musabir and Masud were walking down a lane nearby when two men opened fire. The attackers fled the scene on foot, said police.

Following the incident, a group of people including local BNP men staged protests near the Sonargaon intersection.

Family members and party activists said Musabir spent much of his time in jail during the Awami League regime and was repeatedly arrested in a number of political cases.

Hailing from Shariatpur, he was the eldest among three siblings. His



Azizur Rahman

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Shibir wins top posts in first JnUCSU polls

RAKIB MADBER

Candidates backed by Islami Chhatra Shibir have secured a crucial victory in the first ever election to Jagnnath University Central Students' Union (JnUCSU) sweeping the vice-president, general secretary and assistant general secretary posts.



Riazul Islam



Abdul Alim

Md Riazul Islam, the VP candidate from Shibir-backed Odomyo Jobian Oikya panel, was elected VP with 5,591 votes, according to the results announced by the Election Commission at around 12:00pm yesterday.

His nearest rival, AKM Rakib of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal backed panel, received 4,688 votes.

For the GS post, Shibir-backed Abdul Alim Arif bagged 5,475 votes, while JCD-backed candidate Khadijatul Kubra

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LPG cylinders are seen chained outside closed stores in Mohammadpur amid a supply shortage of the cooking fuel. Locals allege shopkeepers are keeping shops closed so that they can use different methods to sell the cylinders at higher prices.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

BCB firm on not sending team to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday reiterated its concerns over the safety and security of the Bangladesh contingent in India and reaffirmed its stance of not sending the national team to the country for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, starting on February 7.



BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul and other board directors had a meeting with the Sports Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul yesterday afternoon, after which Bulbul informed the media of their firm stance.

"We have written to the ICC highlighting the importance of safety and security. While our primary responsibility is to look after the players, there is also a large group beyond them, including journalists, sponsors, and cricket fans," Bulbul said.

"Since a government order [GO] is required for any overseas travel, we are seeking guidance from the government on this matter. If the security situation does not improve, we will continue to fight for our rights," he added.

Dr Nazrul also addressed the media, saying that there was going to be no compromise on the issues of security and dignity.

"We will not compromise with our national honour or the security of our cricketers. We of course want to play the World Cup, but only in the other host nation, Sri Lanka. We are standing firmly by this stance," he said.

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POWER, ENERGY Govt unveils new 25-year master plan

Eyes clean, efficient, accessible energy for all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has unveiled a new 25-year power and energy master plan, to be implemented from 2026 to 2050.

According to a press release from the chief adviser's press wing, implementing the plan will require an estimated \$177 billion to \$192 billion.

Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, submitted the master plan to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at State House Jamuna in presence of several advisers and senior officials.

Policy gaps in the previous three master plans -- prepared in 2005, 2010, and revised in 2016 -- were identified and briefly reviewed during the meeting, the release added.

The new plan projects peak electricity demand of 59,000 megawatts (MW) by 2050, compared to 70,500 MW in the 2023 plan. Current demand is around 16,700 MW.

The 2023 integrated power and energy master plan, prepared with JICA's support, was criticised by local experts for overestimating demand and including high-cost fuel sources. Following the formation of the interim government, various quarters called for a review with input from local experts.

The new plan aims to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for all through optimal use of domestic

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