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## Journo hacked to death in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A journalist was hacked to death by armed assailants in Bagerhat town last night.

Hayat Uddin, 42, a staff reporter of the daily Bhorer Chetana, was a resident of the town's Harikhali area, said police.

Quoting locals, Mahmud-ul-Hasan, officer-in-charge of Bagerhat Model Police Station, said a group of armed assailants attacked Hayat with sharp weapons in the Harikhali area.

Seriously injured, he was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, added the OC.

A friend of Hayat, seeking anonymity, said he was attacked while having tea at a stall in Harikhali. He was first taken to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital before being taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

OC Mahmud said a police team has been sent to the victim's house, and law enforcers have already started an investigation.



Bangladesh players celebrate the dismissal of Afghanistan opener Sediqullah Atal during the second T20I in Sharjah yesterday. Having restricted the hosts to a modest 147 for five in 20 overs, the Tigers turned it into a tricky chase by losing quick wickets at the death. They eventually prevailed, securing a two-wicket win with five balls to spare to take the three-match series 2-0 with a game in hand.

PHOTO: ACB

## Candidates to get signal soon to start campaign Says BNP leader Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday that single candidates in each constituency would soon be given the nod to begin campaigning for the next election.

"Till now, no green signal has been given. We are still in the selection process. We have sent messages to all possible candidates that everyone should give the same statement: all are in favour of the 'sheaf of paddy' [BNP's electoral symbol]. Whoever the party gives the symbol, all will work together for him," he said while talking to reporters at his Gulshan residence.

The BNP will announce the candidates' names after the Election Commission declares the polls schedule.

Not only does the party have two aspirants in each seat, but in many places, it has five, seven, or even 10 qualified candidates, he added.

Discussions are underway with like-minded parties over sharing seats, Salahuddin said. "We will probably share with the alliance partners the seats where we hope they can win with our support."

Asked about the party's objection to a proposed amendment to the Representation of the People Order, he said, "We have given our objection ... everyone thinks the old system should stay. That means if the partners of an alliance want, they can contest with their own party symbol or with the symbol of any alliance partner."

The EC has proposed that candidates contesting under an alliance must use the symbol of their own party, not the one leading the alliance.

Regarding the trial of Awami League as a political party, the BNP leader said the government should file a case quickly with the International Crimes Tribunal to bring the AL to book. "The fate of the Awami League will

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## CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY Four AL leaders likely to be charged soon

SHARIFUL ISLAM and  
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Four senior Awami League leaders, including former law minister Anisul Huq and deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's former adviser Salman F Rahman, may soon be formally charged with crimes against humanity in connection with the July uprising, according to the prosecution.

The International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency has nearly completed its probe against the four, and formal reports are expected to be submitted to the Chief Prosecutor's Office in the coming days, said prosecutor Mizanul Islam.

The other two leaders under investigation are AL joint general secretary and former Kushtia lawmaker Mahbubul Alam Hanif, and former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

Mizanul, a key prosecutor who holds the rank of additional attorney general, said the agency may submit a separate report for Palak, while Hanif could be charged alongside several local AL leaders in Kushtia over killings in the district during the uprising.

The prosecution will later decide whether charges against Anisul and Salman will be brought jointly or separately based on the evidence.

These four are among 45 individuals already named in an ongoing case related to crimes against humanity under ICT investigation. Of the 45, at least 19 are high-profile political figures, including



ANISUL HUQ



SALMAN F RAHMAN

MAHBUBUL ALAM  
HANIFZUNAID AHMED  
PALAK

former ministers Amir Hossain Amu, Obaidul Quader, Shahjahan Khan, Qamrul Islam, Mohammad Faruk Khan, Abdur Razzaque, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haq Inu, Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Golam Dastagir Gazi, and Dipu Moni, as well as former PM's adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

On September 25, ICT-2 formally charged Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president and former information minister Hasanul Haq Inu in a separate crime against humanity case.

He is the sole accused, with 20 prosecution witnesses listed. The tribunal

has scheduled a charge framing hearing for October 14.

