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## Most people will vote for the BNP in next polls

Says Tarique



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said most people will vote for BNP in the upcoming national parliamentary election.

"Through the upcoming election, the first step to establishing the people's political rights will be implemented. We firmly believe that most of the people of the country will support the sheaf of paddy, meaning the BNP, in the upcoming election. But, after winning the election, we will have to face big

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Palestinians carry aid supplies collected from trucks that entered Gaza through Israel, in Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Regularise undocumented migrants

Dhaka to ask KL during Yunus' visit



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would request Malaysia to regularise the 400,000-odd undocumented Bangladeshi migrants during the three-day visit of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus to the Southeast Asian country beginning today.

More than 800,000 Bangladeshis work there as regular workers and almost half of them are on an irregular status, according to diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur. "Those irregular ones say that you are talking about recruiting new workers,

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## Let students decide on hall politics at DU

Urge JCD, Shibir; Chhatra Union walks out of meeting over Shibir presence

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday urged the Dhaka University authorities to seek opinions from general students on politics in residential halls.

Gonatantrik Chhatra Sangsad, led by former members of Students Against Discrimination, said they support the ban on student politics in halls and academic spaces.

The student leaders made the remarks after a meeting organised by the DU authorities with 23 organisations to discuss hall politics.

Early Saturday, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed announced that all forms of politics will remain banned in halls, as per the July 17, 2024 framework.

Meanwhile, five left-leaning student organisations -- Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Biplobi Chhatra Moitree, Bangladesh Chhatra League (Bangladesh Jasod) and two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra Union -- walked out, protesting DU's invitation to Shibir.

The Paribesh Parishad, a platform of DU authorities and students, banned Shibir after the fall of military dictator HM Ershad in 1990, citing its affiliation with a party that opposed Bangladesh's independence and supported the Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

The DU authorities convened the meeting after protests broke out around Friday midnight, demanding a ban on

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## Govt eases drive against old vehicles

Transport owners call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government seems to be softening its stance on phasing out outdated vehicles following last month's threat by transport associations to launch a 72-hour nationwide strike starting tomorrow in support of their eight-point demand.

For the time being, the ongoing drive against outdated vehicles, which began on July 20, will target the oldest ones first, say authorities, explaining that removing outdated vehicles all at once could result in a public transport crisis.

"We'll continue the drive, but we'll make sure it doesn't affect transport owners or workers," Road Transport and Bridges Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan told reporters yesterday after a stakeholder meeting over the transport associations' demands.

Meanwhile, transport

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## Starvation claims 217 lives in Gaza

100 children among dead; Netanyahu outlines five principles to conclude the offensive

AGENCIES

Israeli strikes across the besieged Gaza Strip yesterday killed at least 39 Palestinians as the death toll from Israeli-induced starvation since the offensive began rose to 217, including 100 children.

With severe shortages of supplies and patients' health often already weakened by malnutrition, a trauma specialist in the enclave said many patients have little chance of recovery.

"Patients come and doctors know if they have a certain level of injury, there's nothing we can do," he said. "And to face families, and to face patients in the last moments of their life, and not be able to do the things we are trained to do is devastating."

During a news conference in Jerusalem yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "New Gaza offensive plans aim to tackle two remaining Hamas strongholds."

Hamas still has "thousands of armed terrorists" in Gaza and their goal is to "destroy" the state of Israel, he said, adding that Gaza will be demilitarised.

Netanyahu also outlined the Israel's five principles to conclude the offensive: the disarmament of Hamas, return of all hostages, demilitarisation of the Gaza Strip, Israel taking "overriding security control" in the Strip, establishment of an "alternative civil administration" that is not Hamas or the Palestinian Authority.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) was set to hold an emergency session to discuss Israel's plan to capture and occupy Gaza City yesterday.

The countries that have called the UN session have issued a joint statement that condemns Israel's plan to seize Gaza City, saying that it risks "violating international humanitarian law" and will "only endanger the lives of all civilians in Gaza".

Meanwhile, Palestinian analyst Muhammad Shehada said all of the combined airdrops of aid into the Gaza Strip over the last week have totalled about the equivalent of 15 aid trucks, "which is less than 1 percent of what Gaza needs on a normal day for basic survival".

Aid agencies have been seeking the entry

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## 12.61cr voters on draft list

Cops to get bodycams for polls duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh now has 126.17 million (12.61 crore) registered voters, according to the latest draft list prepared by the Election Commission.

This voter list, which is an updated version of the previous one published on March 2, will be published on August 31 after reviewing and verifying claims and objections until August 21, said EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed at a press briefing at the EC headquarters in the capital yesterday.

Noting that the voter list is going to be updated another time, he said, he said the first list was finalised on March 2 and the updated one will be finalised by August 31. The third update will be finalised on October 31, adding new voters until then.

"The supplementary draft has been published today [yesterday] in our offices. If anyone has any corrections, they can inform us till August 21, and based on those, we will finalise the list on August 31. We will also publish another list including those who turn 18 by October 31 so that they can vote without waiting a year," he said.

Corrections, if any, will be implemented by August 24, after which the final list will be published, added the secretary.

As of March 2 this year, the number of voters stood at 123.73 million. Following a

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## Jamaat wants PR system for both Houses

Warns of movement to realise its demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has demanded the proportional representation (PR) system for the upper and the lower houses of parliament and warned of launching a movement to press home the demand.

"We've already agreed on the [introduction of] PR system in the upper house. But our demand is for both houses, and we will wage a movement to realise it," Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher told reporters after a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

"The reason is that in the past 54 years under the traditional election system, a truly fair election has never been ensured. Considering this long history of failure, we would like to try a new method."

He said Jamaat has always been in favour of elections and has no objection to holding the polls in the first week of February next year. Instead, the party welcomed the election date.

"First of all, we have already said we will contest the election. Secondly, before going to the polls, we have

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Over a hundred readymade garment workers from Gazipur's Seasons Dresses Ltd and Mifkif Apparel Ltd stage a protest yesterday in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, demanding their dues, including overtime pay from May, salary for June, partial wages for July, 81% of their Eid-ul-Azha bonus, and severance pay for staff who have resigned.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Man hacked to pieces for insulting wife of accused: Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A man was killed over previous enmity and allegedly making derogatory remarks about an accused's wife, according to Rab.

Later, the body of victim, Oli Mia, 35, was dismembered and dumped beside the Tongi-Kaliganj regional highway in two travel bags.

Salman Nur Alam, senior assistant police superintendent and senior assistant director (operation and media) of Rab-1, yesterday disclosed this at a press conference in Uttara Rab-1 office, quoting the arrestees.

On Saturday, Rab arrested three suspects in connection with the murder.

The arrestees are Apel Mahmud Sadek, 42, of Narsingdi's Karimpur area; Sajjad Hossain Roni, 25; and Sadek's wife Shaon Begum, 32.

The three were arrested in Chattogram's Hathazari after Rab tracked them down using digital forensics.

Oli, a labourer, and the suspected perpetrators were living in the Tongi area.

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