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'FLATS FOR VOTE RIGGING' ACC summons 12 ex-officials They include 7 former secretaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has summoned 12 former secretaries and officials of the same rank for questioning over allegations of receiving flats in Dhaka's Dhanmondi in exchange for assisting in irregularities during the 2018 election.

They will have to appear before the ACC on September 17, 18, and 21, the commission's Director General Akhter Hossain told reporters yesterday.

Two of them had served as ACC commissioners. They are Md Zahurul Haque, former judge, and Md Mozammel Haque Khan, ex-senior secretary.

The others are Md Yunusur Rahman and SM Golam Faruk, ex-senior secretaries; Md Anisur Rahman, former senior secretary and election commissioner; MA Kader Sarkar, M Aslam Alam, Aktari Momtaz, Md Sirajul Haque Khan,

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Charred vehicles are seen outside the Supreme Court during a curfew imposed to restore law and order in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

RAMPURA CASE ICT unhappy over failure to arrest all accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the investigation agency's failure to arrest all the accused in a case linked to last year's July uprising in Dhaka's Rampura.

During the charge framing hearing, with only one of the five accused in the dock, the tribunal enquired whether the others were in the country or abroad. Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said they were not aware of their whereabouts.

Tribunal member Justice Shofiqul Alam Mahmood then said, "There are allegations that even after being informed of the locations of accused, they are not being arrested. You have been given the power to arrest. Even after that, only a small number have been held."

In response, Tajul suggested such remarks might be inappropriate here (in the open court), but Justice Shofiqul pressed, "Why should we not say? You have been given the power to arrest."

Tajul explained, "Immediately after the uprising, many accused fled. Although we have the authority to arrest, we don't have the means to do that."

The chief prosecutor said one of the accused fled after getting information that investigators would arrest him in a raid. In reply, the tribunal member said, "Yes, you

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Dengue claims 6 lives, highest in a single day this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six dengue patients died in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday -- the highest number of deaths reported in a single day this year.



Among the deaths, three are from Dhaka South City Corporation areas, and one each from Dhaka North City Corporation, Mymensingh division and Rajshahi division, according to the DGHS. Meanwhile, 586 patients were hospitalised across the country during this period.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 145, while total dengue cases rose to 36,662.

Among the cases, 34,745 dengue patients have been released so far.

Currently, 1,792 patients are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, with 1,046 of them from outside Dhaka.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, identified delayed hospitalisation as a major reason behind the rising fatality rate this year.

President seeks end to crisis engulfing Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's president said yesterday that he was seeking an end to the crisis that has engulfed the Himalayan nation since deadly protests this week ousted the prime minister and left parliament in flames.

The army has imposed a curfew in the Himalayan nation of 30 million people, with soldiers patrolling the largely quiet streets for a second day after the worst violence in two decades.

President Ramchandra Paudel appealed to "all parties to be confident that a solution to the problem is being sought, as soon as possible".

Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel has launched talks with key figures and "representatives of Gen Z", a military spokesperson said, referring to the loose umbrella title of the youth protest movement.

Demonstrations began on Monday in Kathmandu against the government's short-lived ban on social media and over corruption, with at least 19 people killed in the crackdown.

A day later, protests escalated into an outpouring of rage nationwide, with government offices, a Hilton Hotel and other buildings set on fire.

In the chaos, more than 13,500 prisoners broke out of jails countrywide, leaving security forces scrambling to regain control. Only around 250 have been recaptured, according to Nepal's security forces and an Indian border official.

"Our first demand is the dissolution of

parliament," Sudan Gurung, a key figure among the Gen Z protesters, told reporters on Thursday.

"My humble request to everyone, including political parties: please don't send the same old leaders," he said, saying the protesters were not seeking power themselves.

"We don't need positions in government," he said. "We need real reform."

Protests fed into longstanding economic woes in Nepal, where more than a fifth of people aged 15-24 are unemployed, according to the World Bank, with GDP per capita just \$1,447.

'EVERY EFFORT'
KP Sharma Oli, 73, a four-time prime minister, resigned Tuesday.

His home was set ablaze the same day, and his whereabouts are unknown.

Constitutionally, 80-year-old Paudel should invite the leader of the largest parliamentary party to form a government.

But much of the political old guard has vanished from view.

