

Cops gathering info on polls candidates

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candidate's party affiliation, political position, criminal and police history, educational background, and other identifiers. Officers were also asked to verify and include each candidate's parents' names, address, phone numbers, and national identity numbers.

According to police sources, the drive will continue until the election and will cover not only candidates but also their close associates and party workers. The data, compiled by the Special Branch at each station, is being sent to the PHQ for use in constituency-specific security planning.

The information will help determine where additional deployment is needed, whether to increase mobile patrols, and if police or Rapid Action Battalion presence should be enhanced. It will also guide individual security measures for candidates.

An officer-in-charge of a Dhaka district police station,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "A secret cell has been formed to work on this.

"We received a list of possible candidates for the upcoming election around five days ago. We are now conducting investigations and cross-checking data as per instructions."

At least six other OCs confirmed the development. However, no PHQ official would comment on record, citing the matter as top secret and confidential.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said police are also preparing a list of individuals involved in asserting territorial dominance, particularly in Dhaka.

He made the remarks after visiting the Dhaka District Police Lines and the Traffic and Driving School at Mill Barrack in Old Dhaka yesterday.

"Political parties also have an important role to play in improving the overall law

and order situation. Their cooperation is essential in this regard," he said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said, "If it [data collection drive] is routine work, then it is okay. But if it is done with any dishonest intention, then there is cause for concern."

Contacted, Dr Tawhidul Haque, associate professor at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research at Dhaka University, said, "Law enforcers can take various steps to ensure a peaceful election.

"However, the initiative may not be well-intentioned, as it effectively places candidates under surveillance. Such steps must be taken with caution to prevent misuse."

He added that candidate information should be maintained solely by the Election Commission. "If a candidate commits any wrongdoing, there are legal provisions to take action.

But if multiple agencies collect information without proper coordination, it could become a tool for abuse."

COPS TO BE TRAINED FOR POLLS
The PHQ has also initiated a first-of-its-kind training programme for police personnel across the country ahead of the upcoming general election.

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said the training is part of the election preparedness plan.

"The election date will be announced by the Election Commission, not by us. However, we aim to complete all preparatory work by December," he told reporters after inspecting the living conditions of police personnel at Mill Barrack in Dhaka.

Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general at the PHQ, said, "Initially, the training will be provided to officers in Dhaka and will then be gradually expanded to other districts."

WHO sends Saima

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daughter of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, for fraud, forgery and misuse of power, said the report published on Friday.

WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus notified staff in a brief internal email that Saima Wazed would be on leave from Friday and that WHO Assistant Director-General Dr Catharina Boehme would "serve as the Officer in Charge" in her place.

Boehme would reach the SEARO office in New Delhi on Tuesday, Tedros added.

The charges against Saima Wazed stem from her bid to be appointed regional director.

She took office in January, 2024 but her campaign was shadowed by claims that her mother used her influence to ensure her daughter's election.

The ACC investigation into these claims began in January.

According to the formal charges, Saima Wazed is alleged to have provided

false information about her academic record during her campaign for regional director, violating Section 468 of the Bangladesh Penal Code (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and Section 471 (forging a document).

The ACC also alleges she misrepresented her qualifications by claiming an honorary role at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, which the university disputes, to secure her WHO position. The charges were detailed by ACC Deputy Director Akhtarul Islam, the report said.

Saima Wazed is also accused of having misused her power and influence to collect about \$2.8 million from various banks for the Shuchona Foundation, which she used to head.

The ACC case did not provide complete details on how the money was then used. Those charges include: allegations of fraud and misuse of power under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property); as well as Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947.

Since the charges were laid, Saima Wazed has been unable to travel properly in the SEARO region as she faces arrest in Bangladesh, Health Policy Watch said in its report.

Sheikh Hasina fled the country last August during the mass uprising.

No party

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and everything and rebuild Bangladesh."

Nahid said the party did not agree, and instead, it demanded polls within months.

