



## JP central office set on fire again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party central office in the capital's Kakrail once again came under attack last night.

"We were informed around 7:00pm that some people hurled bricks and stones at the Jatiya Party office and then set it on fire," said Rozina Akhter, duty officer at the control room of the Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters.

Later, the fire service got another call about the bla being extinguished, she added.

According to a Ramna Police Station official, a police team was already present at the scene. "They brought the situation under control."

Strongly condemning the attack, JP Secretary General Shameem Haider Patwary said the party blames Gono Odhikar Parishad for it. "The government should launch a judicial inquiry into the incident. If found guilty, Gono Odhikar's party registration should be cancelled."

Meanwhile, Gono Odhikar Parishad Secretary General Rashed

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Fire burning at the central office of the Jatiya Party in Kakrail, Dhaka, last night.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## DUCSU POLLS

# Tight battle among panels, independents

ASIFUR RAHMAN and MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

The upcoming Dhaka University Central Students' Union polls on September 9 are set to be highly competitive, with nearly 10 panels in the race. Students think no single panel is likely to secure a sweeping victory.

Conversations with around 50 students across 18 dormitories suggest that candidates' roles during last year's July uprising and onwards, their leadership quality, pledges to students, academic record, and regional ties will be decisive.

Political affiliation, however, may prove a liability, as many

students openly criticise partisan influence on campus. Among vice-president candidates, two have drawn special attention: Abdul Qader of "Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharthi Sangsad" and Umama Fatema of "Swatantra Shikkharthi Oikya". Both were coordinators of Students Against Discrimination (SAD), which spearheaded the July uprising.

On July 19, 2024, when SAD's front-line leaders were detained, Qader announced the nine-point demand, including a ban on partisan campus politics -- seen as a turning point in the movement. Earlier this year, he became convener of the DU chapter of Bangladesh Ganatantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS) and has since been

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## AFGHANISTAN QUAKE

# Series of strong aftershocks cause more injuries

## Rescuers slowed by landslides, blocked roads, rough terrain



AFP, Jalalabad

A series of strong aftershocks from a deadly earthquake that hit eastern Afghanistan at the weekend injured at least another 10 people and caused further damage, Taliban authorities said yesterday.

Five shallow aftershocks, the strongest measuring at magnitude 5.6, were recorded by the US Geological Survey on Thursday night and yesterday morning, with some rattling Kabul and the Pakistan capital, Islamabad.

National disaster authority spokesman Mohammad Hammad told AFP 10 people were injured across eight provinces jolted by the aftershocks, including the hardest hit Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman, adding to the more than 3,700 already injured in the initial quake.

More than 2,200 people were killed after the magnitude-6.0 earthquake hit eastern Afghanistan just before midnight on Sunday, making it the deadliest quake

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# Cops under scrutiny over past poll roles

Those who played 'commanding roles' won't be deployed in next election

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With the national election approaching, police have sped up the process of identifying officers who played "commanding roles" in the three previous controversial polls or had strong political affiliations during that period.

The vetting of officers from the rank of inspector to DIG is expected to be completed by December 15. Those officers who performed duties as team leaders in the past three polls, will not be deployed during the next election, said sources at Police Headquarters.

Several officers told The Daily Star that they have already undergone rigorous scrutiny and faced questions not only about their own political leaning but also that of their close relatives.

When contacted, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Baharul Alam, said those officers, who played "commanding roles" in the past three polls, will not be assigned duties in the upcoming election.

"We hope to complete the screening by December," he told The Daily Star on September 1.

Referring to election preparations, he said, "Out of around two lakh police personnel, about 1.5 lakh might be needed to help the authorities conduct the election."

"We will start providing election-related training to officials in Dhaka on

## CURRENT STRENGTH OF POLICE FORCE



TOTAL MEMBERS  
1,93,487

Additional IGP	21
DIG	117
Additional DIG	339
SP	746
Additional SP	961
ASP	899
Inspector	5,706
Traffic Inspector	973
SI	22,489
ASI	20,662

September 7 and hope to complete it by December 15," he said, adding that a list of vulnerable polling centres will be prepared by that time.

The parliamentary election is likely to be held in the first half of February, as announced by the interim government and reaffirmed by the Election Commission.

Maintaining law and order during the polls will be a significant challenge for police, given the lingering impact of

diminished morale following the mass uprising that toppled the Awami League government.

The force's credibility was called into question due to controversial roles in the previous polls, as many police officers faced allegations of playing partisan roles and engaging in ballot-stuffing on the eve of polling.

Over the past year, more than 200

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## 30 Bangladeshis sent back from US in cuffs and shackles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty undocumented Bangladeshis were deported from the United States with their hands cuffed and feet shackled. A special chartered flight carrying them landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka late Thursday night.

Flight Lieutenant Masud, spokesperson for the airport, told The Daily Star that the plane touched down around 11:30pm. Among the deportees was one woman.

Airport officials said the aircraft remained on the runway for nearly three hours after landing, during which the deportees' restraints were gradually removed.

Witnesses reported that they were escorted off the plane still in chains and only unshackled before reaching the arrival lounge. No one was allowed to approach them during this time.

Around 2:00am, under tight security, the group was moved inside the airport. A special team from the Ministry of Home Affairs, several intelligence agencies, and US embassy officials were present.

Journalists attempting to take photographs were stopped.

According to sources, BRAC provided financial support for the deportees to return to their homes. Witnesses said the group appeared physically and mentally exhausted after the long journey.

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## Scientists create multi-coloured, luminescent plants

CNN ONLINE

Glow-in-the-dark plants bright enough to light up streets at night may sound like the stuff of science fiction or fantasy. But scientists have already made plants that emit a greenish glow. They are even commercially available in the United States.



A group of Chinese researchers has just gone even further, creating what they say are the first multi-coloured and brightest-ever luminescent plants.

"Picture the world of Avatar, where glowing plants light up an entire ecosystem," biologist Shuting Liu, a researcher at South China Agricultural University in Guangzhou and co-author of the study published August 27 in the journal Matter, said in a statement.

"We wanted to make that vision possible using materials we already work with in the lab. Imagine glowing trees replacing streetlights," she added.



PHOTO: SUSHANTA GHOSH

Several students of Barishal University on Thursday night began an indefinite hunger strike to press home their three-point demand, including infrastructural development on campus. In a sign of solidarity, Vice Chancellor Prof Taufiq Alam (front and centre) joined them and spent the night alongside the protesting students. The photo was taken around midnight.



## Right-wing tycoon Anutin new Thai PM

AFP, Bangkok

Right-wing Thai tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul was confirmed yesterday by parliament as the nation's next prime minister, ousting the dominant populist Shinawatra dynasty.

The Shinawatras have been a mainstay of Thai politics for the past two decades, sparring with the pro-monarchy, pro-military establishment that views them as a threat to traditional social order.

Their Pheu Thai party has monopolised the top office since 2023 elections, but they have been bedevilled by a series of setbacks and a court ruling that resulted in dynasty heirress Paetongtarn Shinawatra's sacking as prime minister last week.