

Prof Sayedur reappointed as special assistant to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Sayedur Rahman has been reappointed as special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, just a day after his resignation was accepted.

The Cabinet Division issued a gazette in this regard yesterday, and Sayedur confirmed his reappointment to The Daily Star.

On Tuesday, the cabinet had issued a separate gazette confirming his resignation after it was accepted by the president.

Sources at the health ministry said Sayedur was first appointed as special assistant in November last year on deputation while serving as vice chancellor of Bangladesh Medical University.



A steady stream of customers throngs a flower shop at Shahbagh in Dhaka, as New Year celebrations drive up demand for fresh bouquets -- a timeless symbol of hope and new beginnings. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

268 incidents of rights violations in CHT in 2025 Says PCJSS annual report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rights situation in the Chattogram Hill Tracts deteriorated last year as the government failed to implement the 1997 CHT Peace Accord, according to the Annual Human Rights Report 2025 released yesterday by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti.

The report said under the interim government no meaningful progress was made in implementing the accord. Nearly two-thirds of the accord, including its core provisions, remain unimplemented even after 28 years, resulting in increased militarisation, communal violence, land grabbing and widespread abuses against the indigenous Jumma people.

PCJSS urged the government to fully and immediately implement the 1997 CHT Peace Accord, end extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests, resolve land disputes and ensure justice for victims of communal and sexual violence.

PCJSS recorded 268 incidents of human rights violations in the CHT during 2025, affecting 606 Jumma people. It said security forces, police, Bangalee settlers, extremist groups, land grabbers and Rohingya armed groups were identified as perpetrators.

The report documented eight extrajudicial killings, 117 arbitrary arrests, 193 search operations in villages and 26 incidents of violence against women and children.

At least 43 homes and two Buddhist temples were searched and vandalised, it said. The report also alleged that more than 300 acres of land were illegally occupied in 2025.

Among the most serious incidents was the killing of three Marma youths in September in Guimara of Khagrachhari, who were shot while protesting the rape of a Marma schoolgirl, the report said.

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‘Disappointing and alarming’

Says HRSS report on human rights situation in 2025

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The human rights situation in the country remained “disappointing and alarming” in 2025 due to the inaction of law enforcement agencies, the government’s ineffective response, and the irresponsibility of major political parties, according to the Human Rights Support Society’s (HRSS) annual report.

The report, released yesterday, said despite hopes for improvement following the July uprising and the formation of an interim government led by Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, human rights violations not only continued but also escalated last year.

While some reforms were introduced, HRSS described them as insignificant compared to the scale of violations recorded.

Based on reports from 15 national newspapers, the report documented 914 incidents of political violence last year, leaving at least 133 people dead and 7,511 injured.

Clashes stemmed from struggles over political dominance, revenge, disputes over committee formation, election-related conflicts, extortion, and property attacks.

Intra-party clashes within the BNP accounted for 486 incidents, resulting in 82 deaths and 4,716 injuries. Clashes between BNP and other parties, including the Awami

League, Jamaat, and NCP, caused hundreds more casualties.

Extremists and criminal groups carried out at least 169 attacks on political leaders and activists, killing 108 and injuring 189. Over 250 people were shot, and thousands of homes, offices, businesses, and vehicles were vandalised, looted, or set on fire.

AT A GLANCE

- 914 incidents of political violence leave 133 dead
- 292 incidents of mob violence kill 168 people
- 318 attacks on journalists
- 2,047 women and girls face violence
- 1,371 child abuse cases recorded, including 288 deaths
- 40 killed in police actions; 92 detainees die in custody

Rising political tensions ahead of the upcoming election triggered numerous clashes, attacks, vandalism, and arson targeting potential candidates and aggrieved party supporters. Protests, road blockades, strikes, and attacks on homes and offices intensified concerns.

Between October and December, 54 election-related incidents left

three people dead and 494 injured.

Notably, on December 18, Sharif Osman Hadi, a July frontliner and potential candidate for Dhaka-8, died from injuries sustained when he was shot in broad daylight on December 12.

