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## ROHINGYA RIGHTS Situation worsened in Myanmar since 2023 UN report says

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The crisis in Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine State, is worsening, said a new report by the UN Human Rights Office, pointing to increased killings, torture, razing of villages, and mass forced displacement.

It said between the 2021 military coup and 20 August 2025, credible sources have verified the killings of some 7,100 people by the military in Myanmar, about a third of them were women and children.

At least 29,560 people have been arrested on political grounds, and over 22,000 remain in detention without fair trial in military-controlled courts.

The report said the human rights situation of Rohingyas in Rakhine has sharply deteriorated since late 2023, as escalating hostilities between the military and the Arakan Army (AA)

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Battery-run rickshaws race as they go against traffic on Babubazar bridge in the capital. This practice contributes to traffic congestion and frequent accidents on the bridge. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Violence against journos doubled in August

HRSS says 72 media professionals were affected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violence against journalists doubled in August 2025, according to the latest monthly report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

It recorded 39 incidents that affected at least 72 journalists. Among them, one was murdered, 33 were injured, five assaulted, 11 threatened, and one arrested. Two journalists were charged in a case, while 19 others were dismissed from their jobs.

The month saw two particularly shocking cases: on August 7, Md Asaduzzaman Tuhi, 38, of Protidiner Kagaj, was hacked to death in Gazipur, and on August 22, the body of senior journalist Bibhu Ranjan Sarker, assistant editor of Aiker Patrika, was recovered from the Meghna river.

HRSS also documented 67 incidents of political violence that left four people killed and at least 514 injured last month. Most clashes originated from power struggles, internal feuds, rallies, extortion, and office takeovers.

According to HRSS, BNP-related violence accounted for 34 incidents of internal conflict, leaving 373 injured and two dead. In addition, nine clashes between BNP and Awami League supporters left two dead and 38 injured.

Six clashes between BNP and Jamaat resulted in 36

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## DUCSU ELECTIONS

### Will formulate 'student politics policy' for DU

Promises Swatantra Shikharthi Oikyo panel in its manifesto

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The independent panel, led by Umama Fatema, has promised that if it wins in Ducsu polls, it will establish student-friendly politics at Dhaka University, free from party allegiance.

It said that for having such a campus, they would formulate a "Student Politics Policy" through consultation with students, student organisations, and the university administration.

"Swatantra Shikharthi Oikyo" panel yesterday unveiled the manifesto at a press conference in Madhur Canteen ahead of Dhaka University Central Students' Union elections slated for September 9.

The manifesto, with the slogan "Politically Conscious, Academic Campus," also aims to create a campus that is free from partisan politics, accountable, modern, and of international standard -- a safe space for all -- where harmony and coexistence are ensured.

"Dhaka University now needs major reforms -- both political and academic," said Umama Fatema, the vice-president candidate of the panel.

Umama, a former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, said they gathered students' opinions by setting up "Idea Boards" at various locations across the university to learn what students think about the campus life, and incorporated those ideas into their manifesto.

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### Want to free DU from muscle power

VP candidate Bin Yamin tells Star

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Bin Yamin Mollah, vice-president candidate from the "Ducsu for Change" panel backed by Chhatra Odhikar Parishad, has said he is contesting the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) election to free the campus from the grip of muscle power.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the parishad president said he realised the dominance of muscle power soon after enrolling at the university. "That is the main reason I am running, to liberate this university from such control and lead it towards academic excellence. I have always been with students in their movements and even served time for protesting for the sake of the country. Students know they will always find me by their side."

Bin Yamin said "no dirty politics, no violence, making Ducsu for academic excellence" will be at the core of his term in Ducsu.

His priority will be solving students' problems and ensuring their rights. "My target is 'one student, one bed, one table'. This will help end the accommodation crisis and guarantee a proper environment for them."

