

Farida Parveen on life support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Lalonsinger Farida Parveen has been placed on life support as her physical condition has further deteriorated.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Dr Ashish Kumar Chakraborty, managing director of Universal Medical College Hospital in Mohakhali, said the decision to put her on life support was made yesterday afternoon.

Stating that her condition is critical, he said, "Her blood pressure is alarmingly low. The infection has increased, and her level of consciousness has also decreased. The kidney complications were already there."

Farida Parveen has been suffering from kidney-related issues for a long time. Sources said after undergoing dialysis on September 2, her condition worsened and doctors advised her to be admitted to the hospital. Since then, she has been receiving treatment in the hospital's ICU.



Residents of Teligati village in Khulna's Dighalia upazila navigate flooded areas on small boats as their homes, roads, and fish enclosures remain submerged by rainwater for nearly two months. This daily struggle for thousands, including children and the elderly, is unlikely to ease anytime soon, with the region's sole drainage source -- the Shoilmari river in Batiaghata barely flowing anymore.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Tigers eye winning start in Asia Cup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will look to make a winning start in the Asia Cup T20 when they face Hong Kong in their Group B opener at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi today.

The Tigers arrive on the back of T20I series wins over Netherlands, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, complemented by an intense home training camp before travelling to the Gulf. Performances from both regular starters and bench players have boosted confidence ahead of the tournament.

However, the heat in Abu Dhabi remains a challenge, even though the temperature would go down considerably during match time.

On the other hand, Hong Kong had already played their opening match against Afghanistan, which they lost by 94 runs, and in order to stay alive in the tournament, they will go all-out against Bangladesh.

History is on Hong Kong's side, however, as they beat Bangladesh by two wickets in the only previous T20 meeting between the sides, during the 2014 ICC T20 World Cup in Chattogram.

If they can replicate a similar performance today, Bangladesh's Asia Cup campaign could be in jeopardy, given two teams from each group will progress to the Super Four round, with Sri Lanka and Afghanistan waiting in their remaining Group B matches on September 13 and 16, respectively, at the same venue.

Shibir sweeps Ducsu polls in historic shift

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post early yesterday, calling the election "rigged" and a "farce." Later in the afternoon, he wrote that he would continue his journey and try to fulfil the pledges in his manifesto.

"I have come quite close, but perhaps I could not reach everyone. Yet I want to assure you, my journey does not end here -- there is still a long way to go."

Independent candidate Umama Fatema also rejected the polls.

In a 3:24am post, the former spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination wrote: "Boycott! Boycott! I hereby reject Ducsu." She added, "A shamelessly rigged election. After August 5, the Dhaka University administration has brought shame upon the nation -- an administration run by Shibir loyalists."

Abu Baker Mojumdar also alleged rigging, claiming ballots at some centres were pre-filled.

OTHER OFFICE BEARERS

Shibir activists won nine out of 12 secretariat posts. Independents took the other three: Sanjida Ahmed Tonni as research and publication secretary, Musaddik Ali Ibne Mohammad as literature and culture secretary, and Jubair Bin Nesary as social welfare secretary. Tonni's bloodied face during a BCL attack on July 15 became one of the iconic images of the uprising.

From the Shibir-backed panel, Fatima Tasnim Zuma was elected liberation war and democratic movement secretary; Iqbal Haider science and technology secretary; Umme Salma common room,

reading room and cafeteria secretary; Jashimuddin Khan international affairs secretary; Arman Hossain sports secretary; Asif Abdullah student transport secretary; Mazharul Islam career development secretary; MM Al Minhaz health and environment secretary; and Md Jakaria human rights and legal secretary.

Of the 13 member posts, Shibir took 11. Winners included Sabikun Nahar Tamanna, Sarba Mitra Chakma, Imran Hossain, Mosammat Afsana Akhter, Tajinur Rahman, Raihan Uddin, Miftahul Hossain Al-Maruf, Anas Ibn Munir, Belal Hossain Apu, Raisul Islam and Shahinur Rahman. The remaining two seats went to Hema Chakma of the left-leaning "Pratirodh Parshad" and independent Umma Uswatun Raffa.

HOW THEY FARED IN HALLS

The races for VP and GS posts turned into clean sweeps for Shadik and Farhad. Shadik defeated Abidul by 8,334 votes, while Farhad beat Hamim by 5,511. Both won in 17 of 18 residential halls, firmly establishing their dominance.

Notably, they topped the vote in all five women's halls -- traditionally considered weak zones for Shibir -- marking a significant shift in campus politics. Shadik also outpaced Farhad by roughly 3,250 votes and secured more than triple the tally of his panel's lowest performer.

Jagannath Hall, reserved for minority students, proved the lone exception. There, Abidul won the VP race with 1,276 votes against Shadik's 10. In the GS contest, Meghmalla Bosu topped the tally with 1,170 votes,

while Farhad managed just five -- a stark contrast to trends elsewhere.

