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RAJBARI DARBAR SHARIF

Seven held over vandalism and attack on police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have arrested seven people in connection with the attack on law enforcers and vandalism of vehicles at the darbar sharif of Nurul Haque, also known as “Nural Pagla”, in Rajbari’s Goalanda upazila.

The law enforcers made the arrests during drives on Saturday night following a case filed over the attack on police and vandalism, Md Rakibul Islam, officer-in-charge of Goalanda Ghat Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

They were produced before a court that sent them to jail, he added. Six of the arrestees were accused in the case.

Five of them were identified as Md Shafin Sardar; Md Masud Mridha; Hiru Mridha; Enamul Haque Jony; Kazi Apu; Haiat Ali Mridha; and Md Jibon Sardar – residents of different villages under the upazila.

The case was filed on Friday night by Sub-Inspector Selim Molla of Goalanda Ghat Police Station, accusing 3,000 to 3,500 unidentified people of obstructing police duties, attacking law enforcers, and vandalising vehicles.

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Clockwise from top left: Umama Fatema, VP candidate from Swatantra Shikhharti Oikya; Abidul Islam Khan, and Shaikh Tanvir Baree Hamim, VP and GS candidates from Chhatra Dal; Meghmallar Bosu, VP candidate from Pratirodh Parshad, and Abu Shadik Kayem, VP candidate from Oikyaboddho Shikhharti Jote, engage with students on campus yesterday -- the last day of campaigning for the Ducusu elections slated for tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED

Ducusu aspirants make last-minute push for votes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The environment at Dhaka University campus was festive yesterday -- the last day of campaigning for the Ducusu election to be held tomorrow, after a six year hiatus.

In their final efforts to reach out to students, the candidates from different panels distributed leaflets and manifestos on campus.

A total of 471 candidates will contest for 28 positions in the Ducusu election, while 1,109 are running for a total of 234 posts in the hall union elections. There are 18 dormitories, with 13 posts for each hall.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal candidates organised an oath-taking programme in front of the arts faculty, where around 200 candidates joined.

They made an eight-point pledge to ensure a joyful, liveable, and safe DU campus for every student.

“The hateful practices of the fascist era -- such as ‘gonoroom culture’, guestroom torture, forced political participation, and persecution for dissent -- will never return to our campus at any cost,” they pledged.

Other pledges included creating a safe and supportive environment for female students; ensuring that no outsiders can reside in the halls; securing affordable nutritious food, quality healthcare, and transport for all; protecting DU students from online threats; and transforming the

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Tighten grip on law and order

Govt directs local admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has directed the local administration to take a stronger stance in maintaining law and order while encouraging political unity ahead of the upcoming election.

It also decided to increase surveillance on flash processions and illegal gatherings.

The election will take place in the first half of February. No power on earth can stop this election.

SHAFIQU ALAM
Press secretary to chief adviser

These directives followed a high-level meeting held at the chief adviser’s residence, Jamuna, yesterday, which assessed the overall security situation in the country.

Shafiqu Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, provided the details during a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy after the meeting.

He said strict instructions were issued to local authorities to become more active in addressing the rising incidents of unrest.

The government is also focused on restoring the political unity that existed among parties leading up to the July uprising. “Everyone has been urged to remain vigilant so that no new tensions arise in the lead-up to the election,” he said.

This directive comes after a violent incident on Friday in Rajbari’s Goalanda, where the darbar sharif of “Nural Pagla” was attacked, vandalised, and his body was exhumed and burnt.

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Tarique Rahman to return soon

Says Salahuddin

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman will return home soon, party’s Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

“On that day, all aspects of the country’s election process will be strengthened, Insha’Allah,” he said while addressing a discussion at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

“Campaigning is an integral part of the election, so half of it will be completed on that day.”

Salahuddin said Tarique’s return would be one of the most unforgettable and historic events in Bangladesh’s history.

He praised Tarique’s leadership, saying that through his talent, dedication, hard work, he has established himself at the top of Bangladesh’s political arena.

“We have worked closely with him in anti-fascism and other democratic struggles, and we have seen political maturity in him.

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Israeli strikes hit school, tents in Gaza

21 killed; 5 more Palestinians, including three children, die of starvation

AGENCIES

Israeli forces yesterday continued to bombard Gaza, killing at least 21 people in strikes on a school, tents and a home, as five more Palestinians, including three children, starved to death in 24 hours.