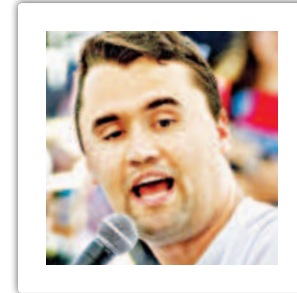
"I am consulting and making every effort to find a way out of the current difficult situation in the country, within the constitutional framework," said Paudel, whose presidential offices were also set on fire.

Former chief justice Sushila Karki is the leading choice for interim leader, a Gen Z protester representative said Thursday, although their backing is not unanimous.

"Right now, Sushila Karki's name is coming up to lead the interim government -- we are now waiting for the president to make a move," said

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KIRK SHOOTING Trump blames 'radical left' for political violence



AFP, Orem

A manhunt was underway yesterday after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was shot to death at a university in Utah, a killing that sparked fears of worsening political violence in the United States.

President Donald Trump lashed out at the "radical left" after the shooting of Kirk, a powerful voice in conservative US politics at just 31 years old, and vowed to crack down on those responsible for what he described as "a dark moment for America."

"For years those on the radical left have compared wonderful Americans like Charlie to Nazis and the world's worst mass murderers and criminals," a somber-looking Trump

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Three challenges for free, fair and credible polls

Say speakers at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consensus among political parties, improving the law-and-order situation and ensuring the Election Commission's neutrality are the biggest challenges for the upcoming parliamentary polls to be free, fair and credible, said speakers at an event yesterday.

"The country has been freed from fascism but a consensus for democratic transition has not been reached yet -- there is still time," said BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed at the discussion styled 'Expectations and Challenges for a Fair Election: Doable for the Government, Political Parties and Civil Society in Arranging a Successful Election'.

He went on to express hope that political parties could reach a consensus to this end through talks ahead of the election.

Stating that the national parliament is the only legitimate body to pass any proposal regarding constitutional amendment, Salahuddin said his party, however, will agree if there is any other legitimate, lawful and constitutional avenue for this.

In the meantime, before going to parliament, the political parties could build consensus on what the

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The country has been freed from fascism but a consensus for democratic transition has not been reached yet.
Salahuddin Ahmed
BNP Standing Committee Member

ASIA CUP 2025

Litton shines as Tigers win convincingly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh skipper Litton Das continued his good run with the bat, notching his 15th T20I fifty -- the most by any Bangladeshi batter in the format -- to help the Tigers to a convincing seven-wicket win over Hong Kong in their opening Asia Cup game at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

This was also Bangladesh's first T20I victory over Associate Nation Hong Kong, who staged an upset against the Tigers during a T20 World Cup game in Chattogram back in 2014.

Litton scored a fluent 39 ball 59, laced with six fours and a maximum, and starred in a crucial 95-run third-wicket stand with Towhid Hridoy (35* off 36), as Bangladesh chased down a 144-run target in 17.4 overs after restricting Hong Kong to 143 for seven in 20 overs.

This was Litton's third fifty in his last four T20Is, having already won the player of the series in Bangladesh's last series at home against the Netherlands

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THE LONESOME LANGUR . . . A Hanuman langur sits on the railing of the Batiaghata bridge in Khulna, its long tail trailing behind. Forced into human spaces by shrinking forests and scarce food, it scans the roadside trees for fruit. These langurs, native to the Indian subcontinent, inhabit dry forests, scrublands, and even urban parks, feeding on leaves, fruits, flowers, and seeds. Though listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, they face habitat loss, road accidents, and human conflict. Sacred in Hindu mythology as followers of the monkey-god Hanuman, they often live near temples and villages. With expressive black faces, agile leaps, and strict social hierarchies, they are vital to South Asia's ecosystem.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Kalpona named among Vogue Business 100 innovators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labour leader Kalpona Akter has topped the list of "Vogue Business 2025 100 Innovators" under the "Sustainability Thought Leader" category.

This is an annual list of individuals that the editors at the leading fashion business magazine believe have the potential to change the luxury industry for the better.

Kalpona, founder of the Bangladesh Centre for Worker Solidarity, was recognised for her decades of activism for labour rights in the readymade garments sector.

"Trade unionist Kalpona Akter began working in garment factories at the age of 12 and has been a vocal advocate for her fellow garment workers ever since," said the magazine.

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