A HISTORY OF DUCSU

Since independence, Ducsu polls have been held eight times. No result was declared in 1973 after ballot snatching marred the election, while leftist-backed panels won the top two posts in 1972, 1979, 1980 and 1982.

In 1989 polls, the Chhatra Sangram Parishad-backed panel won all 20 positions.

The next year, the Chhatra Dal panel swept all 20 Ducsu posts. Aman Ullah Aman was elected VP while Khairul Kabir Khokon was elected GS.

In 2019, quota movement leader Nurul Huq Nur was elected VP from the Chhatra Odhikar Parishad panel, while its Akhtar Hossain won the social welfare secretary post. The Chhatra League panel secured 23 out of 25 Ducsu posts, including that of GS, that year.

After Ershad's fall, Paribesh Parishad -- a platform of DU authorities and student representatives -- banned Shibir activities.

During the 16 years of Awami League rule, incidents of assault on individuals suspected of being affiliated with Shibir were frequent in various residential halls.

Islami Chhatra Shibir is a student organisation backed by Jamaat-e-Islami, which opposed Bangladesh's independence and sided with the Pakistan army in 1971. Its predecessor, Islami Chhatra Shangha, formed Al-Badr and took part in the killing of Bangalee intellectuals, including DU teachers, in the final days of the war.

votes.

As a result, VP-elect Abu Shadik Kayem received 14,042 votes, including 5,224 from female dormitories, while GS-elect SM Farhad secured 10,794 votes, with 3,951 cast from female halls.

Sharing his observations, Farid Uddin Ahmed, professor of political science at DU, told this newspaper that since the July uprising, Shibir has been preparing for the Ducsu election in an organised manner.

"They carried out extensive campaigns in every hall, faculty, and student residence around the campus. Shibir's preparation for this Ducsu election had been nearly a year long. During this time, it succeeded in building a largely positive image among most students."

He said the organisation has covertly operated its activities on campus and established a strong presence in various halls, faculties, and nearby student hostels.

"Compared to other panels and organisations, their activists were seen as more skilled and effective in organisational capacity, networking, and execution."

protect the life and property of people," Basnet said, adding that prisoners had set Kathmandu's Dilli Bazar Jail on fire before the army controlled the situation.

Nepali police said that more than 13,500 prisoners broke out of jails across the country during the protests this week.

The main airport in Kathmandu also reopened yesterday, an airport spokesperson said, more than 24 hours after flights had been suspended.

In an appeal on X, the army said prohibitory orders imposing a curfew would remain in force until this morning.

"Any demonstrations, vandalism, looting, arson, and attacks on individuals and property in the name of protest will be considered punishable crimes and strict action will be taken by security personnel," the post said.

Pledge not to challenge July Charter

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In the most recent version, the three points that some political parties, including the BNP, objected to were left out.

One point stated that if the charter conflicted with existing laws or the constitution, the charter would take precedence.

Another gave the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court the authority to interpret any provision or recommendation of the charter.

A further point barred anyone from challenging the charter's legitimacy in court.

In the recent version, the commission clearly included which parties agreed to which reform proposals and which parties gave a note of dissent.

Meanwhile, the commission held a meeting yesterday at its office in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to review expert opinions on how to implement the charter.

During the meeting, the members revisited the suggestions and advice

given by experts and decided to analyse the opinions submitted by political parties, with a plan to incorporate them into the charter.

Preparations for today's scheduled meeting between the commission and different political parties on methods of implementation were also discussed.

The charter describes itself as a new political settlement born out of the July uprising in which thousands of people sacrificed their lives, endured violence and suffered immense losses.

It affirms that the document reflects the aspirations of the people and must be implemented in full as a consensus outcome achieved through a continuous process.

It further highlights that the people are the true owners of the state, and their will is the highest law.

Since democratic aspirations are expressed through political parties, the parties have collectively accepted the July Charter as a reflection of that will.

They have pledged to enshrine the charter in the constitution, either as

a schedule or in another appropriate form.

The document also commits parties to ensure justice for victims of enforced disappearances, killings and torture during the 16-year struggle against authoritarian rule as well as for all killings during the July uprising.

It calls for state recognition of the martyrs, proper assistance to their families, and medical care and rehabilitation for the injured.

The charter outlines a broad framework for reforming the state structure, pledging constitutional amendments, legal changes, and the enactment of new laws where necessary to implement its decisions.

The reforms cover the constitution, judiciary, electoral system, public administration, policing and anti-corruption mechanisms.

It further stipulates that decisions that are immediately implementable must be carried out without delay by the interim government and relevant authorities.

Ducsu debacle a rude awakening for BNP

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be massive in the days ahead.

