



(We are) ready for cooperation on security in the Arctic but it has to happen with respect for our territorial integrity..."
Danish FM Lars Lokke Rasmussen on Trump's Greenland threats

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Partial rollout of new pay scale likely from Jan

Tk 20,000cr kept as additional allocation in revised budget to cover salaries, allowances of govt employees

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The new pay structure for government employees is likely to be partially implemented during the interim government's tenure, effective from January.

Subsequently, an additional allocation of about Tk 20,000 crore has been kept in the revised budget to cover salaries and allowances of more than 15 lakh government officials and employees.

The announcement of the implementation of the new pay structure is likely to be made ahead of the national election on February 12 once the National Pay Commission's report is scrutinised, a senior finance ministry official told The Daily Star. The National Pay Commission's

- 1 Decision will come after Pay Commission submits its report by this week
- 2 After quick scrutiny, govt will announce implementation of the pay scale
- 3 New pay structure will provide a higher increase at the lower grades
- 4 Implementation may begin with revised basic salaries, or allowances

report is expected by January 21.

Either the revised basic salary or the allowances could be implemented from January, so the allocation made in the revised budget would be sufficient.

The new pay structure would provide a higher increase to those at the lower grades, the official added.

Meanwhile, the government has finalised the revised budget, which will come into effect on February 1.

The overall budget size has been reduced by Tk 2,000 crore to Tk 788,000 crore.

While the development budget has been slashed by Tk 30,000 crore,

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BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman with his family at a programme organised in memory of his late mother and former prime minister Khaleda Zia at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP MEDIA CELL

IAB leaves Jamaat-led bloc, to run solo in 268 seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After days of suspense, Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) yesterday finally announced that it parted ways from the Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party electoral alliance, saying it does not want to engage in politics by "depending on others' favour".

The party added that it is preparing to contest the next general election independently in 268 out of 300 constituencies.

The development came just a day after the combine named its single

candidates for 253 constituencies at a press conference, where no IAB representative showed up.

Explaining the decision at a briefing in the party's Purana Paltan central office, IAB Spokesperson Gazi Ataur Rahman said the party had been "deprived of justice" in the seat sharing process and that the alliance had "deviated from Islamic ideals".

He further said they would support candidates in the remaining 32 seats whose values align with the party's principles.

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ALLIANCE DEBACLE 'MAJOR SETBACK' FOR JAMAAT -- PAGE 2

Khaleda's legacy central to our democratic future

Say speakers at citizens' mourning; urge nation to uphold her ideals, values

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upholding and emulating the ideals of former prime minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is essential for building a better Bangladesh and deepening its democratic foundations, speakers said yesterday.

At a citizens' mourning gathering titled "Indomitable Begum Khaleda Zia," people from across professions remembered her as a dignified statesperson, an unwavering democrat, an uncompromising

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Flames and thick black smoke engulf a residential building in Uttara yesterday morning, where a fire claimed six lives and left at least 13 others ill from smoke inhalation. Bottom, family members of the victims break down in grief.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF FIRE SERVICE, PALASH KHAN

She saved others but could not save herself

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

It was a quiet winter morning in Uttara around 7:45am yesterday, with the household sleeping in on the weekend. When flames from a flat three storeys below began to spread, 14-year-old Rodela was the first to sense the danger.

Her split-second decision saved three lives but cost her own. She woke her father and screamed to alert the rest of the family.

Thanks to her quick action, her father, Shahidul Islam, mother, and younger brother took shelter on the balcony of their fourth-floor flat and survived the toxic smoke. But while trying to reach the roof through the stairs with her uncle and cousin, Rodela did not make it out.

Six people from two families were killed in the fire that broke out on the first floor of a six-storey residential building in the capital's Uttara yesterday, while 13 others fell ill from smoke inhalation.

Doctors and fire officials said none of the deceased -- three of them children -- had burn marks on their bodies, suggesting they died from asphyxiation.

The victims were identified as Kazi Fazle Rabbi, 38, his wife Afroza Akter Suborna, 37, and their two-year-old son Kazi Fayaz Rishan; as well as Hares Mia, 52, his 17-year-old son Rahab, and 14-year-old niece Rodela.

