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## JUBO DAL LEADER'S DEATH IN CUSTODY

# Who will I call baba now?

### Asks Touhidul's daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

After Touhidul Islam's body was brought back from Cumilla Medical College Hospital yesterday morning, his neighbours gathered at his house in Italla village to see him for the last time. His wife, four daughters, and relatives were found to be inconsolable.

"Who will I call baba now? He was such a good man. My good Baba... they tortured him and killed him. We, four sisters, are orphans now. I want justice for my father's murder," Tasfia Akhter, 14, Touhidul's eldest, said with a choked voice.



Tasfia Akhter

Jubo Dal leader Touhidul Islam, 42, was allegedly tortured to death after being taken from his Cumilla residence in the early hours of Friday by members of the joint forces.

The ambulance carrying Touhidul's body was later parked in front of the Cumilla Press Club, where hundreds of locals formed a human chain. They demanded justice, claiming that Touhidul was abducted and brutally murdered.

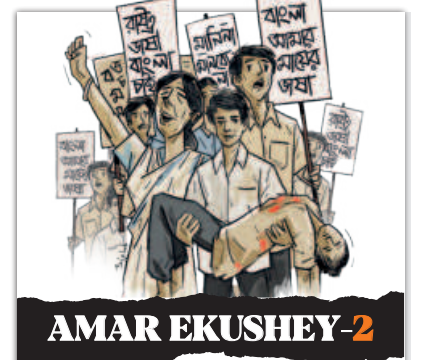
Addressed the media, Touhidul's wife, Yesmin Nahar, said, "In the early hours of Friday, four men arrived at our house and identified themselves as members of the joint forces. As soon as I let them in, they detained Touhidul

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Biswa Ijtema goers perform their ablutions at a pool before offering Zohr prayers. The annual event on the bank of the Turag in Tongi sees the congregation of thousands of Muslims. The first phase of Biswa Ijtema ends today with the Akheri Munajat.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



## AMAR EKUSHEY-2

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1952 Language Movement. Drawing on research based on various published books, this 21-part series tells the story of the historic struggle for our mother tongue.

## Language Movement in Faridpur

AHMAD ISTIAK

Like other parts of the country, the demand for Bangla as a state language was made also in Faridpur, where the Language Movement began in 1948.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## DEMO AT TITUMIR COLLEGE

# People suffer as students keep blocking road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private firm employee Mohammad Ekram Hossain visited Chandrima Udyan with his wife and daughter to enjoy the weekend. As evening approached, he hired an autorickshaw to head home to Madhya Badda.

However, the journey came to an abrupt halt at Amtoli in Mohakhali around 6:00pm as students of Government Titumir College blocked the road for the third consecutive day on Saturday to press for the demand that the college be turned into a university.

For the next 50 minutes, Ekram and his family waited inside the autorickshaw, hoping for a way to continue their journey. When the students announced an hour-long blockade at Gulshan-1 intersection, Ekram chose to walk home.

"Road blockades occur at any time. There is no security on the road. We do not know when the road will be cleared. No one knows anything, and there was no police," a frustrated Ekram told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Al Amin Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Gulshan Zone), said police were on alert. "We have remained near the gathering to monitor the situation and maintain law and order. We will take action if any untoward incidents occur."

As the students' ultimatum to meet their demand remained unfulfilled, they blocked the road outside the college after 4:00pm. As a result, traffic on both sides of Bir Uttam AK Khandaker Road, from Mohakhali to Gulshan-1, came to a standstill. After 6:15pm, the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Swechhchasebak Dal leader killed as two BNP groups clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Swechhchasebak Dal leader was killed during a clash between two groups of BNP men in Cumilla's Nangalkot upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Selim Bhuiyan, 45, convener of Hesakhal union unit of Swechhchasebak Dal, said police.

Locals said there was a longstanding political rivalry between Gafur Bhuiyan, former BNP lawmaker, and Mobasher Alam Bhuiyan, former president of the upazila BNP.

Yesterday, Selim, who was a supporter of Gafur, was heading to a political programme in Kakoitola area along with a few partymen.

On their way, supporters of Alam attacked them at Banggodda Bazar around 3:00pm, triggering a clash between the two groups, the locals claimed.

