

12-yr-old’s body found hanging in Ctg home

Police await post-mortem report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the hanging body of a 12-year-old girl from a house in Chattogram’s Lalkhan Bazar early Sunday.

The victim, Srabanti Ghosh, daughter of KEPZ security guard Tapan Ghosh and garment worker Rosy Ghosh, was a fourth-grade student at Lalkhan Bazar Government Primary School.

Contacted yesterday, Khulshi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jahedul Islam said, “Police found

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus chairing a meeting on the “Fuel and Power Sector Master Plan 2026-2050” with several advisers and top government officials at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Mob beats man to death on theft suspicion in Magura

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

A man was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of cattle theft in Magura Sadar yesterday. The victim, Akidul Islam, 45, a resident of Kanchanpur village, was allegedly detained by locals 4:00am in Maland village and beaten, police said.

On information, police rushed to the scene, rescued Akidul, and took him to Magura Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said Ashique Rahman, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station.

Contacted, Sumaiya Afrin, a doctor at the hospital’s emergency unit, said the man was already dead when he was brought in around 9:00am. “There were multiple injuries on different parts of his body. His head had been shaved, and his legs were severely injured with visible bleeding.”

The victim’s wife, Ajila Khatun, said Akidul had returned from Cyprus five months ago and had been working at a vegetable wholesale market in Dhaka.

“He was returning home by bus at night. After getting off at Ichakhada Bazar in the morning, he called and told our son to go and receive him. A few moments later, another call came from his phone, and a man told us that my husband had been caught on suspicion of stealing cattle. The caller demanded money for my husband’s release.

VENEZUELAN OIL

US to control sales ‘indefinitely’

Says its energy secy; tens of billions will be needed to get the country’s production back to historical highs

AFP, Washington

US Energy Secretary Chris Wright yesterday said that Washington will control sales of Venezuelan oil “indefinitely,” a day after President Donald Trump announced Venezuela’s interim leaders had agreed to US-managed marketing of 30-50 million barrels of crude.

“We’re going to market the crude coming out of Venezuela, first this backed-up stored oil, and then indefinitely, going forward, we will sell the production that comes out of Venezuela into the marketplace,” Wright said at a Goldman Sachs energy event in Miami.

Days after the US toppling of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, which has left his deputy and other allies in charge, Wright suggested sanctions on the country’s oil sector would be waived to facilitate the export of its oil.

The United States would be “the supplier” of the diluting agents needed to get Venezuela’s extra-heavy crude oil ready for shipment, he said.

“As we make progress with the government, you know, we’ll enable the importing of parts and equipment and services to kind of prevent the industry from collapsing, stabilize the production, and then as quickly as possible, start to see it growing again.”

Wright, a former oil and gas executive, said it would require “tens of billions of dollars and significant time” to get Venezuela’s production back to historical highs of over three million barrels per day.

“But why not?” he questioned.

In the short-to-medium term, he said, several hundreds of thousands of additional barrels could be achieved “for just small capital deployment, spare parts, people try to revitalize some of the existing stuff.”

Venezuela claims to sit on about a fifth of the world’s oil reserves, but

his personal control.

On Saturday, US special forces snatched Maduro and his wife from Caracas and whisked them to New York to face trial on drug charges.

It was not immediately clear whether Venezuela’s interim president Delcy Rodriguez had agreed to hand over the



PHOTO: REUTERS

Government supporters join a women’s march toward the office of interim President Delcy Rodriguez in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, days after a US strike and the capture of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores.

observers pointed out that a quick ramp-up of output would be hamstrung by several issues including its creaking infrastructure, low prices and political uncertainty.

Trump said Tuesday that 30-50 million barrels of Venezuelan crude will be shipped to US ports, with the revenue – perhaps more than \$2 billion at current market prices – placed under

oil, how the plan would work, or what its legal basis would be.

“Think about where Venezuela was a week ago. You know, it’s a little different today, but everything else is the same way it was,” Wright said.

“So it is going to require this cooperation between – and pressure between – the United States and Venezuela.”

Seat-sharing knot tightens for Jamaat, IAB

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The overlap is most pronounced in the Chattogram region, with 49 constituencies hosting rival candidates from the two parties.

Dhaka follows with 40 seats, Khulna with 34, Rajshahi and Mymensingh with 33 each, Rangpur with 30, and Barishal with 17. Sylhet records the least overlap, with eight constituencies.

