

NCP getting EC registration Says senior secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has decided to register the National Citizen Party and Bangladesh Jatiya League as political parties, said senior secretary Akhtar Ahmed yesterday.

He said 13 parties have been kept under review. Of these, three are undergoing further scrutiny, nine are facing more extensive investigations, and a decision on one party will be made after a High Court verdict.

Akhtar said 143 parties applied for registration, and information from field-level investigations was reviewed for 22. After assessment, only NCP and Bangladesh Jatiya League primarily fulfilled the requirements.

"We will issue a public notice to see if there are any objections or concerns," he said.

"There is an unresolved issue with NCP's symbol. The symbol they requested is not included in the EC's official list. We will send them a letter asking to confirm an alternative symbol. After we receive their reply, we will issue the public notice with the specified symbol."

The EC is also reviewing applications of Bangladesh Aam Janagan Party, Jatiya Janata Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JASAD - Shahjahan Siraj).

KHAGRACHHARI VIOLENCE

'Punish rapists, conduct probe into the killings'

77 noted citizens demand justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens, in separate statements, yesterday demanded a transparent judicial probe into the killings of three indigenous protesters in Khagrachhari and urged the chief adviser to take urgent steps for lasting peace in the CHT.



In a statement, 36 citizens expressed outrage over the rape of a class eight Marma girl in Khagrachhari on September 23 while she was returning from tuition.

They also condemned the killing of three indigenous protesters during a blockade in the district.

The statement said this was not an isolated incident, pointing to a rape case of another indigenous woman in Khagrachhari on June 27 and the killing of three indigenous men last year after a clash over a motorcycle theft.

According to the statement, these incidents reveal a recurring pattern of looting and arson of indigenous homes, and killings of indigenous people by law enforcement, while perpetrators from the settler community face no action.

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To us, PR means public relations Says Salahuddin

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said conspiracies by both local and foreign forces are visibly afoot to obstruct Bangladesh's democratic transition, but the people are now united to foil such plots.

Talking to reporters at BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's grave, Salahuddin said no one can deny that the people are now focused on elections, with potential candidates actively campaigning.

He opposed some parties' demand for the introduction of a proportional representation (PR) system in the next parliamentary election. "PR means 'permanent restlessness'. Experiences at home and abroad show that it creates constant instability. Governments are rarely formed based on a majority, and parliaments often remain hung, leaving the country in uncertainty."

He said for them, PR means "Public Relations" -- connecting with people -- and that everyone is now engaged in that kind of PR by campaigning and building unity with the people. "That is the PR we believe in. Those who want to impose proportional representation to create permanent restlessness will not succeed."



A priest performs the rituals of Kumari Puja at Jagannath Temple in Barishal city yesterday on Maha Ashtami of Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindus. Kumari Puja involves the worship of a prepubescent girl as the living embodiment of the goddess Durga.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

24 killed, 21 hurt in mob violence last month

HRSS report says rights situation 'concerning' in Sept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights body Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) has described the human rights situation in Bangladesh in September 2025 as "concerning", citing incidents of mob violence, attacks on temples, and vandalism of idols.

In a statement yesterday, the organisation also noted continued interference with freedom of expression, attacks on journalists and workers, and deaths in custody throughout the month.

According to HRSS, at least 24 people were killed and 21 injured in 28 incidents of mob beating across the country in September. It said 133 children were victims of torture, among whom 25 lost their lives and 108 faced physical and mental abuse.

The statement said while political violence decreased slightly compared to August, the number of people killed increased. At least nine people were killed and 268 injured in 37 incidents of political violence last month.

Of them, eight were from BNP and one from Jamaat. In August, four people were killed and 514 injured in 67 incidents.

Of September's incidents, 24 stemmed from BNP's internal conflicts, leaving at least 192 injured and seven killed. Seven clashes between BNP and Awami League left one killed and 42 injured, while three clashes between BNP and Jamaat injured 32.

Four other incidents took place among different parties.

Most of the violence was linked to attempts at establishing dominance, political rivalries, rally-related clashes, conflicts over forming committees, extortion, and occupation of establishments, the report said.

At least 14 incidents involved miscreants attacking political leaders and activists, leaving nine killed, including three from AL and four from BNP.

The report said at least 42 journalists were assaulted or harassed in 32 incidents. Among them, 20 were injured, six threatened, and six named in cases.

It said at least 159 women and girls were victims of

abuse in September. Of them, 55 were raped, including 30 under 18. Ten were victims of gang rape, and one was killed after rape. A total of 20 women and girls were subjected to sexual harassment, including 12 children.