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman of Jahangirnagar University's government and politics department said, "The Ducsu polls offer a lesson for the BNP. The way the party had been thinking about the upcoming election may now change, prompting them to reflect and prepare accordingly. In this context, the BNP must act with strategic considerations in mind."

The impact of Ducsu polls will not remain limited to university; it will spread across country's political landscape. Jamaat and its student wing have shown that BNP is now their main rival, said both Hasanuzzaman and Mojibur.

Political analysts agreed that Jamaat has gained new momentum, and BNP must pay more attention to this reality.

"The victory of Shibir will infuse huge energy into Jamaat. Of course, this is good news for them. BNP must move forward by considering these matters," Hasanuzzaman added.

He said extortion by party members, business grabbing, and infighting have already put BNP in an image crisis, which was also reflected in the polls.

A BNP leader said, "Public perception is very important in politics. The result of the Ducsu polls has had a significant impact on people. There is no difference between Chhatra Dal's defeat and BNP's defeat."

Mojibur said the result triggered public reactions, which are likely to influence the national election.

"Shibir leaders are now in the spotlight after winning Ducsu posts. When the national elections come, they will return to their areas and use their positions to seek votes. This is certain to have an impact on the election," he said.

Two BNP Standing Committee members said they are working to rebuild the party's image by taking action against those involved in controversial activities. "BNP had built strong momentum, but the loss in the Ducsu polls has significantly undercut it. The setback has left many

party activists disheartened. The scale of Chhatra Dal's defeat is deeply disappointing," said a senior leader.

Dhaka North City BNP Convener Aminul Haque said, "I think this is a big lesson for the BNP. In the coming days, we will move forward by finding out our organisational weaknesses."

According to Prof Mojibur, BNP's intellectual group is very weak, and the party does not even feel the need to strengthen it. "BNP and Chhatra Dal talk big and bring out processions, but the results are there for all to see. The party must now focus on strengthening its organisational base."

At a programme in Chattogram, BNP Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas yesterday alleged that Shibir won the Ducsu polls by colluding with the Awami League, whose political activities are banned.

Another Standing Committee member, Khandaker Mosharraf, insisted that the outcome would have no effects on national polls or politics.

Shibir's quiet groundwork pays off

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of the authorities.

All these efforts culminated in Tuesday's breakthrough victory.

Historically, Shibir's presence at Dhaka University has been severely restricted.

After the mass uprising of 1990, various teachers' and students' organisations at DU reached a joint decision to prohibit political activities of both Shibir and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the student wing of Jatiya Party. As a result, Shibir's politics came to a halt on campus.

During the Awami League's 15-year rule, Shibir was denied any space to organise openly. Yet the July 2024 uprising revealed that its activists had quietly sustained operations -- by infiltrating Chhatra League and embedding themselves in various socio-cultural organisations.

Throughout those years, the group never publicly announced a Dhaka University committee, choosing instead to operate in the shadows.

The July uprising changed that.

On August 13 last year, Shibir joined a meeting at the TSC auditorium organised by the liaison committee of

the Students Against Discrimination, attended by representatives from all major student organisations. However, four groups walked out in protest.

Later, Shibir joined all the meetings organised by the DU authorities with student bodies ahead of the Ducsu elections.

In October 2024, Shibir announced a 14-member Dhaka University committee, which went on to stage many campus events. Never in its 48-year history had the group conducted election-related activities so openly, freely, and with such energy.

Meanwhile, other frontliners of the July movement contested the Ducsu polls from separate panels -- splitting the vote and ultimately clearing the path for Shibir's victory.

The VP candidate of the Boishommo Birodhi Shikharthi Sangsad panel bagged only 1,103 votes, and the GS candidate Abu Baker Mojumdar got 2,131 votes.

Shibir's "inclusive panel" strategy -- featuring an indigenous community member and four female candidates (including one from another platform) -- helped the group overcome its longstanding barrier to securing female

exterior was charred after protesters set it ablaze on Tuesday.

TV footage showed youths cleaning up some damaged buildings and clearing debris from roads and the areas near parliament.

Several other government buildings, from the supreme court to ministers' homes, including Oli's private residence, were also set ablaze in the protests, with the unrest subsiding only after the resignation.

Armoured vehicles kept vigil in streets that were largely deserted, with shops and markets shut. Firefighters were engaged at different locations, while the process of clearing roads was also under way, army spokesman Raja Ram Basnet said.

"We are trying to normalise the situation first. We are committed to

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Bangladeshi media professionals are encouraged to submit contents under the following categories

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- Best Report (National Newspaper)
- Best Report (Regional Newspaper)
- Best Television Report
- Best Online Report
- Best Entertainment Report (Newspaper)
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Content Evaluation Criteria

- Gender-sensitive reports and content will be considered for this award.
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How to submit?

- Contents will be received only through email address. (Attach the scanned newspaper report and provide online news link in the email.)
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