Tensions escalated further after the alliance was expanded into 11 parties a day before the nomination deadline to include the National Citizen Party and others.

Islamic Andolan leaders have expressed dissatisfaction with Jamaat’s seat-sharing proposal, demanding a larger allocation and objecting strongly to what they see as undue importance given to the newly formed NCP, including the promise of as many as 30 seats.

Another partner Bangladesh Khilafat Majlis, led by Mamunul Haque, has taken a similar position.

Islamic Andolan Secretary General Maulana Yunus Ahmad acknowledged the strain.

“We were together,” he said, adding that last-minute decisions had unsettled several parties.

He said the original members of the alliance were not consulted before the inclusion of new parties and assurances of sharing seats with them.

“It’s not just Islamic Andolan; Other parties were also displeased,” he said.

Yet, the IAB secretary general insisted the raptures in the alliance were not beyond repair.

“Everyone still has the mindset to move together, and I hope this mindset won’t change,” he said, adding that fresh talks between Jamaat and IAB were expected soon.

From Jamaat’s side, Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher struck a more optimistic note, saying progress had been made. He expressed hope that a deal would be finalised shortly.

Asked about reports of a crisis with Islamic Andolan, he dismissed them outright, saying there was “no truth” to

such claims.

The fractures are most visible in constituencies where top leaders are pitted against one another.

In Cumilla-11, Jamaat’s Taher faces IAB’s Md Mohiuddin. Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer ATM Azharul Islam is contesting Rangpur-2, where IAB has nominated Ashraf Ali.

Khulna-5 features Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, while Islamic Andolan’s Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had his nomination rejected; Bangladesh Khilafat Majlis candidate Md Abdul Qayyum Jamaddar remains in the race there.

In Sirajganj-4, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Maulana Rafiqul Islam Khan is up against Islamic Andolan’s Abdur Rahman. Cox’s Bazar-2 has become a three-way contest, with Jamaat’s former MP and Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad appealing after rejection, IAB’s Ziaul Haq in the race, and Khilafat Majlis nominee Obaidul Qader Nadi also contesting.

Similar rivalries unfold elsewhere: former MP Shahjahan Chowdhury in Chattogram-15 faces IAB’s Shariful Alam Chowdhury; Jamaat Dhaka South city Ameer Nurul Islam Bulbul contests Chapainawabganj-3 against IAB’s Md Monirul Islam. In Khulna-4, IAB Secretary General Yunus Ahmad is running against Jamaat’s Md Kabirul Islam.

Barishal has emerged as another flashpoint. Jamaat candidates Muazzam Hossain Helal and Md Mahamudunnabi are contesting Barishal-5 and Barishal-6 respectively, seats where IAB Senior Nayeb-e-Ameer Mufti Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim is also an aspirant. IAB leaders Syed Eshak Md Abul Khayer and Syed Md Mosaddeq Billah are contesting Barishal-4 and Dhaka-4, where Jamaat candidates Mohammad Abdul Jabbar and Syed Zainul Abedin have also filed nominations.

There are, however, rare pockets of unity. No alliance partner has fielded a candidate against Jamaat Ameer

Shafiqur Rahman in Dhaka-15.

Beyond these high-profile contests, numerous constituencies across the country feature aspirants from three or more alliance partners, underscoring the depth of the coordination challenge facing the bloc.

Despite the turbulence, the alliance itself is historic. This marks the first time in nearly four decades that Jamaat and Islamic Andolan Bangladesh have entered into a formal electoral alliance.

Jamaat was banned along with other religion-based parties after Bangladesh’s independence in 1972.

With the prohibition lifted later, the party returned to national elections under its original name in 1986, achieving its best result in 1991 with 18 seats and 12.13 percent of the popular vote.

Jamaat boycotted the 2014 and 2024 polls and contested the 2018 election using the BNP’s paddy sheaf symbol as part of the BNP-led alliance. Its registration was cancelled in 2013 following a High Court verdict, but restored along with its symbol in June 2025.

Islamic Andolan Bangladesh traces its roots to Islamic Shashontantra Andolan, founded in 1987 by Syed Fazlul Karim, the then Pir of Charmonai. After his death in 2006, leadership passed onto his son Syed Rezaul Karim.

The party adopted its current name to comply with Election Commission registration rules ahead of the 2008 polls. EC data show the party secured 11,159 votes in June 1996, and more than 12 lakh votes in the 2018 election – the third-highest tally after the Awami League and the BNP-led alliance, although the polls were marred by allegations of widespread ballot stuffing the night before voting. In 2014 and 2024, IAB also boycotted the polls.

