



"Gaza is piled with rubble, piled with bodies and piled with examples of what may be serious violations of international law."
UN chief Antonio Guterres



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Only 5% road crash victims get compensation

Govt creates Tk 225cr fund but complex process leaves majority of victims with no compensation

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Though the number of road crash victims receiving government compensation has risen slightly in recent months, most victims remain excluded from the scheme due to a lengthy and complex process, as well as a lack of awareness.

The process requires the submission of at least half a dozen documents, along with an application, within 30 days of a road accident, making it difficult for a crash victim to complete the procedure within the deadline, according to officials and campaigners.

Only 1,471 victims or their family members received compensation totalling Tk 65.57 crore between January 2023 and July this year, whereas the total number of casualties was 31,904 – during the period, shows Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) data.

This means the number of recipients is less than five percent of the official count of road crash victims since the government began providing compensation through a trustee board in January 2023.

However, the situation has improved slightly in recent months.

A total of 352 crash victims received compensation over the past three months, compared to 1,119 recipients in the preceding 28 months.

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Nidhi, daughter of Parvez, a Chhatra Dal leader who was forcibly disappeared, overcomes with emotion as she recalls memories of her father. Her voice trembled with grief as she addressed a discussion organised by Mayer Daak at the Bangla Academy auditorium yesterday on the occasion of International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances to be observed today.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Haunted by scars, still waiting for justice

Survivors of enforced disappearances recount torture, demand accountability

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Survivors of enforced disappearances broke down yesterday as they recalled the torture, humiliation, and threats they endured in secret detention centres.

Their testimonies, along with those of their families, painted a grim picture of inhuman treatment and what they said is a justice system yet to hold perpetrators accountable.

The event, organised by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) on the eve of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance, brought together survivors, human rights defenders, and political representatives who called for urgent action to end the culture of disappearances in Bangladesh.

One survivor, Jesmin Nahar, said she was picked up along with her husband, Mohammad Alamin, and their house help by members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on January 14, 2015. They were held for four months in secret confinement.

"During my detention at a secret location, I was tortured inhumanely.

They cut my legs and spread salt on the wounds. I was also given electric shocks," she said, adding that she still bears the scars on her body.

Alamin said he was kept bare-chested in winter and officers tried to uproot victims' nails with pliers. The couple were released only after being

INT'L DAY OF THE VICTIMS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

warned never to reveal who had picked them up, and were threatened with the disappearance of their children.

Others echoed similar accounts. Rahamat Ullah, detained in 2023, said he was confined in a three-foot-long room for nine months, tortured with electric shocks, and later transferred to Kolkata Jail before being deported back to Bangladesh.

Mikel Changma, another survivor, SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

JP, Gono Odhikar clash in Kakrail

Nur, 5 others hospitalised; law enforcers deployed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Jatiya Party and Gono Odhikar Parishad clashed in front of the former's central office in the capital's Kakrail yesterday.

At least six people, including Gono Odhikar President Nurul Haque Nur and General Secretary Rashed Khan, were hospitalised for injuries during the incident that occurred between 6:15pm and 7:30pm. Jatiya Party claimed several of its leaders were injured.

Golam Faruk, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said during the clash, both sides threw brick chips at each other, amid chase and counter-chase. "Following the clash, police and other agencies were deployed at the scene."

Along with police, army personnel were also deployed, said leaders of both parties, who blamed each other for the clash.

Nur and Rashed, along with four other injured, were brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment last night, said Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of DMCH police outpost.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rashed said, "First, Jatiya Party men attacked us and later, police and army carried out the second phase of attack. Nur was injured in the second phase of the attack."