Responding to a query on the case involving 45 accused, Mizanul clarified that if an individual is charged and tried separately, their name may be dropped from the multi-accused case, provided all allegations against them are addressed.

Another prosecutor, seeking anonymity, said before the general election scheduled for February next year, the prosecution aims to complete investigation reports for at least 20 additional cases of crimes against humanity, including several involving enforced disappearances.

### HASINA CASE UPDATE

Arguments in the ongoing case against Hasina and two of her top aides may be completed within two weeks. Mizanul said arguments could conclude between October 15 and 20. Once completed, it will be up to the tribunal to decide when to deliver the verdict.

The other accused in the case are former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who has turned approver. On Tuesday, investigation officer Md Alamgir concluded his statement before ICT-1 as the 54th and final prosecution witness.

State-appointed defence counsel Md Amir Hossain, representing the absconding Hasina and Kamal, will resume cross examining the IO on Monday.

Several other cases are also under trial or nearing trial.

## Jamaat may leave up to 100 seats for allies: Porwar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Jamaat-e-Islami may leave up to 100 constituencies for like-minded political parties if an alliance is formed ahead of the next national election, party's Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest at a reunion of Islami Chhatra Shibir's Khulna city unit at the Al Faruk Society auditorium, Porwar said Jamaat has already prepared a candidate list for all 300 constituencies but is willing to compromise to forge unity with other parties.

"Although we have finalised 300 candidates and completed preliminary selection, the ultimate decision will depend on those we reach an understanding with. Unity cannot be achieved without leaving some seats," he said.

Calling this "the most opportune time to convey the message of Islam to parliament," Porwar urged former student leaders to return to active politics.

The event was chaired by Arifat Hossain Milon, president of Chhatra Shibir's Khulna city unit, and conducted by its secretary, Rakib Hossain.

Jamaat's Khulna Regional Assistant Director Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, city Ameer Prof Mahfuzur Rahman, district Ameer Maulana Emran Hossain, city Nayeb-e-Ameer Prof Najibur Rahman, city Secretary Advocate Sheikh Jahangir Hossain Helal, and several other leaders also addressed the event.

## KSA unveils new licensing system for hajj accommodations

BSS, Dubai

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia has announced a new licensing system for pilgrim accommodations in Makkah and Madinah for the 2026 hajj season.

Licences will now be issued through the temporary hostel licensing service, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, according to Saudi media reports.

Applicants must register through the Nusuk Masar platform to qualify for leasing pilgrim accommodations. Licences are to be obtained via the Ministry of Tourism's electronic platform, in line with approved requirements, before the contracting period closes on February 1, 2026.

The process does not apply to hotels that already hold year-round licences from the Ministry of Tourism.

The temporary hostel licensing system aims to boost service quality, streamline bookings, and enhance the hajj experience in the holy sites of Makkah and Madinah. The new system is designed to improve service quality by issuing seasonal licences that meet regulatory standards.



Homes nestled in a sea of white kans grass appear like something out of a daydream. Drawn by the delicate bloom, many, especially young people, are flocking to the chars on the Jamuna to witness autumn's fleeting magic. The photo was taken recently on a char in Saghatta upazila of Gaibandha.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABU



## Sarah Mullally first woman to lead Church of England

REUTERS, Canterbury

The Church of England named Sarah Mullally yesterday as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the first woman to serve as ceremonial head of Anglican Christianity worldwide, prompting immediate criticism from conservative church leaders in Africa.

The 63-year-old bishop, who once served as England's top nurse, will, like her predecessors, face a Communion divided between conservatives and more liberal Christians over the role of women in the Church and the acceptance of same-sex couples.

While the appointment was welcomed by many religious leaders in Britain, Laurent Mbonda, archbishop of Rwanda and chairman of a global grouping of conservative Anglican churches, told Reuters that Mullally would not unite the Communion.

In an address in Canterbury Cathedral yesterday, Mullally said she would seek to help every ministry to flourish, "whatever our tradition".