

Farida Parveen on life support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

Speaking to The Daily Star, Dr Ashish Kumar Chakraborty, a n a g i n g director of Universal Medical College Hospital in Mohakali, 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 Sholmari river in Batiaghata barely flowing anymore.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

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! 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 Minhad 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 Rafia.

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 Hamid 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 Akther 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.

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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 Birodh Shikkharthi Sangsad panel bagged only 1,103 votes, and the GS candidate Abu Baker Mojumder 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

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 Bazaar 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 will remain in force until this morning.

"Any demonstrations, vandalism,

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

Army deployed in Kathmandu to restore order

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fight corruption and boost economic opportunities, leading to the demonstrations being dubbed the "Gen Z protests".

The young agitators want former chief justice Sushila Karki as the interim prime minister, Raman Kumar Karna, the secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association, told Reuters yesterday.

"When they requested me, I accepted," Karki told Indian TV news channel CNN-News18. "Gen Z" representatives told reporters that they met army officials later and proposed Karki as their choice to head an interim government.

Burnt-out vehicles and twisted metal littered the area around parliament, where army firefighters battled to douse a blaze in the main hall, while the building's

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

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

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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 Chittagong.

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.

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 July Charter as a reflection of that will.

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.