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# ‘My son’s nose, ears bled after cop beat him up’

Alleges mother of the Habiganj youth who died in police custody; family to file case with judge’s court tomorrow

MINTU DESHWARA, Moubibazar

Cops beat up the 18-year-old youth, whose body was found hanging in a room at Baniachong Police Station on Tuesday night, leaving him bleeding from his ears and nose, his mother alleged yesterday.

Fajrchan Bibi said her son Golam Rabbani was asleep at home in Habiganj’s Baniachong upazila around 1:40pm on Tuesday. Sub-inspector Monirul Haque called him to a nearby bazaar with the help of a local boy.

“I followed Rabbani and the boy. Soon after my son reached the bazaar, the SI started slapping him indiscriminately, leaving him bleeding from his ears and nose,” Fajrchan told this correspondent at her Nandigaon home yesterday.

“I cooked lunch for my son, but he could not take it as cops took him to the police station,” she said breaking down in tears.

She said she begged Monirul to release her son, but the SI said that they would set him free after interrogation.

“Around 7:30pm, I went to the police station with warm clothes and food. SI Monirul informed me that Rabbani complained of chest pain



Golam Rabbani

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BGB members are seen in front of the Secretariat in Dhaka. A total of 34,530 BGB personnel started patrolling the streets of different districts across the country yesterday. They will remain deployed for 13 days to help the local administrations maintain law and order during the national election.

PHOTO: STAR

## JAN 7 POLLS

34,530 BGB personnel deployed all over country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 34,530 personnel of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been deployed across the country to help maintain law and order so that the upcoming general election can be held in a free, fair, and peaceful manner.

Shariful Islam, public relations officer at BGB headquarters, confirmed the development yesterday.

BGB will work as a mobile and striking force to maintain peace and order from today to January 10, 2024, under “Aid to Civil Power” to assist the local administration, he added.

The national election is scheduled to be held on January 7 amid a boycott by some political parties, including BNP and its allies.

## Too new to talk about democracy

Magura-1 AL candidate Shakib Al Hasan tells *Star*

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Having secured the Awami League nomination from Magura-1 for the January 7 national election, Bangladesh’s most famous cricketer has turned his focus to the political field. In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan spoke about his reason for joining AL, what the people in Magura need and whether entering politics means his cricket career is in its last phase.

**The Daily Star (DS):** You have been going out on campaigns for the first time. How has your experience been?

**Shakib Al Hasan (SAH):** I have been enjoying it. It’s been good going to the people.

**DS:** What is your ambition now for your political innings? At what level do you want to see yourself in the political arena?

**SAH:** There is no ambition. What I wish is that I will be able to work for the people and meet their needs and demands.

**DS:** What do you feel is the major need for people here since you have been going around Magura and talking to them?

**SAH:** People want peace, and ensuring that is important. After the election, if the people of Magura want me then I will have a detailed plan. But I think the opportunity is there to do something very good. Working



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## 35 killed as Israeli strikes hit Gaza refugee camps

187 more killed in Gaza in past 24 hours; UN aid agency says aid convoy came under fire

AGENCIES

At least 35 people were killed in Nuseirat and Maghazi refugee camps following Israeli bombings in central Gaza yesterday, as the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said an aid convoy came under fire by the Israeli military in the enclave.

“Israeli soldiers fired at an aid convoy as it returned from northern Gaza along a route designated by the Israeli army – our international convoy leader and his team were not injured but one vehicle sustained damage,” UNRWA’s director in Gaza, Tom White, wrote on X.

Earlier yesterday, the UN humanitarian chief, Martin Griffiths, wrote a post on X describing what he called “an impossible situation for the people of Gaza, and for those trying to help them”.

Griffiths said that aid convoys had been shot at, without elaborating. “You think getting aid into Gaza is easy? Think again,” he said.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of newly displaced Gazans huddled under tarpaulins yesterday in the centre of the enclave after fleeing the latest offensive by Israeli tanks, while warplanes targeted the south, flattening homes and burying

families as they slept.

In the south of the strip in Rafah, Reuters journalists at the scene of one air strike that obliterated a building saw the head of a buried toddler sticking out of the rubble.

