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## ASIA CUP 2025 Saif, Hridoy power Tigers to a winning start in super 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Quickfire fifties from opener Saif Hassan and Towhid Hridoy helped Bangladesh get off to a winning start in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup with a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Opting to field, Bangladesh bowlers faced pressure early and late in the innings as Sri Lanka all-rounder Dasun Shanaka blasted an unbeaten 64 off 37 balls, featuring three fours and six sixes, to guide his side to a challenging 168 for seven.

In reply, Saif's career-best 61 off 45 balls and a 37-ball 58 from Hridoy, who bounced back after a lean spell of no fifty-plus score in his last 15 innings, laid the platform for a comfortable chase, but Bangladesh still endured a tense finish. They lost Jaker Ali (9 off 4) and Mahedi Hasan (0 off 2) in the final over when just five runs were needed.

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## UNGA SESSION Yunus leaves for NY tonight

UNB, Dhaka



Chiefe Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is scheduled to leave Dhaka for New York late Sunday night to attend the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, where he will deliver his official statement and hold a series of high-level meetings on the sidelines.

He is travelling to the US by a commercial flight.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, BNP leader Humayun Kabir, Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher and National Citizen Party leader Akther Hossen will be part of the Bangladesh delegation to the UNGA at the invitation of the chief adviser.

At the General Debate (September 23-27 and 29), the annual meeting of heads of state and government at the beginning of the General Assembly session, world leaders will make statements outlining their positions and priorities in the context of complex and interconnected global challenges, officials said.

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## NCP-backed student group eyes reforms after DU, JU debacles

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Following its heavy defeats in Ducusu and Jucsu polls, Bangladesh Gonotriti Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS), the student group backed by the National Citizen Party, is preparing for a major organisational overhaul to rebuild and regain strength.

Senior leaders of both organisations said the reforms may include a leadership shake-up, reduction in organisational posts, and even a possible name change, as the NCP seeks to clarify its affiliation with BGCS.

Launched on February 26 as an independent student body with a section of former leaders from Students Against Discrimination, the platform that spearheaded the July uprising, BGCS has remained active on several campuses.

But its poor performance in the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) and Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucsu) elections has prompted top leaders to rethink its structure.

A senior NCP leader, requesting anonymity, said the party failed to clearly establish its ideological link with BGCS.

"The student wing has fallen behind because we could not assert our affiliation fully, unlike Jamaat and BNP. Now we want to clarify this relationship by defining the concept of dependency, which is why reforms are under discussion," he told The Daily Star.

Abu Baker Mojumder, central convener of BGCS, confirmed that discussions are underway on renaming and restructuring in consultation with NCP. A general



Eight-year-old Samira lies in bed at Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday as her worried mother, Malancha, holds the IV tube to ensure the saline drips properly. Samira, from the Basabo Buddhist Temple area, was admitted last Wednesday after being diagnosed with dengue. Till Friday, the DGHS recorded 147 dengue deaths and 40,709 cases so far this year. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Govt plans sweeping overhaul of NHRC

Draft ordinance empowers the rights watchdog to probe members of disciplined forces

### NHRC DRAFT LAW

- ⦿ Commission can also issue search warrants, authorise arrests.
- ⦿ Will have pre-fixed budget and power to raise funds.
- ⦿ New appointment process designed to ensure independence.
- ⦿ Can act as victims' counsel, take complaints, compel govt action.
- ⦿ Must file reports on deadline; tribunals to finish trials in 120 days.

mandates of the commission, while the enforced disappearance law sets out the rights commission's specific role in combating enforced disappearance," said Sazzad Hussain, a member of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

Additionally, a separate draft ordinance on the prevention of enforced disappearance -- recently approved in principle by the cabinet -- also gives the NHRC broad powers.

The NHRC ordinance defines the formation and

to identify secret detention centres and take legal action. It may issue search warrants to inspect such centres, jails, or other premises for persons believed to have been forcibly disappeared.

The rights commission may authorise law enforcers or its officers to make arrests, with

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Shibir's wins in Ducusu, Jucsu to influence national polls  
Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said Islami Chhatra Shibir's victory in the Ducusu and Jucsu elections will influence the upcoming national election.

"Many have been impressed by this victory. We hope to contest all 300 seats in the upcoming election with those who like and love us and those whom we like and love," he said.

"To secure victory in that election, I call upon everyone to extend all kinds of help and cooperation, including financial sacrifices," he added.

Shafiqur was addressing the central women's division Majlis-e-Shura session of Jamaat, held at the Al-Falah auditorium in Moghbazar, Dhaka, as the chief guest.

"Our leaders endured the Awami fascist government's imprisonments and repression with patience.

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Stay united, follow party decisions  
Tarique asks BNP activists

UNB, DHAKA

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged party leaders and activists to stay united, follow the party's decisions and prevent anyone from using the party for personal benefit to secure victory in the upcoming election.



"Can we today, from this council, take two pledges? One -- at any cost we will stand united behind the party decisions and two -- we will never allow anyone to use the party for personal gain. Let us take these two vows together," he said.

The BNP leader made the remarks while virtually speaking from London at the triennial council of the Kishoreganj district unit BNP.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir inaugurated the council.

Tarique also said if the party can maintain ironclad unity until February, the people's verdict will go in favour of the sheaf of paddy, the election symbol of BNP.

"What matters most to BNP is people, people and the people of Bangladesh. We must always stay with the people and we must also keep the people with us," he said.

The BNP leader said the people of Bangladesh have struggled together for the past 16 years against an autocratic regime to regain their voting and other political and democratic rights and their movement

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## RU suspends 'ward quota' amid student protests

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University authorities have suspended their decision to reinstate the "ward quota" following a day-long protest on campus by students demanding its abolition.

The announcement was made on the university's verified Facebook page around 1:00am today.

"Amid ongoing unrest at Rajshahi University, admissions under institutional privileges have been suspended. In view of the situation, an emergency syndicate meeting has been convened for September 21 [today]," read the post.

Protests erupted on campus yesterday as students demanded the abolition of the ward quota -- a provision allowing admission privileges for children of the university's teachers and staffers.

Under this quota privilege, a maximum of two students per department may be admitted, subject to certain conditions.

Just before the announcement, students began a sit-in outside the vice chancellor's residence at 11:00pm last night, which continued till the writing of this report at 1:00am today.

The protesters escalated their demonstration, following a scuffle between students and teachers, officials, and staff in the afternoon.

They also surrounded the Juberi Bhawan on the campus and confined teachers and the pro-vice-chancellor.

**The ward quota is a provision that allows admission privileges for children of the university's teachers and staff.**

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