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## Continue movement for justice for Hadi

His brother urges people at doa mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharif Omar Bin Hadi, elder brother of Inqilab Monch spokesman Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, has expressed doubts over whether justice will be ensured for his brother's killing and urged the people to continue the movement for justice.

He said if the people truly loved his brother, sought justice for his murder and wanted Shahbagh to be established free from fascism and Indian hegemony, they must carry on the movement.

He made the remarks yesterday at a doa mahfil organised by Jamaat-e Islami at the Al-Falah auditorium in the capital's

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Blankets dominate the weekly open market on Salimullah Road in Mohammadpur yesterday as the capital woke to the season's first cold spell.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## BNP collects nomination forms for Khaleda, Tarique in Bogura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Bogura district BNP leaders yesterday collected nomination papers for Bogura-6 (Sadar) and Bogura-7 (Gabtali and Shajahanpur upazila) constituencies for acting chairman Tarique Rahman and Chairperson Khaleda Zia respectively.

Rezaul Karim Badsha, president of Bogura district unit BNP, collected the nomination form on behalf of Tarique from Tauliqur Rahman, deputy commissioner and returning officer, at his office around 12:30pm.

Khaleda's nomination form was collected from the district election office around 2:00pm.

Haluzzaman Talukdar, adviser to the BNP chairperson and a former member of parliament, along with other BNP leaders, collected the nomination form from Senior District Election Officer Md Fazlul Karim.

Tarique Rahman will participate in the upcoming national election from the Bogura Sadar constituency. It is a matter of great pride for us that he has chosen this seat," Badsha told journalists.

Haluzzaman said, "We will submit her [Khaleda's] nomination paper in due time after discussing with the party and the acting chairman."



## 'Serious act of int'l piracy'

Caracas condemns as US seizes second oil tanker off Venezuela's coast

REUTERS

The United States has intercepted an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela in international waters, US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem confirmed Saturday, a move that comes just days after US President Donald Trump announced a "blockade" of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela.

The Venezuelan government called the tanker interception a "serious act of international piracy."

Venezuela "denounces and rejects the theft and hijacking of a new private vessel transporting oil, as well as the forced disappearance of its crew, committed by military personnel of the United States of America in international waters," the statement said.

Caracas said the actions will be reported to the United Nations Security Council, other multilateral organizations and governments.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Saturday said that an "armed intervention in Venezuela would be a humanitarian catastrophe" in the face of escalating actions from the United States toward regional neighbor Venezuela.

It's the second time in recent weeks

that the United States has gone after a tanker near Venezuela amid a large US military build-up in the region. Noem confirmed the Coast Guard intercepted a tanker that was last docked in Venezuela.

"The United States will continue to pursue the illicit movement of sanctioned oil that is used to fund narco terrorism in the region," she said in a statement posted to social media. "We will find you, and we will stop you."

Three US officials earlier Saturday had told Reuters that the vessel had been intercepted. The Coast Guard and Pentagon referred questions to the White House.

White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said the tanker contained sanctioned oil.

"It was a falsely flagged vessel operating as part of the Venezuelan shadow fleet to traffic stolen oil and fund the narco terrorist Maduro regime," she wrote on X.

British maritime risk management company Vanguard said the vessel was believed to be the Panama flagged Centuries, which was intercepted east of Barbados in the Caribbean Sea.

Jeremy Paner, a partner at Washington, DC, law firm Hughes

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## LAKSHMIPUR ARSON

Slain 7-year-old's father blames rival Says land dispute led to the attack, killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The arson attack on a house in Lakshmpur that killed a seven-year-old girl and left three others injured was carried out over a land-related feud, alleged the victim's family yesterday.

The child's father, Belal Hossain, a businessman and assistant organising secretary of Bhabaniganj BNP under Lakshmpur Sadar upazila, said he has had a longstanding rivalry with Abul Hashem of a neighbouring village.

Belal, who sustained severe burn injuries, is currently receiving treatment at Lakshmpur Sadar Hospital.

"A rivalry between me and Abul Hashem has been going on since 2018. Land worth crores of taka has become a curse for me and my family," Belal said from his hospital bed yesterday, adding that a lawsuit over the ownership of four decimals of land in the Sutargupta Bazar area remains pending.

"Only Abul Hashem could cause such severe harm to me and my family. He is at the top of my list of suspects," he said.

Fighting back tears, Belal said, "My beloved youngest daughter Ayesha turned into charcoal before my eyes. I couldn't save her."