Selim was critically

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# Only wealthy have access to politics

Finds a report by British public body

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Elections in Bangladesh are an expensive affair, with candidates spending between Tk 5-10 crore to secure nominations and for their campaigns, according to a report by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

The situation has worsened in recent years — particularly during the past four Awami League-led governments from 2009 to 2024 — where the influence of financial resources in politics has increased dramatically, it said.

The rising costs of electioneering have created barriers for many aspiring politicians, particularly those from less affluent backgrounds and marginalised communities, including women and youth, said the report titled "The cost of politics in Bangladesh".

The report was prepared by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the UK public body dedicated to strengthening democracy and open societies around the world.

The research for the report was done between July and December last year. As many as 25 in-depth key informant interviews were taken with former members of parliament, election

- Tk 2-5cr donation to party leaders for nomination
- PM's family was paid, in some cases, for securing nomination
- Tk 3-5cr spent on campaigning
- Tk 50 lakh spent on polls day
- Tk 5,000 spent to secure a single vote

SOURCE: COST OF POLITICS IN BANGLADESH REPORT

officials and other stakeholders.

Two focused group discussions were held. Researchers also gathered data from secondary sources from government publications, prominent international organisations and academic literature that delves into the political economy of Bangladesh.

To put themselves in contention for nomination, candidates often spend

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Remnants of fascist regime still present

### Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Sheikh Hasina's autocratic rule has ended, her regime's remnants are still present in the country, BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman said yesterday.

In a virtual address to the council of the party's Brahmanbaria district unit, he emphasised the need for all citizens to stay united in the face of any kind of challenge.

He said that the "autocratic Hasina" government ruled the country for a long time, which may have eroded public trust in political parties. It is now the responsibility of BNP leaders and activists to rebuild confidence among the people.

The only option for democratic forces is now to stay united to move the country forward and rebuild it with peace as the cohorts of the fallen fascists are trying to raise their ugly heads again, he added.

"The autocrats against whom we waged the movement are now on the run. Although the head of the autocratic regime fled, many of its remnants are still present in Bangladesh," he said.

Although councils are supposed to be held every two years, the council at the field of Sohagpur Abbasuddin Khan Model College took place after nearly 12 years as part of the party's efforts to overhaul its grassroots.

The party's acting chairman said that the conspirators continued their efforts to destabilise the country in various ways, including through agitations under the guise of placing various demands.

"We can't allow them to achieve their goal. If we want to

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Titumir College students march on Mohakhali-Gulshan Road demanding that the institution be recognised as a university. Inset, in the afternoon yesterday, they placed bamboo across the road to block traffic.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Justice for mass killing first even if it delays polls

### Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice for the mass killings during the uprising must be ensured, even if it delays the elections, said Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday.

"Justice must be served to those who killed people in the past and during the student-led movement in this country. If elections have to be delayed for that, so be it," he said at a meeting of Sunamganj district Jamaat at Government Jubilee High School ground in Sunamganj.

The Jamaat chief also slammed the political environment prevailing in the country.

"Real change is not possible through those who engage themselves in politics of deceit," he said, alleging that leaders of some political parties put party before the nation.

"Even they put individuals ahead of the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

জাতীয় নিরাপদ খাদ্য দিবস-২০২৫

শাক-সবজি ও ফলমূল থেকে বালাইনাশক দূরীকরণের উপায়

বালাইনাশক যথাযথভাবে ব্যবহার না করার কারণে ফল ও শাক-সবজিতে বালাইনাশকের অবশিষ্টাংশ থাকতে পারে। নিম্নবর্ণিত পদ্ধতিতে ফল ও শাক-সবজি পানিতে ভিজিয়ে বালাইনাশকের অবশিষ্টাংশ দূর করা যায়:

- প্রবহমান পরিষ্কার পানিতে ফলমূল ও শাক-সবজি ধুয়ে নিন
- ৫% সিরকা বা ২% লবণ-পানিতে অথবা শুষ্ক পানিতে ১৫ মিনিট ভিজিয়ে রাখুন
- পুনরায় পরিষ্কার প্রবহমান পানিতে ধুয়ে নিন
- যে সকল ফল ও সবজির খোসা ছাড়ানো যায় সেগুলোর খোসা ছাড়িয়ে নিন
- পট্টিক তাপমাত্রায় রান্না করুন

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