He also pledged to address food and transport issues, modernise the registrar building into a

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### Will prioritise student welfare

GS candidate SM Farhad tells Star

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

SM Farhad, general secretary candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Oikkoboddo Shikharthi Jote in the upcoming Ducsu election, wants to ensure a sound atmosphere on campus for academic activities and prioritise the welfare of students.

If elected, he said, his panel would focus on six key student issues: campus safety, housing, security for female students, improved transportation, healthcare and food standards, and career support.

Talking to The Daily Star, Farhad also outlined some clear red lines. "We will oppose authoritarian politics, torture, guest-room and gono-room practices, violence, and extortion. Neither Islamophobia nor dress-related pressure will be tolerated. No one should feel pressured to wear hijab, and no one should be afraid to wear other kinds of clothing."

Farhad, president of DU Chhatra Shibir, voiced optimism about a favourable outcome, saying his panel reflects the diversity and aspirations of students.

Explaining the composition of his panel, he said candidates were chosen strictly on merit. "For instance, our sports secretary nominee is a black-belt trainer, while the law and human rights secretary

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### SC may rule on Ducsu polls date today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The fate of Dhaka University Central Students' Union election slated for September 9 is likely to be determined today by the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

The full bench will hear a petition filed by the Dhaka University administration seeking a stay on a High Court directive that postponed the election until October 30.

Justice Farah Mahbub, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, stayed the HC directive within one and a half hours after it was passed on Monday. Yesterday, the chamber judge extended the stay.

The High Court issued the directive following a writ petition filed by a female candidate for Ducsu's Liberation War and democratic movements affairs secretary from the left alliance Aparajeyo 71, Odomyo 24 panel.

She appealed to stay the candidature of SM Farhad, the president of Islami Chhatra Shibir's DU unit and Ducsu general secretary candidate from Oikyaboddo Shikharthi Jote, alleging that he was involved with the now banned Chhatra League.

The female candidate, however, faced rape threat by a student named Ali Husen on social media, drawing widespread condemnation.

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday formed two separate fact-finding bodies to investigate the issue.

On the campus, leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession yesterday

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## Strange 2,300-yr-old human burial unearthed in Peru

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of over a dozen humans in Peru dated to around 400BC, buried face down with their hands tied behind their backs, revealing insights about strange ancient burial rituals in the region.



The burial discovered in Peru's northern coastal region of Puemape points to what may have been an ancient ritual sacrifice or burial, say researchers, including those from the National University of San Marcos.

Buried individuals show signs of violence, including blows to multiple parts of the body, fractures, and unusual positions, hinting they were likely sacrificed after an armed conflict.

"The way in which they were placed in the tomb is strange," Henry Tantaléan from the National University of San Marcos told Live Science.

They were laid to rest "with their faces to the ground, an unusual burial pattern throughout Andean prehistory," said Dr Tantaléan, who heads the Research Group in Archaeology of Andean Science and Technologies of San Marcos.



Street children scavenging for used syringes, saline bags, and plastic items in a landfill along the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway. This exposes them to serious health risks. Waste from households in Rajshahi city and various hospitals is dumped here. The photo was taken near the cattle market in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## TORTURING JOURNALIST Ex-Kurigram DC Sultana lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Kurigram court yesterday sent former deputy commissioner of Kurigram, Sultana Parvin, to jail after rejecting her bail petition in a case filed over torturing a journalist.

Sultana, who is currently serving as an officer on special duty (OSD), entered a crowded courtroom around 11:15am, where a huge number of people had gathered to catch a glimpse of their former DC.

After hearing arguments from both sides and reviewing case documents, Kurigram District and Sessions Court Judge Mosammat Esmat Ara Begum rejected her bail plea and ordered her to be sent to jail.

Soon after, police escorted her to a prison van.

On the night of March 13, 2020, journalist Ariful Islam Rigan, Kurigram correspondent of Bangla Tribune, was picked up from his home by several magistrates and law enforcement officials. He was blindfolded and threatened with

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