Belal said his house in West Char Mansa village, built with corrugated tin and wood on a concrete base, was set ablaze between 12:30am and 1:00am on Saturday.

He alleged that miscreants locked both doors from the outside and poured petrol before

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## Three drown as vehicles plunge into Dhaleshwari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Three people were killed after a truck and four other vehicles fell off a ferry while crossing the Dhaleshwari river in Narayanganj on Saturday night.

Divers of the river police recovered two bodies around 1:30am yesterday, while another person died at a hospital shortly after the incident, said Md Hasinuzzaman, additional superintendent of police (circle A) of Narayanganj.

The victims were Masud Rana, 30, a Singapore expatriate; Md Rafique, 35, a motorcyclist; and Swadhin, 25, a van driver.

According to police, the accident occurred around 9:00pm on Saturday when a truck, a motorcycle, two battery-run auto-rickshaws, and a rickshaw-van plunged into the river after falling from the ferry while it was crossing the river at Baktaboli in Fatullah.

Rafique was rescued shortly after the accident and taken to Narayanganj General Hospital. He later died on the way to a private hospital in the Signboard area, police said.

After about four and a half hours of search, divers recovered the bodies of Masud and Swadhin. Masud's body, stuck in the ferry's propeller, was found severely mutilated, Hasinuzzaman added.

Masud, from the Gopalganj area of Baktaboli union,

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Friends and relatives mourn over the body of Ahmad Zyoud during his funeral in Silat al-Harithiya, a village near the northern West Bank city of Jenin, yesterday. Israel's military killed two Palestinians on Saturday evening.

PHOTO: AFP

## OSMAN HADI KILLING Police yet to trace prime suspects' locations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers are yet to determine whether the prime suspects in the murder of Sharif Osman Hadi — Faisal Karim Masud and Alamgir Sheikh — have fled the country.

"If we had known his last location, we would not have needed to brief you like this. At this moment, we do not have any specific information about his last whereabouts. Our investigating officers and intelligence agencies are making efforts in various ways," said Khondker Rafiqul Islam, additional inspector general at Police Headquarters.

Police have not yet been able to confirm whether the prime suspect has left the country.

"Often, criminals spread misleading information to conceal their location and this could be one such attempt," he said at a joint press briefing at the home ministry at the Secretariat yesterday.

Keeping both possibilities in mind — whether the suspects are inside the country or abroad — the law enforcement agencies are continuing their search and investigation, he said, adding that efforts to arrest them will continue if they are anywhere within the country.

Sharif Osman Hadi, spokesman of Inqilab Monch and an aspiring independent candidate for Dhaka-8, was shot

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## Ducsu blocks VC office over renaming dorms

Demands removal of Sheikh family names, action against officials who opposed uprising

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Central Students' Union yesterday blocked the vice chancellor's office in protest, demanding the renaming of five university establishments currently named after members of the Sheikh family.

They are Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Sultana Kamal Hostel, and two residential buildings for university staffers — Sheikh Russel Tower and Bangabandhu Tower.

According to the protesters, students have reached a consensus to rename Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall as Shaheed Osman Hadi Hall and Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall as Bir Protik Sitara Begum Hall.

However, they noted that when Ducsu earlier proposed renaming Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall as Felani Khatun Hall, the resident students opposed the move.

Around 2:45pm, Ducsu leaders were seen surrounding the VC office and chanting slogans such as "Break down the icons of fascism," "There is no place for fascism on this soil," and "All forms of fascism must be uprooted."

Its Vice President Abu Shadik Kayem said they had two key demands.

"Our first demand is the immediate renaming of all university establishments named after icons of fascism.

"The proposal to rename Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall as Shaheed Osman Hadi Hall came from students, recognising our July comrade who continued his struggle against domination. Similarly, students proposed renaming Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall as Bir Protik Captain

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## RU students' lock 'AL-affiliated deans' offices

RU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Rajshahi University (RU) students yesterday locked the offices of six deans with alleged Awami League affiliations to force their resignation.

The incident occurred around noon, when students put locks on the chambers of the deans at the Dean's Complex and in several academic buildings across the campus. At the time of filing this report, the offices remain.

In the dean elections held on December 17, 2023, the Progressive Teachers' Society, which is aligned with the Awami League and popularly known as the Yellow Panel, won six of the university's 12 faculties: Law, Science, Business Studies, Social Sciences, Engineering and Geosciences.

According to the schedule, the deans' tenure ended on December 17.

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