The report also documented eight attacks on the minority community, in which two temples were attacked and 20 idols vandalised.

At least seven workers were killed and 57 injured in 28 incidents of torture, while 18 more died in workplace accidents due to unhealthy environments and lack of protective equipment.

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ 133 children abused; 25 died
- ▶ 159 women, girls faced violence
- ▶ 42 journos assaulted or harassed
- ▶ 9 killed, 268 hurt in political violence

According to the report, at the India-Bangladesh border in September, two Bangladeshis were injured in BSF attacks and 13 arrested. At least 132 Bangla-speaking people were pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF through different border points. On the Bangladesh-Myanmar border in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, the Arakan Army abducted 40 fishermen along with five trawlers from the Bay of Bengal.

Citing media reports and victims' accounts, HRSS said eight people were killed by law enforcement agencies in September -- four in custody and four in shootings. At least five people died in prisons, of whom two were convicts and three under-trial prisoners.

HRSS urged the government to protect human rights and called on civil society, journalists, political leaders, and international groups to speak out against violations.

15 cases, 19 arrests over puja-related incidents: police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 132 incidents at puja mandaps across the country have so far been reported through the "Sharodiya Surakha" mobile and web application, while police confirmed that 49 of the incidents led to 15 cases and 19 arrests in September.

National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) Director General Maj Gen Abdul Quayyum Molla disclosed the app-based figures yesterday at a views-exchange meeting at the NTMC headquarters in Tejgaon.

"Whenever any incident is reported -- be it idol vandalism, obstruction of devotees, or rumours on social media -- law enforcement is immediately notified and actions are taken on the spot," he said.

He said around 84,000 personnel are working simultaneously through the system, while over two lakh Ansar members have been deployed to secure 31,576 puja mandaps this year.

Of them, 80,000 are directly connected to the system, said the DG.

"The army, navy, police, Rab, coast guard, DGFI, NSI and SB are also linked, with 1,000 officials monitoring at upazila, district, divisional and central levels," said Quayyum.

Meanwhile, at a press briefing at the Police Headquarters yesterday, Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said of the reported incidents, most were minor and resolved peacefully without causing communal unrest.

The IGP said some cases led to arrests, while others were recorded as general diaries.

On the spread of misinformation, Baharul said police cyber units were monitoring misleading posts, including the circulation of old vandalism videos.

9 more testify in cases against Hasina, Joy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine more prosecution witnesses yesterday testified in two cases filed against 18 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

They are Md Sefatullah, M Mejbah Ur Rahman, Mohammad Uzzal Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Mukti Tarafder, Kamrunnahar, Zahidur Rahaman, Mahbubur Rahman and Tayoba Rahim.

Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun of the Special Judge's Court-5 in Dhaka recorded their statements in the two cases over plot allocation in Purbachal New Town from 11:30am to 12:20pm, said ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam.

The court also set October 15 for next hearings. Earlier, 21 witnesses gave their statements.

3 more die of dengue, 556 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At least three dengue patients died and 556 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the DGHS, all three deaths were reported from Barishal division.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 198, while total cases rose to 47,342.

Among the total cases, a total of 44,796 dengue patients have been released so far after treatment.

Currently, 2,348 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

Thousands entangled in July cases: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam yesterday said thousands of people have become entangled in case proceedings after the July uprising, with many facing unnecessary suffering.

Speaking to reporters at the Police Headquarters, he said charge-sheets have so far been submitted in 55 cases -- 18 for murder and 37 for other offences such as "grievous hurt". A total of 1,941 accused were charge-sheeted in the murder cases and 2,185 in the other cases.

He said these were only a fraction of the total caseload.

"Police are investigating around 1,760 cases linked to the anti-discrimination movement -- 766 murder cases and 974 others. Senior officers are directly supervising the probes to ensure transparency," he added.

Acknowledging complaints of false or targeted cases, Baharul said some police personnel may have been involved. "If any officer is found complicit, we will take the strictest possible action," he said.

He mentioned that Section 173(A) allows falsely accused individuals to seek exoneration through the superintendent of police.

"So far, 136 people have been cleared through this process, while 236 applications are under review," he added.

On fugitives, the IGP said Interpol had been requested to help trace suspects abroad and urged the public to provide credible information.

"Thousands may be entangled in the legal process, but we are committed to providing remedies where people are falsely accused and to ensuring justice is served," he said.

The IGP also said the force remains capable of ensuring a fair and festive national election.

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Deadlines

• Application: October 31, 2025

• On-line Fees: November 09, 2025

• Admission Test: November 18, 2025

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