"We are still saying our door is still open for reforms, not for power sharing. If this door closes, people will never forgive you."

The rally was moderated by NCP Chief Organiser (north) Sarjis Alam, and also addressed by, among others, Joint Convener Tasnim Jara, Chief Organiser (south) Hasnat Abdullah, Joint Chief Organiser (south) Mejbab Kamal, and Satkhira NCP member Moniruzzaman.

Swiatek crushes

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title could have been as easy.

She dropped only two games in her semi-final against Belinda Bencic and was even more ruthless in the final, clinching victory with a backhand winner.

Swiatek, who reached the final of the grass-court tournament at Bad Homburg two weeks ago, has looked increasingly strong while the top seeds tumbled at the All England Club.

She lost just one set in her run to the final.

But US 13th seed Anisimova was expected to prove a stern test after ousting world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals.

Anisimova made a nervous start in hot conditions on Centre Court.

She was broken in the first game, soon slipping 2-0 behind and the signs looked ominous.

She appeared to have found her feet in her next service game but the tenacious Swiatek refused to give ground and recovered to move 3-0 ahead when Anisimova double-faulted.

At 4-0 down Anisimova was facing a first-set wipe-out but she was powerless to halt the rampant Swiatek, who sealed the first set 6-0 in just 25 minutes.

The American won just six points on her serve in the first set and committed 14 unforced errors.

An increasingly desperate Anisimova could not stem the tide in the second set, double-faulting again in the third game to give her opponent game point and then netting a backhand.

The crowd got behind her but to no avail as Swiatek kept up her level, serving out to win and celebrating before consoling her devastated opponent.

BSF shoots

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faced resistance from BSF personnel."

The BGB official said the Bangladeshis hurled stones at the BSF personnel, prompting the Indian border guards to retaliate with sound grenades. As the group refused to retreat, BSF opened fire, injuring Shafiqul.

He was rushed to Doharabazar Upazila Health Complex, where he succumbed to his injuries around 2:30am, Zakaria added.

In Thakurgaon, Md Rasel was shot dead by the BSF along the Minapur border of Haripur upazila early yesterday, said BGB sources.

According to BGB and local sources, BSF members from Parial camp under BSF-87 Battalion opened fire on a group of 7-8 people who illegally entered Indian territory. Rasel was critically injured but the other members of the group reportedly escaped unhurt.

Rasel succumbed to his injuries while being taken to a local hospital in India, said

Abdullah Al Moin Hasan, BGB 42 Battalion CO in Dinaipur.

BGB held a flag meeting with BSF at the zero line yesterday evening.

At the meeting, BSF admitted to the shooting, stating that a patrol team from Parial camp opened fire around 4:00am when the group illegally crossed the border.

The BGB official said he strongly protested the killing, terming it a clear violation of border protocols.

"We told them [BSF] that the BSF can detain individuals, who cross the border illegally, and later hand them over to BGB for legal action instead of resorting to lethal force," he said.

The BSF will hand over Rasel's body today (Sunday), he said.

Rasel's father Niaz Uddin said his son went out on Friday evening and did not return. On Saturday morning, the family was informed that Rasel had been shot dead by BSF.

[Our correspondents from Sylhet and Thakurgaon contributed to the report.]

Fuel to engines cut off

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did not do so," it said.

The aircraft quickly began to lose altitude.

The switches then returned to the "RUN" position and the engines appeared to be gathering power, but "one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY'", the report said.

Air traffic controllers asked the pilots what was wrong, but then saw the plane crashing and called emergency personnel to the scene.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu told reporters that investigators probed in a "mature, transparent" way.

"This is a preliminary report. We want the final report to come in, so let us wait for it," he said.

Earlier this week, specialist website The Air Current, citing multiple sources familiar with the probe, reported it had "narrowed its focus to the movement of the engine fuel switches", while noting that full analysis will

"take months – if not longer".