Abu Hanif, media coordinator of Gono Odhikar, in a press release alleged they were attacked after organising a demonstration yesterday SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



JAN 2023 TO JULY 2025

14,817 accidents

13,827 deaths

18,077 injured

1,471 PEOPLE SO FAR RECEIVED COMPENSATION

CATEGORY	CASUALTIES
Deaths	1,245
Severe injuries	53
Injuries	173

COMPENSATION RATES

Death: Tk 5 lakh

Severe injuries: Tk 3 lakh

Other injuries: Tk 1 lakh

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

FOR DEATH

- Deceased's NID card or birth certificate
- Attested copy of the death certificate
- Succession certificate
- Power of attorney signed by the heirs
- Declaration on stamp paper by the legal guardian (for minor heirs)

FOR INJURIES

- NID card or birth certificate
- Treatment-related documents and proof

Old order risks stalling hard-won democratic gains

Warn scholars at Bengal Delta Conference

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh aspires to a paradigm shift in governance after the July uprising, scholars from home and abroad yesterday warned that concentration of power, growing inequality, and the use of religion for political gains could undermine progress.

Speakers at the inaugural session of the Bengal Delta Conference 2025 said people remain disappointed as the power structure has not shifted significantly over the past year.

They cautioned that citizens will not accept such structures in the future, as they fail to deliver on people's aspirations.

The Dacca Institute of Research and Analytics (DAIRA) organised the conference titled, "Bangladesh at the Crossroads: Rethinking Politics, Economy and Geopolitical Strategy", at the Hotel InterContinental.

Prof Mushtaq Khan, economics professor at SOAS University of London, said the Hasina regime's development model was based on extreme centralisation, where a handful of people decided everything. "Infrastructures were built on massive theft, with double or triple the real cost, leaving the country with unsustainable debt," he said.

Such a model, he argued, cannot survive as it fails to create jobs, improve health and education, or meet the aspirations of millions.

He said both ruling and opposition politicians in Bangladesh must realise that people would not accept a return to the old settlement.

"The idea that we can return to the old politics after elections, with a few corrupt parties competing for spoils every five years, is also not feasible," Mushtaq said.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 12

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STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Umama eyes major academic reforms

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

If elected Vice-President (VP) of Ducsu, independent candidate Umama Fatema from the Independent Student Unity Panel has pledged to prioritise major academic reforms.

"My core objective is to explore the academic potential of the university, departments, and faculties, enhance research, and build an environment of knowledge sharing. At the same time, there has been no initiative to align education with the job market. I want to work on this issue. Overall, if elected VP, I plan to lead Dhaka University towards major academic reform," she told The Daily Star.

Umama, one of the coordinators of the July Movement, clarified that their panel is non-political. "We formed this panel solely to work in the interest of students, beyond any partisan agenda. Our main goal is to reshape the university's academic atmosphere

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Meghmallar pledges to end disparity

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Meghmallar Basu, general secretary candidate from the Protirodh Porshod panel in the upcoming Ducsu election, said he will remain vocal against injustices and for the rights of students, regardless of the election result.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the Dhaka University Chhatra Union president said his fight is for equal rights and justice, not for power.

"If students want someone who stands for justice and who speaks eye to eye with state power, they will elect me. But even if I lose, our struggle will continue," he said.

Meghmallar said the promises of last year's uprising have largely remained unfulfilled.

"During the 2024 uprising, we fought to establish the idea that this university belongs to everyone, this country belongs to everyone. But after August 5, we

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Latif Siddique refuses to seek bail

Claims court has no power to grant it; sent to jail in anti-terrorism case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former minister and expelled Awami League leader Abdul Latif Siddique yesterday refused to seek bail, saying the court had "no authority" to grant it.

He declined to sign a vakalatnama when defence lawyer Saiful Islam approached him during a hearing in an anti-terrorism case at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

"I requested him three times, but every time he repeated, 'Why should I seek something from what [court] has no authority? I will not sign any vakalatnama, I will not seek bail,'" Saiful told The Daily Star.

Around 10:30am, Latif, Dhaka University law Professor Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, and 14 others were brought to the courtroom in handcuffs, helmets, and bulletproof vests. Hafizur requested

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