They lived in two flats on the building's fourth floor on Road 18 in Sector II.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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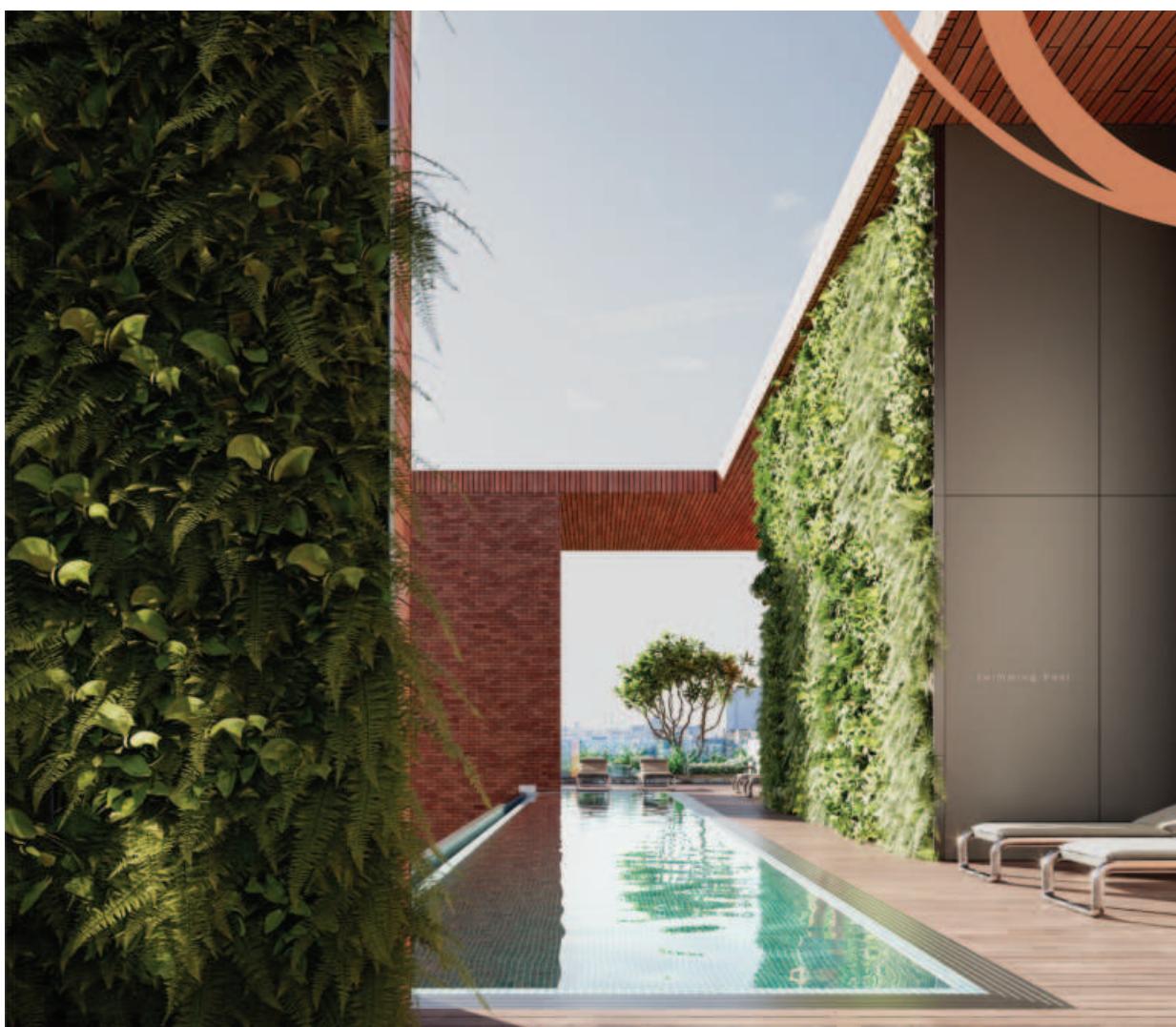
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They lived in two flats on the building's fourth floor on Road 18 in Sector II.

The fire broke out on the first floor around 7:50am, said Talha Bin

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Serene Living with Nature at Bashundhara

THE OPUS Block K, Bashundhara

Prime Corner Plot

South, North & East Facing

Fitness Center

Zen Lounge

Infinity Pool with Lush Green Façade

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