



SEAT-SHARING TURMOIL Discontent in 11-party combine deepens

RASHIDUL HASAN and MAMUNUR RASHID

The seat-sharing discord within the 11-party alliance has intensified, with mistrust growing between Jamaat-e-Islami and other key partners, particularly Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis.

The crisis has cast doubt on whether a final understanding can be reached before the January 20 deadline for nomination withdrawal.

The rising uncertainty became more clear yesterday when the alliance abruptly postponed a pre-scheduled press conference meant to announce its final seat-sharing plan for the February 12 national election.

IAB leaders said they learned of the announcement through the media, while Jamaat later said the programme was deferred due to a lack of preparations.

IAB held back-to-back meetings — one stretching late into Tuesday night at a madrasa in Rampura and another yesterday at its central office in Purana Paltan.

At both meetings chaired by IAB Ameer Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim, leaders sharply criticised Jamaat for what they described as unilateral decisions that had eroded trust within the alliance.

Speaking to this newspaper, IAB Secretary General Yunus Ahmed said the dispute had raised a fundamental question over how much progress could still be made on seat sharing under the current circumstances.

He alleged that Jamaat had adopted a “go alone” approach, ignoring partners while taking key alliance decisions.

“To our utter surprise, we came to know about the matter from the media, which is really unexpected,” Yunus said, referring to Jamaat’s sudden announcement of the press conference.

After the meeting at the IAB central office, the party’s Joint Secretary

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

IAB accuses Jamaat of making unilateral decisions on seat sharing, alliance matters

Jamaat offers 40 seats, but IAB wants 50

Jamaat says not all expectations of partners can be fulfilled

IAB says all options open, including breaking away from alliance



Students from seven colleges block the road at Tanti Bazar intersection yesterday, demanding the promulgation of an ordinance for the proposed Dhaka Central University. This blockade and several others resulted in gridlocks across the city, causing immense sufferings to commuters throughout the day. Story on Page 3. PHOTO: STAR

MIGRATION TO US ‘Bangladesh, 74 countries to be hit by visa freeze’

AGENCIES

The United States will suspend processing immigrant visas from 75 countries, including Bangladesh, Fox News reported.

While the US has long denied visas to individuals deemed likely to rely on government welfare, the State Department said it will now use the same authority for a blanket suspension of immigrant visas based on nationality.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Iran, US cut contact

Trump vows ‘very strong action’ as Iran unrest toll tops 2,600; Tehran tells neighbours hosting US bases to expect retaliatory attacks

AGENCIES

Direct contact between the United States and Iran has broken down amid rising tensions over Tehran’s violent crackdown on protesters and growing fears of US military intervention.

A senior official told Reuters that communication between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US special envoy Steve Witkoff has been suspended.

The development came as US President Donald Trump renewed his threat of “very strong action” on Iran, where rights groups say more than 2,600 people have been killed in one of the biggest protest movements against clerical rule since 1979.

Tehran, meanwhile, warned neighbours hosting US troops that it would hit American bases if Washington strikes.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

EDITOR’S NOTE

Thank you dear readers, patrons, well-wishers and advertisers

Yesterday, we completed 35 years of our “Journalism without Fear or Favour” and we did so “Unbowed”. This we could only do but for your unbridled, SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



We are pleased to launch a five-part, 200-page special supplement series beginning today, marking the newspaper’s 35th anniversary. The opening part, titled

“SHAPING TOMORROW WITH PEOPLE AND RIVERS.”

explores how Bangladesh can unlock the potential of its two most critical assets—people and rivers.

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