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'Same old mafia system still exists'

Nahid tells rally

STAR REPORT

The July uprising was about building a new Bangladesh, not just toppling the Sheikh Hasina government, National Citizen Party Convenor Nahid Islam said yesterday.

"We said we must change the entire political system of the country. Not just a change of the party in power, but a transformation of the corrupt, mafia-driven system," he said while addressing a party rally at Joypurhat town.



"However, over the past year, we have not seen that systemic change. In our neighbourhoods, we still witness extortion, thuggery, and the same mafia system," he said, adding all should come forward seeking democratic transformation through reform, justice, and restructuring.

NCP held the rally as part of its month-long "July March to Build the Nation" programme, taking place across all districts of the country

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An illegal kitchen market has been set up on Bangladesh Railway land under the Khilgaon flyover, with rows of makeshift tin-roofed shops standing dangerously close to the railway tracks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Jamaat doesn't want polls for the sake of it

Says its ameer

UNB, Cumilla

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday urged his party leaders and activists to resist any kind of fascism and said his party does not want an election just for the sake of it.

His statement came a day after he, referring to nationwide mob violence, said the country at present does not have a conducive election environment. He also said that some fundamental reforms need to be implemented before the national election to hold it in a free and fair way.

"We don't care whether it's a new or old force -- any form of fascism must be resisted with determination," he said while addressing a roadside rally at Paduar Bazar in Cumilla Sadar Dakkhin upazila in the morning.

"The martyrs who shed their blood for Bangladesh left us with a sacred task. We will not allow anyone to betray their sacrifices," the Jamaat Ameer added.



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Over 45 lakh cases pending in courts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The growing backlog of cases continues to strain the country's judicial system, making it increasingly difficult for many justice seekers to get legal remedies timely.

A staggering 45,16,603 cases were pending with the Appellate Division, the High Court, and lower courts across the country as of December 31 last year, up from 17,89,914 in 2008, shows a Supreme Court report published this year.

On average, 160,393 cases were added to the

was set alight on April 6, 2019, by four people at the behest of Siraj ud Daula, the then principal of Sonagazi Islamia Fazil Madrasa. This came after she refused to withdraw a case accusing Siraj of sexually harassing her.

Four days later, Nusrat died from burn injuries.

A Feni court on October 24, 2019, handed down death sentence to all 16 accused, including Siraj, for the murder that shocked the nation.

Since then, the death reference (lower court documents on death sentence) and the appeals

JCD leader killed as rival groups clash in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A local leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was killed yesterday in a clash between two rival factions vying for dominance in Brahmanbaria's Nasirnagar upazila.

The deceased, Sohrab Hossain Abir, 27, was an assistant general secretary of JCD's Chatalpar union unit, said OC Azharul Islam of Nasirnagar Police Station.

There had been a longstanding dispute between two groups over establishing supremacy in the area, said Khairul.

The clash erupted around noon in Kathalkandi village after an altercation broke out between supporters of the two groups, he said. Abir died on the spot during the violence, the OC said.

On information, a police team rushed to the scene, brought the situation under control, and recovered his body.

Police are trying to identify and arrest the persons involved in the incident, said the OC.

2024 SUBARNACHAR RAPE Survivor 'facing death threats' from accused

Family forced to relocate out of fear

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A woman who was gang-raped along with her minor daughter in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila last year said she has been receiving continuous death threats from the accused in the case she filed.

She alleged that they have been pressuring her to withdraw the case.

In the face of such intimidation, the victim's family was forced to sell their house and move to another area.

The prime accused, Abul Khair Munshi, a local Awami League leader, along with relatives of other accused, have been issuing the threats, the survivor said.

Speaking to The Daily Star on Friday, she said, "They say they will kill us if I don't withdraw the case. This has been going on since the case was filed one and a half years ago. Every time we go to court for a hearing, they threaten us, even on the court premises."

The survivor filed a general diary with Char Jabbar Police Station on January 19. "But the threats have not stopped," she added.