Neighbour Sanad Abu Tabet said the two-storey house had been crowded with displaced people. A separate Israeli attack hit a residential building near the Kuwaiti hospital in southern Gaza, killing at least 20.

20 killed as residential building hit in Gaza

Gaza death toll rises to 21,507

Hamas officials due in Cairo for truce talks

Gaza health authorities said 187 more Palestinians were confirmed killed in Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours, raising the toll to 21,507 – about 1 percent of Gaza’s population – with thousands more bodies feared unrecovered in the ruins.

The United Nations says many thousands more may die from

severe shortages of food, medicine, clean water and adequate shelter.

A Hamas delegation was due in Cairo yesterday to look at an Egyptian plan for a ceasefire that would end the war in Gaza, a Hamas official said.

The plan was put last week to officials of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which is also battling Israeli forces in the territory.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian, medics said, after military officials alleged he carried out a car ramming.

The army said soldiers “neutralised” the driver who rammed the car into people near a military post south of the city of Hebron.

The Magen David Adom paramedic service said that it treated one person in moderate condition and three others who were lightly wounded.

The Palestinian health ministry named the alleged assailant shot by Israeli forces as Amro Abu Hussein.

More than 520 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank this year by Israeli security forces and settlers, according to a health ministry toll, at least 314 of them since Israel’s October 7 offensive in Gaza.

## Ulfa faction signs peace accord with Indian govt

### Agrees to disband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A tripartite peace agreement was signed yesterday among the Indian government, the Assam state government, and the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) in Delhi.

In the accord, inked in the presence of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Ulfa faction has formally agreed to shun violence, disband the outfit and join mainstream politics.

The peace deal with the oldest insurgent group of Assam aims to address issues such as illegal immigration, land rights for indigenous communities, and a financial package for Assam’s development, reports NDTV.

The Indian government and Assam authorities have been holding negotiations with the Arabinda Rajkhowa-led faction of Ulfa since 2010 after Bangladesh handed over to the Indian authorities Ulfa’s chairman Rajkhowa, its armed wing’s deputy chief Raju Baruah, and several other top leaders in 2009 in a major gesture of security cooperation with New Delhi.

However, the headline faction of Ulfa (Independent) headed by Paresh Baruah is still not part of the peace process. Baruah reportedly lives along China-Myanmar border.

Amit Shah said the agreement marks a “bright” day for the future of Assam which for a long time suffered violence and ten thousand people lost their lives due to Ulfa-sponsored violence since 1997.

Amit Shah said all the reasonable demands by Ulfa will be met in a time-bound manner, and Ulfa as an organisation will be disbanded.

Ulfa was formed in 1979 to establish an independent sovereign state for the indigenous Assamese people. The group began its armed operations in the late 1980s, led by

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## NAOGAON-2 EC postpones election after independent’s death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday decided to postpone the election to the Naogaon-2 constituency following the death of an independent candidate earlier in the day.

Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary of the EC, made the announcement in a press conference at the EC hours after the death of Aminul Haq, a former Awami League leader from Naogaon-2 (Patnitola and Dhamoirhat).

He was undergoing treatment at a hospital in the capital. Aminul got his electoral symbol on Thursday after a High Court directive restored his candidacy.

A fresh schedule for the Naogaon-2 polls will be

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The mother of eight-year-old twins Ahmed and Jihan Nasser, who were killed during Israeli bombardment, kisses their hands as she mourns over their bodies at Al-Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ancient bricks absorbed power surge in Earth’s magnetic field

CNN ONLINE

Thousands of years ago, Earth’s magnetic field underwent a significant power surge over a part of the planet that included the ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia. People at the time



probably never even noticed the fluctuation, but signs of the anomaly, including previously unknown details, were preserved in the mud bricks that they baked, new research has found.

When scientists recently examined bricks dating from the third to the first millennium BC in Mesopotamia – which encompassed present-day Iraq and parts of what is now Syria, Iran and Turkey – they detected magnetic signatures in those from the first millennium, indicating that the bricks were fired at a time when Earth’s magnetic field was unusually strong.

Stamps on the bricks naming Mesopotamian kings enabled researchers to confirm the time range for the magnetic spike.