

ABU SAYED'S DEATH IN POLICE FIRING

## Cops' FIR runs counter to known facts

Says the Rangpur student was killed in firing, throwing of bricks by protesters

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Video footage shows police shooting at Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayed, who posed no physical threat to the law enforcers, during the quota reform protest near the campus on July 16. He died soon afterwards.

But contradicting what is evident, the First Information Report (FIR) filed by police says Sayed was not a victim of police firing.

"The protesters fired weapons and threw chunks of bricks from different directions, and at one stage, a student was seen falling to the ground," reads the report, adding that classmates took Sayed, 23, to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Sub-inspector Bibhuti Bhushan Roy, in charge of the campus police camp, wrote the report.

In the FIR filed with Tajhat police station on July 16, the SI accused 2,000-3,000 unidentified people, including BNP and Jamaat Shibir activists, of the killing.



When SI Bibhuti was contacted and asked about the footage, he said, "I have just filed the case. The officer carrying out the investigation will verify it."

In two video clips, verified by the Amnesty International, at least two police officers fired 12-gauge shotguns directly at him from across the street. Sayed clutched his chest on impact, and the officers fired at least two more times.

Amnesty International used satellite images to geolocate the positions of Sayed and the police officers and found that they were at a distance of about 15

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Holding her baby in her arms, Alo breaks down in tears in Old Dhaka's CMM court area yesterday as she waits to see her husband Rony Howlader. Police were to produce Rony, a pickup driver, before the court in a sabotage case. Alo is worried whether she would be able to secure bail for her husband, who was picked up from Badda on Thursday, as she cannot afford to hire a lawyer.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## 'Loss of so many lives very painful'

Says PM as she visits the injured at DMCH

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said appropriate punishment should be meted out for the recent violence across the country to stop the criminals from playing with the lives of the people.

"The situation is very painful. So many people have been killed and injured," she said in an emotion-choked voice while visiting the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the afternoon.

Hasina went to the hospital around 4:30pm to see the injured who came under attack during the recent violence. She visited the emergency unit of the DMCH and inquired about the health of the injured.

The premier reiterated her call to the people to find the culprits behind such heinous acts.

She said she never wanted to see anyone lose their dear ones.

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## QUOTA PROTEST DB picks up three organisers from hospital

Says they 'sought security' from cops



Nahid Islam, Asif Mahmud and Abu Baker Majumder  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday afternoon picked up Nahid Islam, Asif Mahmud and Abu Baker Majumder, three key organisers of the quota reform protests, from a city hospital where Nahid and Asif were undergoing treatment.

Junaid Alam Sharkey, additional deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the three were taken into DB custody as they sought security.

"We will interrogate them about the incidents that took place in the last two days," he told The Daily Star around 12:15 today.

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## Over 5,500 held in one week

Arrestees include many BNP, Jamaat activists

STAR REPORT

At least 738 more people were arrested in the capital and several other districts in 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday in connection with the recent violence across the country.

As of yesterday, over 5,522 people, including many BNP and Jamaat leaders, were held in different parts of the country over the last seven days.

So far, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 2,357 people in 209 cases filed with different police stations over violence, vandalism, and arson at government establishments and other places, said sources in DMP.

Of them, 148 were held yesterday.

According to court documents, 211 people, including several BNP and Jamaat leaders, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, in 67 cases yesterday.

A total of 4,784 people were arrested earlier in Dhaka and other districts.

Police held 324 people in 12 districts in 36 hours between 6:00am Thursday and 6:00pm yesterday.

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## BNP calls for 'national unity' with one-point demand

Urges democratic parties, social and cultural orgs to unite for ousting govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called for national unity among all democratic political parties and socio-cultural organisations to press home a one-point demand – resignation of the government.

At this critical moment of the nation, the aim of the unity will be restoration of democracy and voting rights, Fakhrul said in a statement sent to the media last night.

"We call for national unity among the parties and alliances involved in the simultaneous movement under BNP's leadership; left and right-wing political parties; Jamaat-e-Islami and other Islamist political parties and organisations."

This announcement on national unity will expedite the movement for people's freedom, he said.

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## 'End crackdown, restore full access to internet'

UN experts urge Bangladesh govt

STAR REPORT

UN experts on Thursday called upon Bangladesh government to immediately ensure accountability for human rights violations, end the violent crackdown against protesters and political opponents, and to fully restore people's access to the internet and social media.

In a statement on the website of the Office of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the experts said, "We have been alarmed by the large number of unlawful killings, possible enforced disappearances, torture and the detention of thousands of people."

"We are deeply concerned by reports of targeted attacks, threats, intimidation and retaliation by the authorities and government-aligned groups against protest leaders, political activists, human rights defenders and journalists."

Citing local media in Bangladesh, the statement said at least 170 people, including police personnel, were confirmed dead in the violence centring the quota reform movement, with the actual death toll likely to be much higher. At least two journalists have been killed and several others injured. There are also

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inquires about the health of a youth during a visit to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The young man sustained injuries during the recent violence in the country.

PHOTO: BSS

## BID FOR US PRESIDENT Barack, Michelle Obama endorse Kamala Harris

REUTERS

Former US president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle endorsed Kamala Harris' bid for president yesterday in a roughly one-minute long video that captured a private phone call between the couple and the current vice president.

"We called to say Michelle and I couldn't be prouder to endorse you and to do everything we can to get you through this election and into the Oval Office," Obama told Harris.

"I am proud of you. This is going to be historic," the former first lady told Harris. Talking into a cell phone and cracking a few smiles, Harris expressed her gratitude for the endorsement and their long friendship.

"Thank you both. It means so much. And we're gonna have some fun with this too," Harris said. The campaign said the video was the actual call, not a reenactment.

Harris' surprise bid against Republican rival Donald Trump continues to gain steam from supporters, donors and politicians less than a week after President Joe Biden bowed out of the race amid slumping poll numbers.

Obama, the first US Black president, remains one of the most popular figures

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