Officer in Charge Md Shaheen Miah confirmed the filing of the GD to this correspondent. "Primary investigation found the allegation to be true, and we submitted a report to the court on March 4. However, we have not received any directive yet."

The survivor said Munshi and relatives of other accused visited her house multiple times, offering incentives to withdraw the case. When she rejected the offers, the threats began.

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Former CEC Shamsul Huda passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, who oversaw the 2008 national elections, passed away yesterday at his residence in Dhaka's Gulshan.

Huda, also a former bureaucrat, was 83.

He will be laid to rest at Banani cemetery after his daughter returns from the United States, said Huda's brother-in-law Ashfaq Qaderi.

His body is currently being kept at the mortuary of United Hospital.

Huda was known for bringing a number of electoral reforms, including preparing a voter roll with photographs, during his leadership at the Election Commission.

He assumed office as chief election

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YEAR	CASES FILED	DISPOSED OF	PENDING
2024	14,73,073	12,01,240	45,16,603
2023	15,42,521	14,16,750	42,99,599
2022	15,71,617	14,71,402	41,96,603

tally of pending cases each year since 2008. In 2024 alone, 14,73,073 cases were filed while 12,01,240 cases were disposed of, according to the SC report.

Each HC judge is burdened with 6,552 cases, while Appellate Division judges are handling 4,446 cases each, and lower court judges 1,977 cases each.

Asked, SC Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan said 13 committees were formed recently to monitor proceedings at lower courts and expedite the disposal of cases.

JUSTICE DELAYED

Nusrat Jahan Rafi, a madrasa student in Feni,

filed by the convicts have been pending with the HC.

"We don't know why it [the HC] has not disposed of the case," Nusrat's brother Mahmudul Hasan Noman told The Daily Star over the phone.

"The relatives of the convicts are constantly giving us threats on social media."

Another case filed over the custodial death of a 28-year-old man remains pending for over a decade.

Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment-waste

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Hope for Gaza truce rises

Trump says deal 'could be' by next week after Hamas nod; 64 more killed

AGENCIES

Israel was mulling its response yesterday after Hamas said it was ready to start talks "immediately" on a US-sponsored proposal for a Gaza ceasefire.

The security cabinet was expected to meet after the end of the Jewish sabbath at sundown to discuss Israel's next steps as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepares to leave for Washington for talks on Monday with US President Donald Trump.

Trump has been making a renewed push for an end to nearly 21 months of war in Gaza, where the civil defence agency said 64 people were killed in Israeli bombings yesterday, at least 9 of them near the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid hub in the north of Rafah. Three children were among the killed.

"No decision has been made yet on that issue," an Israeli government official told AFP when asked about Hamas's positive response to the latest ceasefire proposal.

Hamas made its announcement late Friday after holding consultations with other Palestinian factions.

"The movement is ready to engage immediately and seriously in a cycle of negotiations on the mechanism to put in place" the terms of the US-backed truce proposal, the militant group said in a statement.

Hamas ally Islamic Jihad said it supported ceasefire talks, but demanded "guarantees" that Israel "will not resume its aggression" once hostages held in Gaza are freed.

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A Palestinian mother and her daughter rush for cover during an Israeli strike in the Al-Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip. Photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Texas floods kill at least 27

Rescuers search for 27 missing girls from summer camp

AFP, Hunt

Rescuers yesterday searched for 27 girls missing from a riverside summer camp in the US state of Texas, after torrential rains caused devastating flooding that killed at least 27 people -- with more rain on the way.

"So far, we've evacuated over 850 uninjured people, eight injured people and have recovered 27 deceased fatalities at this time," said Kerr County Sheriff Larry Leitha, adding that nine children were among the dead.

Addressing a press conference, Kerrville city official Dalton Rice said hundreds of people were taking part in rescue operations.

"One thing I want to tell you and assure y'all is that we will not stop till every single person is found," said Leitha.

The flooding began Friday as months' worth of rain fell in a matter of hours, causing the Guadalupe River to rise by 26 feet (eight meters) in 45 minutes.

PHOTO ON PAGE 5

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