It added that "the focus of the investigators could change during that time".

The Indian agency's report said the US Federal Aviation Administration had issued an information bulletin in 2018 about "the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature".

Though the concern was not considered an "unsafe condition" that would warrant a more serious directive, Air India told investigators it did not carry out suggested inspections as they were "advisory and not mandatory".

Air India was compliant with all airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins on the aircraft, the report said.

The investigations bureau said there were "no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GENx-1B engine operators and manufacturers", suggesting no technical issues with the engines (GE) or the aircraft (Boeing).

Govt mulls

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deal with the aftermath," he said.

The adviser visited Ali Azam High School flood shelter in Fulgazi and Azmiri Begum Girls High School shelter in Munshirhat. He inspected a river erosion point along the Muhuri River at Dakkhin Sripur Purbopara.

The overall flood situation in Feni has started to improve with water levels gradually receding.

The low-lying areas in Chhagalnaiya, Feni Sadar, and Daganbhuiyan remain submerged, leaving nearly 40,000 people across 30 villages waterlogged.

Several of the honourees who attended the event also addressed the gathering. Among them, Bangla Academy President Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said Bangladesh must focus more on developing

Focus more on developing

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generations," said the organisation's secretary-general Nasir-Ud-Doula during his welcome speech.

A documentary showcasing the history, heritage, and success stories of the six districts was presented at the event.

In its commemorative souvenir, the Samity listed a total of 181 honourees selected for their excellence and impact. The list included 56 from Mymensingh, 33 from Kishoreganj, 30 from Tangail, 26 from Jamalpur, 20 from Sherpur, and 16 from Netrokona.

Concluding the event, the organisation's president Abdus Salam called on individuals from politics, administration,

its economy and industrial base. "Our biggest weakness is the lack of political progress. This is something we all must pay attention to," he added.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, emphasised the importance of skills in national development. "In today's world, skills are of utmost importance. The more skilled a country is, the more developed it becomes," he said.

"Let us honour the skilled and accomplished people, not just for one day, but for a lifetime – with respect for their excellence, values of life, values of society, honesty, and dedication," he added.

Women's national cricket team captain Nigar Sultana Joty was also among those recognised.

and business to contribute actively to vital sectors such as agriculture, education, and healthcare.

Among the honourees were Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Farhina Ahmed; Sonali Bank Managing Director Shawkat Ali Khan; Janata Bank Managing Director Md Mazibur Rahman; former cabinet secretary ASM Abdul Halim; Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md Rezaul Maksud Jahedi; renowned folk singer Kuddus Boyati; lyricist Shahidullah Farazi; several former members of parliament; and individuals from various other fields.

Women's national cricket team captain Nigar Sultana Joty was also among those recognised.

Yunus sending

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Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina also used to send mangoes to Modi, a practice widely known as "mango diplomacy".

Following Hasina's departure – she fled to India and is reportedly being sheltered by the Indian government – relations between Dhaka and New Delhi have remained strained.

Bangladesh sought extradition of Hasina, but India is yet to give any response. Also, India is pushing in Bangladeshis.

"I think this is good. Sending mangoes by the interim government means a willingness from Bangladesh to normalise ties with India," said a former diplomat.

PRAYER TIMING	
JULY 13	
Fajr	Zohr
Asr	Maghrib
Esha	
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17	
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

Direct polls to reserved

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The organisation's president Fauzia Moslem presided over the event, which ended following procession towards Paltan Mor.

Fauzia said the struggle for women's political empowerment has been ongoing since 1972. "We are in search of our own identity. The time is now to ensure women's participation in decision-making. The women's movement is a societal movement, and society stands with us," she said.

Fauzia stressed that the demand for direct elections to women's reserved seats will eventually gain public support.

"Democracy cannot move forward by leaving anyone behind," she said, advocating for one-third representation of women in Parliament through direct elections.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Maleka Banu echoed the demand for direct electoral participation.

