



BSRM
building a safer nation

WITH BSRM FASTBUILD
**YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS**



SHAH CEMENT

BANGLADESH'S
NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STUDENT MOVEMENT

Citizens' platform launched to help achieve goals

MD ABBAS and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

A 55-member Jatiya Nagorik Committee was formed yesterday to work towards fulfilling the goals of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement that toppled the Awami League-led government.

Muhammad Nasiruddin Patwary was made convener and Akhter Hossen member secretary of the committee.

Samanta Sharmeen was designated spokesperson for the committee while 52 others were made its members.

The committee is comprised of former activists and leaders of different student bodies; people involved in different campaigns; teachers; lawyers; journalists; and social media influencers.

None of the committee members are students.

On behalf of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement, convener Nasiruddin announced the committee at the Central Shaheed Minar around 5:30pm.

While making a statement, spokesperson Sharmeen



Women workers leave a garment factory in Ashulia during lunch break. The factory reopened after a few days of closure amid workers' unrest. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Mob beats ex-BCL leader to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Abdullah Al Masud, a store officer at Rajshahi University Medical Centre, stepped out of his home on Saturday night to get medicine. Before leaving, he shared on Facebook that he had become a father a few days ago and sought blessings for his newborn daughter.

But little did he know that, by the cruel hand of fate, he would not return to his family alive and that his newborn would grow up without knowing her father.

That night, Masud, also a former Chhatra League leader, died after being beaten by an unruly mob in the Binodpur Bazar area adjacent to Rajshahi University.

Masud was handed over to police with serious injuries. Later, he was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where he died around



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Man dies in jail custody

He was an accused in case over attack on army personnel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man, who was in Gopalganj district jail in a case filed over attacking army personnel in the district last month, died early yesterday.

Elahi Sikdar, 25, was the son of Mohi Sikdar of Falsi village in Gopalganj's Kashiani upazila.

He was brought dead to the Gopalganj 250-bed General Hospital around 1:00am, said hospital officials.

Elahi, who had a roadside restaurant at Falsi Bazar, was picked up from his home around 1:30pm on September 3, his elder brother Kudrat Sikdar told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Around 12 hours later, police called us over phone and told us that my brother was hospitalised," he said.

The following day, Elahi was sent to jail though a court, Kudrat added.

"We got a phone call from the jail authorities around 1:30am last night [yesterday]. They told us that Elahi fell ill and was sent to hospital," he said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

TURF WAR AT GENEVA CAMP

Rampant use of firearms raises alarm

Gunfights between narcos left at least 2 dead in last few days

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Clashes between armed gangs have become common in the capital's Mohammadpur Geneva Camp in recent weeks as drug dealers are trying to take control of the area, residents said.

Locals are now raising alarm over the use of firearms that had not been previously seen in the area.

Experts who have seen the photos and video clips taken by locals during the clashes said the pistols used were probably looted from police last month.

In video clips collected by this newspaper, a group of men were seen firing shotguns, pistols, and rifles.

Locals say they have been hearing gunshots almost every day since the fall of the Awami League government in early August.

On August 6, a day after Sheikh Hasina fled

the country, a man named Shahan Shah was shot dead. Another man named Sonu was killed in a major shootout on September 3.

Also known as Bihari Camp, the densely populated Geneva Camp is home to over 25,000 non-Bangla speaking people. Gang activities there centre around drug abuse and trade.

Several residents said they were living in constant fear.

Before he died three years ago, Ishtiaq Ahmed, a notorious drug dealer, controlled the sale of marijuana and yaba in the camp. Several groups emerged after his death, locals said.

One of them, the Bhuiyan Sohel group, began selling heroin in 2022. Eventually, two other groups also started dealing heroin.

Tension ran high in April this year when Imtiaz group also started selling heroin.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Each group has 20-25 armed cadres and several drug peddlers. In clashes, the gangs used sharp weapons, and threw bricks, and crude bombs at each other. But they have been using firearms since the fall of the government.

Some parties falling into neighbouring country's trap

Says Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday alleged that "some" political parties are making misleading statements, having fallen into a trap set by a "neighbouring country".

He also said that the BNP would continue its movement until voting rights and democracy are restored in Bangladesh.

"The dictator has fallen. But conspiracies are still on," Tarique said while virtually addressing a public rally at Kalaroa Football Ground in Satkhira.

