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## Ducsu election likely by next February

DU proctor says preparations underway

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and  
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

After a six-year gap since the last Ducsu polls in 2019, the Dhaka University authorities are now gearing up for an election early next year.

The authorities have got the go-ahead from the interim government to hold the election by the end of January or early February.

"The university administration aims to complete the groundwork for the election by December and prepare to conduct the polls either at the end of January or mid-February next year," DU Proctor Prof Saifuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He added that DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus recently where the latter assured of extending all possible cooperation for conducting the polls to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu).



Prof Saifuddin said the election is essential to facilitate communication between the university administration and students and to ensure students' rights.

"If there is no formal platform for students, who will the administration consult while making important decisions? Having a common platform is crucial for this."

The last Ducsu election was held on March 11, 2019, breaking a 28-year hiatus.

A special committee, formed by the DU authorities to make recommendations and give the university administration guidance on the nature of political activities at DU, is now talking to the stakeholders to speed up the process of the polls.

Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq, a member of the committee, said, "We are working on how the polls can be held and what the

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Bangladesh captain Azizul Hakim clenches his fist in celebration after guiding his side to a seven-wicket win against Pakistan with an unbeaten 61 off 42 deliveries during their Men's U-19 Asia Cup semifinal in Dubai yesterday, setting up a final against India on Sunday.

PHOTO: ACC

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## PANCHAGARH BORDER Bangladeshi man shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi man was killed by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the Mominpara border in Panchagarh's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain, 40, son of Rafiqul Islam of Debnagar Amjani village in Panchagarh's Tentulia upazila, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and police said.

Citing BSF sources, BGB Battalion 56 in Nilphamari said in a press release that some troops from Chanakia BSF camp stopped a group of alleged Indian and Bangladeshi cattle smugglers in the Singpara area on the Indian side of the border around 5:25am.

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MAHMUDUL HASAN

The internet regulator is abandoning its plan to allow Bangladesh to be the transit point for bandwidth supply to India's northeastern states on concerns that it could weaken the country's potential to become a regional internet hub.

Last year, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) sought the telecom ministry's permission after Summit Communications and Fiber@Home applied to supply bandwidth from Singapore via the Akhaura border to the northeastern region of India through Bharti Airtel.

Summit Communications's chairman is Muhammad Farid Khan, the younger brother of Awami League presidium member Faruk Khan, also a five-time member of parliament from the

Gopalganj-1. Farid is also a close friend of Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the son and ICT affairs adviser of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Fiber@Home was a major beneficiary during the AL regime from 2009 to 2024, ranking second to Summit Communications in terms of major government contracts and licences won.

Before the two international terrestrial cable operators sought the BTRC's approval, Bharti Airtel applied to the foreign ministry the previous year for permission to connect Agartala through Akhaura to Bangladesh's submarine cable landing stations in Cox's Bazar and Kuakata to reach Singapore.

Under this arrangement, Bangladesh would serve as the transit route -- enabling faster internet connection for India's northeastern

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Won't tolerate any aggression  
Says Jamaat ameer pointing at India

UNB, Cumilla

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman has said Bangladesh will not tolerate any aggression.

"We will not give away even an inch of Bangladesh's land to anyone. We will not tolerate any aggression," he said, referring to India.

Shafiqur was speaking at Cumilla City Jamaat activists' conference at the Town Hall ground yesterday morning.

"Reforms are needed to hold a free and fair election free from muscle power. Elections must be held on time," he said.

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## NORTH GAZA HOSPITAL Israeli strikes kill 29 Palestinians

AFP, Beit Lahiya

Gaza's civil defence agency said 29 people were killed by Israeli strikes around a major hospital in the northern city of Beit Lahiya yesterday.

Kamal Adwan Hospital, one of northern Gaza's last functioning health centres, was hit by several strikes in the morning, the agency and the hospital director said.

"There was a series of air strikes on the northern and western sides of the hospital, accompanied by intense and direct fire," said hospital director Hossam Abu Safieh, adding that four staff were killed.

Mahmud Bassal, the civil defence agency's spokesman, said, "At least 29 people were killed and dozens were wounded... since dawn on Friday as a result of the continuing Israeli shelling around Kamal Adwan Hospital."

Bassal told AFP that the Israeli army entered the hospital, evacuated patients and arrested several Palestinians.



Garo dancers perform at the Wangala festival at Lalmatia Housing Society School and College in the capital yesterday. The celebration of Wangala, a harvest festival of the Garo people, marks the end of a period of toil and the arrival of a bountiful harvest.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## DHAKA-DELHI TALKS Indian foreign secy to fly in December 9

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday confirmed the visit by its Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Dhaka on December 9 in the first top diplomatic contact with Bangladesh since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister of Bangladesh in August.

The meeting also comes at a time when ties between Dhaka and Delhi are under considerable strain over various issues, including allegations of attacks on

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## PAKISTAN UNREST Imran threatens civil disobedience movement

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has called on his supporters to hold a rally next week and threatened to start a civil disobedience movement days after his party led a deadly protest march in Islamabad.

In a post on X on Thursday, Khan asked supporters to converge on December 13 in the northwestern city of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province which is ruled by his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.

He demanded a judicial probe into the crackdown on the November 25 protest march which he said killed at least 12 of his supporters and violence on May 9 last year which killed 8. All arrested political workers should also be released, he said.

"If these two demands are not met, a civil disobedience movement will start from December 14, and the government will be held responsible for any consequences," Khan said.

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Brigadier General (Retd.) Md. Masih Ud Dowla (1932-2024)

WE DEEPLY MOURN

Brigadier General (Retd.) Md. Masih Ud Dowla, son of Khan Bahadur Mohammad Ismail and Kawkabunessa Begum, brother of M. Anis Ud Dowla and Mohammad Asafuddowla died on 5th December 2024 at 7:15 pm at his residence.

He was Brigade Commander of Independent Engineering Brigade in Bangladesh Army, former Defense Attaché in Saudi Arabia, former Chairman, CDA and former Operation Director, ACI Formulations Ltd.

He was 92 years old. He left behind his wife, two daughters Dr. Rumana Dowla, Rubaba Dowla and only son Fahim Dowla, five grandchildren, two brothers and one sister to mourn his death.

He has been buried in the Army Graveyard.

Please pray for the departed soul.

BEREAVED FAMILY