Shahida Parvin Shikha, general secretary of Nari Shramik Kendra and a national council member of Mahila Parishad, emphasised that the fight is not against men, but for democracy.

"Democracy is incomplete without women's political empowerment. We demand direct election, not nomination, for reserved seats," she said.

Rabeya Khatun Shanti, secretary of the platform, said, "The capabilities of today's women in decision-making are fruits of the women's movement. In today's humanitarian crisis, it is crucial to focus on increasing women's representation in Parliament."

Rina Ahmed, head of the Training and Research Sub-Council, raised concerns about rising violence against women. She urged

the women's commission to press the government for direct elections to reserved seats.

Rehana Yunus, its Dhaka metropolitan secretary, and Anwara Begum, central committee member, also spoke.

The gathering saw participation from representatives of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Karmojibi Nari, Nari Shramik Kendra, and Mahila Parishad leaders and organisers from Dhaka, Tongi, Belabo, and Narayanganj.

40 acres of WDB land

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stadium there for the local youth and teenagers... The facility was completely non-commercial. I did it out of social responsibility to promote sports in the area."

Attempts to contact Didarul Alam and Nisar Uddin for comment were unsuccessful, as their mobile phones were switched off.

Sources said they have been in hiding since August 5, following the fall of Hasina's government.

Sowkat Ibne Sahid, executive engineer of WDB Chattogram, said a list of land grabbers has already been prepared. "Most of the land along the Chattogram city protection embankment and adjacent road has already been occupied. For

Internal letter

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Headquarters promptly cancelled the effect of the letter, the statement added.

"A vested quarter is deliberately misrepresenting the issue to create misunderstanding and distrust between the Bangladesh Army and the Bangladesh Police," said the ISPR statement.

The statement further noted that both forces [army and police] have

long worked together in maintaining national security and public order, and have always operated with mutual respect, coordination, and professional camaraderie – a relationship that will continue in the future.

The ISPR also urged the public and media to refrain from spreading confusing or misleading information on social media or in the press regarding the matter.

a life are currently visible.

He criticised the interim government for "failing to implement" any reforms in the past year. "With the limited time remaining, no reforms are realistically possible. After one year, we are left having to admit that a credible election is what the country truly needs."

In the keynote speech, Bangladesh Jasod Standing Committee Member Mushtaq Ahmed said the same struggle that birthed the country continues today. "Governments come and go, mass movements and uprisings erupt time and again, blood is shed, cries of the oppressed echo – yet none of it has brought us true democracy. The cycle of exploitation remains unbroken," he said.

Saiful Haque, general secretary of Biplobi Workers Party, said the July uprising aimed to reduce inequality, yet no commission has been formed on that issue. "There is no visible sign of reducing inequality in society," he added.

"At this moment, what needs to be done is to ensure visible and effective justice, implement urgent reforms, involve the people, and move towards building consensus to fulfill the aspirations of a democratic Bangladesh," said Saiful.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said political criminalisation cannot be addressed without tackling economic criminalisation.

"With great regret, I must say that although 11 commissions have been formed, not a single one is dedicated to eliminating inequality," he said. "You've heard about the white paper on economic criminalisation, but those in power say they don't have time to read it."

He added, "To realise the spirit of the mass uprising, we must use this month to speak of the people's aspirations, reach out to the public, and build public opinion. But if we stray from the path of democracy, we risk triggering unintended consequences."

Gono Forum General Secretary Subrata Chowdhury, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, and Rashtro Shangskar Andolan President Hasnat Qaiyum also spoke at the seminar.

Woman faked bomb

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morning following the detention of three individuals including the woman and her daughter-in-law.

The threat prompted a three-hour security sweep of flight BG-373, which made an emergency landing on Friday. No explosives were found on board.

He said the false alarm was made via an anonymous phone call claiming there was a bomb on the aircraft.

Preliminary investigations revealed that