"We've seen in the last few days that some political parties or



SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Rohingyas sneaking in thru Naf river

Say community leaders in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A few hundred Rohingyas have been crossing the border into Bangladesh daily through the Naf river over the past few days, facing attacks by both the Myanmar military and Arakan Army rebels in Rakhine state.

The newly arrived Rohingyas have alleged indiscriminate murder, rape and arson attacks by both sides in recent days.

Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, the refugee, relief and repatriation commissioner, told The Daily Star the official stand of Bangladesh is not to allow any more Myanmar nationals to enter illegally.

However, 8,000 to 10,000 Rohingyas arrived in Cox's Bazar refugee camps recently, he added.

He also said most of them came on August 4 and August 5 when the situation in Bangladesh was unstable during the mass uprising.

Rohingya community leaders, however, said as many as 30,000 Rohingyas have arrived in the last month.

Earlier on September 3, Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain told reporters that around 8,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh recently.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of whom fled a 2017

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SURVEY ON US PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Harris, Trump tied on eve of debate

AFP, Washington

The US presidential race remains neck-and-neck according to polls released yesterday, two days before Kamala Harris and Donald Trump hold their first -- and potentially only -- televised debate.

The latest polling confirms that Trump retains locked-in support from about half of voters, despite the Republican's historic status as a convicted felon and his role in instigating the unprecedented attempt to overturn his 2020 loss to Joe Biden.

Harris, who only jumped into the race after President Biden abruptly quit in July, has rapidly transformed herself from a little-noticed vice president into a serious contender. However, the polls show she has not made a major breakthrough, leaving the race a toss-up.

A New York Times/Siena poll found that 78-year-old Trump is leading Harris nationally by 48 to 47 percent, well within the margin of error.

US presidential elections are decided by tallying the results of state-by-state contests, rather than an overall national popular vote, meaning that a tiny handful of swing states typically decide the balance.

The poll found Harris, 59, narrowly ahead in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania and tied in four other swing states -- Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina and Arizona.

A CBS News/YouGov poll put Harris ahead by one percentage point in Michigan and Wisconsin and tied in Pennsylvania.

The election is already chaotic, with 81-year-old Biden dropping out amid concerns over his age, Trump narrowly surviving an assassin's bullet at a rally, and



fears mounting that Trump will again refuse to concede if he loses in November.

However, the latest numbers confirm that each candidate retains a remarkably stable base of loyalists, almost evenly splitting the country.

One game changer could be Tuesday's ABC News debate, the only one scheduled between the two.

Trump will be under pressure to rein in his characteristic use of insults and intimidation as he stands next to a mixed-race candidate vying to become the first female president in US history.

Harris will need to use the huge viewership to connect with Americans in a way that she was unable to as vice president and has had little time to accomplish in her super-condensed campaign run.

With Trump now the oldest presidential nominee in US history, she is pitching an optimistic, forward-looking message in contrast to Trump's apocalyptic claims that the country faces terminal decline without him in the White House.

At the same time, Harris will have to solve the conundrum of how to debate Trump, who habitually makes false statements on nearly every topic and loves to get under his opponents' skin. Biden, in his only debate against Trump before dropping his candidacy, found himself entirely unable to cope.

Already, Trump has been subjecting Harris in his speeches to racist and sexist taunts, deliberately mispronouncing her name and calling her "crazy" and a "Marxist."

"It will take almost superhuman focus and discipline to deal with Donald Trump in a debate," Harris supporter and current transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg told CNN.

IN MEMORIAM

"Brothers. Sisters. Look around; look at one around.

Look at the dirt on our hands...

You may find it hard to believe but it is the same dirt we come from. Every single one of us...

Even if we are both from the same tradition, there are things that we are told should separate us... But look at our hands. Yes, it is the same dirt... We died in this. We have lived in this. For centuries, we were able to live together, to respect and value each other."

Excerpt from *Babu Bangladesh!*

Written by Dr. Numair Atif Choudhury

Deceased September 9, 2018



MAY ALLAH GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

MS. LUBNA CHOUDHURY, Mother (Founder Principal & Chairperson, BITL)

MS. ANIKA RAHMAN, Sister (Managing Director & CEO, BITL)

MS. TALITA CHOUDHURY, Sister (Director of Education & Board Member, BITL)