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ICT CASE Witness recounts fatal shooting of Abu Sayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) student Shan E Rownok Basunia, while testifying before the International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday, recounted witnessing the fatal shooting of Abu Sayed during the quota reform protests on July 16, 2024.

Rownok appeared as the 19th prosecution witness before the three-member tribunal.

He described a tense standoff at Gate 1 of the university, where hundreds of students tried to enter the campus after learning that BCL activists had confined some students during the nationwide anti-discrimination movement.

It was then, he said, that police opened fire on the protesters.

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Workers wash winter vegetables in large drums after buying them from the wholesale market. With temperatures dipping in the capital, demand for winter vegetables has risen sharply. The photo was taken in South Jatrabari yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Must commit to climate-resilient energy future

**CSOs urge parties, unveil
12-point manifesto for just,
green energy transition**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the country moves toward the pivotal 2026 national elections, a coalition of prominent civil society organisations yesterday urged political parties to adopt bold, future-focused commitments to dismantle fossil fuel dependence, enhance national energy sovereignty and safeguard vulnerable communities through a just, equitable and climate-resilient energy transition.

The coalition released a 12-point Citizens' Manifesto at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, calling on parties to commit to a transparent and renewable energy-based power sector.

"Despite attaining almost 100 percent electricity coverage, decades of imprudent fossil fuel dependence, opaque contractual regimes and impractical master plans have precipitated severe financial haemorrhaging, intensified environmental degradation and heightened public health risks," said Monower Mostafa, adviser at Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network, while presenting the keynote paper.

He said national carbon emissions have doubled from 146.8 million tonnes in 2008 to 281.4 million tonnes now, while the country's air quality has deteriorated to among the world's most hazardous and placed Bangladesh at the bottom of major environmental performance indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » New energy policy ensuring climate resilience
- » Full disclosure of PPAs and IAs under RTI
- » Phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies
- » End LNG dependence, reduce gas waste
- » Clear roadmap for expanding renewable energy

Hasan Mehedi, member secretary of the Bangladesh Working Group on Ecology and Development, said private power producers extracted Tk 1,72,000 crore in capacity charges over the past 16 years, while Bangladesh Power Development Board recorded cumulative losses of Tk 2,53,000 crore. "The government had to inject Tk 2,36,000 crore in subsidies from public funds, which were disproportionately siphoned off into the coffers of fossil fuel-linked vested interests," he said.

The 12-point manifesto includes formulating a new national energy policy ensuring climate resilience, economic stability and long-term energy security; unveiling all Power Purchase Agreements and Implementation Agreements under the Right to Information Act; phasing out fossil fuel subsidies; ending LNG dependence and gas waste; and preparing a clear roadmap for renewable energy establishments.

The groups demanded a just energy transition that safeguards the rights of women, indigenous peoples, farmers, fishers, workers and marginalised communities, along with protection of agricultural land.

BWGED organised the event along with Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network, Ethical Trading Initiative Bangladesh, Lawyers for Energy, Environment and Development, Manushe Jonno Foundation, ReGlobal and allied partners.

A solo run or alliance with a big fish?

**NCP top brass at odds over decision;
grassroots want independent bid**

SHAMIMA RITA

Differences have emerged within the National Citizen Party over whether it should contest the upcoming national polls independently or join an electoral alliance.

Party insiders said top leaders, in recent general meetings, have instructed senior, mid-level and district coordinators to stay prepared for all possible strategies as internal debates intensify.

According to party sources, a large section of leaders across all tiers, from senior to grassroots, favours contesting the polls alone.

However, a significant faction within the top leadership argues that forming an alliance, or at least a seat-sharing deal, is necessary to ensure the party's long term stability and influence in the next government.

Over the past three weeks, discussions in party meetings and internal consultations have pushed Convenor Nahid Islam towards supporting an independent run,



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aligning with the majority view. Still, about half of the central leaders are leaning towards alliance options.

Interviews with three frontline central leaders reflect a clear divide. While most believe contesting alone would strengthen the party's grassroots organisational base, others feel an alliance is crucial for securing parliamentary representation or a role in national leadership.

A senior central leader, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star, "As a new party, contesting independently may seem 'romantic' or 'aesthetic', but it carries real risks for NCP's political future. To become a strong opposition, we need at least 20 percent public support, and we are still building the preparation and financial strength needed for that."

He said a seat-sharing alliance would better secure the party's long-term prospects. "While a solo run may solidify our grassroots

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An illegally set-up truck stand occupies a significant portion of the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway beside the Jatrabari Fish Market, disrupting the movement of vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Country in state of instability

Says Fakhrul at late BNP leader
Moudud Ahmed's book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said Bangladesh is going through a period of instability.

"At this moment, we truly needed people like Barrister Moudud Ahmed. We are living in a state of instability, and he was undoubtedly someone who could have guided us out of it," he said at a book publication ceremony.

Politicians, government officials, experts, lawyers and journalists attended the event at a city hotel for late BNP leader and eminent lawyer Moudud Ahmed's book "Demise of Democracy", organised by University Press Limited.

Speakers reflected on his political life and contributions as a writer.

They said Moudud's writings would serve as a valuable guide for young people seeking to understand the country's political history. Although his work often criticised his own party, they noted he consistently tried to present true history.

During the panel discussion, Fakhrul said, "I feel sad that he could not live to see the fall of the fascist Hasina, which Moudud sincerely wanted to see."

He said young people involved in the recent mass uprising would find Moudud's books important. "There

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COURT CORNER

Ivy shown arrested
in 5 more cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police have shown former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Salina Hayat Ivy arrested in five more cases. Court Police Inspector Kaim Khan said four were filed for murder and one for obstructing government work.

"Ivy is not named in any of these cases. None of the arrested accused gave any statement implicating her. She had already secured bail from the High Court. These sudden show-arrest petitions are aimed solely at delaying her release," said Ivy's counsel Awdad Hossain.

Petition challenges merger of 5 shariah-based banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the government's decision to merge five troubled shariah-based commercial banks into a new state-run Islamic lender named Sammilito Islami Bank Limited.

Shahidul Islam, a general investor in the share market, submitted the petition through Barrister Sayed Mahsib Hossain. The banks are First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and Exim Bank.

Jatiya Chhatri Shakti, Shibir declare panels for JnU polls

JNU CORRESPONDENT

The Islami Chhatri Shibir and Jatiya Chhatri Shakti have announced their panels for the upcoming Jagannath University Central Students' Union (Jnucsu) election.

The university unit of Islami Chhatri Shibir unveiled its panel named "Adommo Jobian Oikya", at a press briefing in front of the Language Martyr Rafiq Bhaban yesterday.

The panel has nominated MdRiazul Islam, president of JnU Chhatri Shibir, for the post of vice president, and Abdul Alim Arif, secretary of JnU Chhatri Shibir, for the general secretary post.

Masud Rana, organiser of Up Bangladesh at JnU, has been nominated for the assistant general secretary post.

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