Sohaib Foda was sleeping on a mattress in Gaza city’s Al-Farabi School when the attack took place. “I heard a thud, and a block fell on my face. My cousin’s daughter, who was sleeping here, got injured and fell beside me. Another block then fell on her head,” Foda said.

Mohammed Ayed, who witnessed the attack, said the school was hit by two rockets. He said teams were still working in the rubble to rescue missing people or recover their remains. “We have recovered two hands so far,” he said.

A number of Palestinians have been wounded when Israeli forces bombed a tent housing displaced people near Al-Wafa Hospital in Gaza city, an ambulance and emergency source said.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli settlers have assaulted a Bedouin family near the village of Taybeh, east of Ramallah, after setting up a new illegal outpost in the area.

Two Palestinians were injured by settler gunfire during another attack on the Khallet al-Eis area in the town of Ash-Shuyukh, northeast of Hebron, reports Al Jazeera online.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army said two projectiles were launched yesterday from the Gaza Strip, with Palestinian group Islamic Jihad claiming responsibility for the rocket fire, which caused no casualties or damage.

“Two projectiles were identified crossing from the central Gaza Strip into Israeli territory,” the army said in a statement, adding that air raid sirens sounded in the area of Netivot, a town about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Palestinian territory.

The military statement said “one projectile was intercepted, and one fell

in an open area”.

In a separate development, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said yesterday that the war in Gaza could end if hostages were released and Palestinian group Hamas laid down its weapons, reports AFP.

Saar branded a recent international push to recognise Palestinian statehood a “mistake” and warned it could trigger an unspecified unilateral response, after reports that Israel plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank.

» Islamic Jihad launch two rockets at Israel

» Israel warns recognising Palestinian state could trigger ‘unilateral’ action

» Two hurt as Israeli settlers attack Palestinians in West Bank

‘Don’t let my son’s killers meet their families ever’

Mother of July uprising victim pleads with ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mother of a teenage victim of last year’s July uprising yesterday pleaded with the tribunal not to grant those responsible for her son’s death the privilege of ever meeting their families.

“I have lost my son forever. I will not see him until Qayamat [the Day of Judgment]. I request you not to allow the killers of my son to meet their family members and children,” said Sanjida Khan Dipty, mother of 17-year-old Shahriar Khan Anas, breaking down in tears.

Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1, consoled her, saying, “We are also deeply dejected. We will try our best to ensure justice.”

Sanjida was testifying as the ninth prosecution witness in a case filed over the killings of six people, including her son, in the capital’s Chankharpu during the July uprising.

Anas, a student at Adarsha Academy in the city’s Gendaria, left behind a handwritten letter for her mother before joining protests on August 5, 2024.

Quoting from it, Sanjida said Anas had written, “My brothers, tying shrouds on their heads, are going to the procession for the sake of the future generation ... I have

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‘Tiger’ Sabalenka turns a corner

REUTERS, New York

US Open champion Aryna Sabalenka may be nicknamed “The Tiger”, but her New York triumph on Saturday was less about raw aggression and more poise, as the world number one steadied herself and regrouped in key moments to claim a fourth Grand Slam title.



Determined to become the first woman since American great Serena Williams (2012–14) to defend her crown at Flushing Meadows, the Belarusian carried the weight of recent major setbacks to claim a 6-3, 7-6(3) win over Amanda Anisimova in the final and retain her crown.

After final defeats at Melbourne and Paris, and a Wimbledon semifinal setback against Anisimova, Sabalenka turned all that disappointment into fuel, earning the right to show up to her press conference in

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A total lunar eclipse, also known as the “Blood Moon”, seen from the Sopa Lodge in the Samburu National Reserve in Northern Kenya yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Man beaten to death for ‘hurling stones’ at cement truck

Police say Sajjad, who was mentally unwell, was tortured for hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A man was beaten to death for allegedly throwing stones at a cement factory truck in Narayanganj’s Siddhirganj upazila early yesterday.

The victim, identified as Sajjad Hossain, 30, was the son of Kamal Hossain, a poultry vendor from Noyapara in Adamjee. Sajjad, the eldest of four siblings, had dropped out of school after class nine.

Additional Superintendent of Police Md Hasinuzzaman told reporters that the incident took place at Crown Cement’s ready-mix concrete plant in Adamjee.

“Sajjad reportedly hurled stones at a truck of Crown Cement around 3:30am, breaking its windscreen. After that the truck driver, his assistant, and several workers on night duty caught him and took him inside the factory. They tortured him throughout the night.”

The factory workers later took Sajjad to Narayanganj 300-bed Hospital, where

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