Earlier, BNP activist Sarwar Hossain was killed during a campaign rally in Chattogram on November 5, while three others, including BNP candidate Ershad Ullah, were injured. In Mymensingh-3, student wing activist Tanzeen Ahmed was killed in intra-party clashes.

The report recorded 292 incidents of mob violence and public lynching, leaving 168 dead and more than 248 injured. Many victims were humiliated, beaten, or burned over suspicion, rumours, or allegations of theft or sacrilege across the country.

Journalists faced 318 attacks affecting at least 539 individuals. Three journalists were killed, 273 were injured, 57 extorted, 83 threatened, and 17 arrested, while 107 journalists faced legal cases across 34 incidents.

Following Hadi’s death, mobs attacked the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in Dhaka, vandalising, looting, and setting the buildings on fire. New Age Editor Nurul Kabir was also harassed during the incident.

Several journalists, including

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BNP moves to finalise candidates for Khaleda’s seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said alternative candidates nominated by the party for the three constituencies allocated to chairperson Khaleda Zia would become the official BNP candidates if their nominations pass scrutiny.

He also said there is no legal scope to suspend or defer the election following her death.

“Since our party has nominated alternative candidates for the seats allocated to her, they will become the BNP candidates if their nominations pass scrutiny,” he told reporters at the party chairperson’s Gulshan office.

Khaleda was nominated by BNP for three constituencies -- Dinajpur-3, Feni-1 and Bogura-7 -- in the upcoming 13th parliamentary election.

The party also fielded alternative candidates due to her critical health condition.

For Feni-1, Dhaka city south unit convener Rafiqul Alam Majnu; for Bogura-7, local BNP leader Morshed Alam; and for Dinajpur-3, BNP leader Sayed Jahangir Alam submitted nomination papers.

Explaining the legal position, Salahuddin said if the BNP chief had died after scrutiny of nominations or allocation of election symbols, legal complications could have arisen and the question of postponement might have come up.

“But that is not the situation now. She passed away before the scrutiny process. Legally, she no longer exists as a legal entity, so her nomination paper will not be valid during scrutiny,” he said.

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3 killed in Dhaka road crashes

Four die as truck overturns in Rajshahi



A sand-laden truck overturned in Rajshahi’s Puthia amid dense fog yesterday morning, killing at least four people.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a police officer, were killed in two road accidents on Malibagh-Mouchak and Khilgaon flyovers in Dhaka on Wednesday night and early yesterday.

Two people died in a head-on collision between a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a motorcycle on the Malibagh-Mouchak flyover around 4:45am yesterday, police said.

The deceased are auto-rickshaw driver Noyon Talukdar, 60, and motorcyclist Yasin Arafat Ashik, 21, a college student.

Ramna Police Station Sub-Inspector Sushanta Kumar said the collision occurred near the Fortune Market crossing on the flyover, leaving both vehicles severely damaged.

Police rescued the two victims in a critical condition and took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared them dead. The bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, a police official was killed after a covered van hit his motorcycle on Khilgaon flyover around 11:45pm on Wednesday.

Rubel Haque, 32, a nayek of the Bangladesh Police who was posted at Rajarbagh Police Lines, died on the spot, said Khilgaon Police Station OC Md Shafiqul Islam.

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Braving dense fog and a biting winter chill, daily wage workers crowd onto a human haulier called nosimon as they head towards Khulna city in search of work. Travelling from surrounding villages, they take up various day-labour jobs to earn between Tk 500 and Tk 700 a day. The photo was taken at the Khulna City Bypass Road intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Fuel prices cut by Tk 2 per litre for January

New rates for diesel, petrol, octane and kerosene take effect from January 1



STAR REPORT

The government has announced a Tk 2 per litre reduction in the prices of diesel, octane, petrol and kerosene for January 2026.

According to the revised rates, diesel will now sell at Tk 102 per litre, down from Tk 104, octane at Tk 122 from Tk 124, petrol at Tk 118 from Tk 120, and kerosene at Tk 114 from Tk 116. A government gazette issued by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources said the new prices will come into effect from January 1.