Political analysts say the growing prominence of Islamist parties in recent years, particularly following the recent student-led mass uprising, has lent new urgency and higher stakes to efforts at unity.

Swechchhasebak Dal leader shot dead

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family lives in a house on Garden Road of West Karwan Bazar. He was a BNP-backed candidate for the councillor post in Ward-26 of Teigaon during the city corporation polls in 2020.

Mohammad Javed, who accompanied Masud, said Musabbir and Masud were first taken to BRB Hospital before Masud was transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Masud got shot on the left side of his abdomen and is receiving treatment in the emergency ward of the DMCH, said Inspector Md. Faruq, in charge of the police camp at the hospital.

A spate of killings, especially some targeted ones involving the use of firearms at crowded places in Dhaka and elsewhere, has stirred concerns about the state of law and order ahead of the national election, slated for February 12.

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra recorded at least 401 incidents of political violence that left 102 people dead and 4,744 injured in 2025.

Since the election date was announced, at least six people have been killed, including three in the past seven days, and 250 others injured in political violence, according to the rights group Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation and media reports.

CA expects

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Pacific at the European External Action Service, he said the referendum, to be held alongside the general election scheduled for February 12, would mark a historic moment for the country.

“People in this country have not been able to vote in free and fair elections for the past 16 years under autocratic rule. This time, they will vote festively.”

The referendum will ask voters to approve the July Charter, a reform framework agreed upon by major political parties as part of the transition process. The charter focuses on strengthening democratic institutions, restoring electoral credibility, limiting the concentration of executive power, and safeguarding fundamental rights.

The chief adviser’s special envoy Lutfe Siddiqi, SDG Coordinator and Senior Secretary Lamiya Morshed; and European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Prof Ali Riaz, special assistant to the chief adviser, as the chief guest of a virtual meeting with agriculture ministry officials yesterday said that the purpose of the referendum is to ensure that Bangladesh does not return “to a fascist system.”

“This opportunity for a referendum will not come again in the next five or 10 years. Everyone must work together to seize this opportunity to determine how Bangladesh will move forward.”

BCB firm on not sending team to India

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Earlier in the day, the BCB issued a press release, categorically denying some reports on international media from Tuesday which suggested that the International Cricket Council (ICC) had issued an ultimatum in response to the board’s request to relocate World Cup matches from India.

The reports suggested the ICC told the BCB to either send its team to India or forfeit points. But the board claimed the nature of ICC’s response was completely different.

“In its communication, the ICC has reiterated its commitment to ensuring the full and uninterrupted participation of the Bangladesh team in the tournament. The ICC

has conveyed its willingness to work closely with the BCB to address the concerns raised and has assured that the board’s inputs will be welcomed and duly considered as part of the detailed security planning for the event,” the press release read.

The BCB president also slammed such reports as “propaganda.”

“There is propaganda claiming the ICC has informed us that playing in Sri Lanka is impossible, which is completely baseless. We have been in communication with the ICC, and they have asked us to specify our issues. We are currently documenting those issues for them,” he added.

A source at the BCB said that the

board is likely to send its response to the ICC today.

Bulbul said he remains hopeful of finding a proper resolution, but when asked what the board would do if Bangladesh’s World Cup participation were at risk of being compromised, he replied, “The situation will tell us but we will remain firm on our stance.”

Earlier on Sunday, the BCB had sent a letter to the ICC to relocate their World Cup matches from India, a day after Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) released Mustafizur Rahman from their squad, following the directives of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

LPG prices soar on artificial scarcity

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because we buy LPG at elevated rates,” said Abul Hossain, manager of Rahmat Enterprise, which was selling the 12kg cylinders of I-Gas and Omera brands at Tk 1,750.

Contacted, Mohammed Amirul Haque, president of the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh, said there are some issues in the supply chain and higher demand during winter have caused slight market instability even though imports are normal.

“We hope the situation will stabilise once the supply chain is fully restored in a few days.”

When prodded about importers themselves selling the product at a high rate, he said: “I cannot say all of us are honest. If anyone sells above the government-fixed price, their names should be made public.”

Highlighting the government’s inaction, he said: “Over the past year, we have repeatedly requested approval to

increase import volumes and permission to expand distribution units of the companies, but last November they told us that expansion is not allowed by the law. This is a short-sighted approach.”

Meanwhile, LP Gas Traders Cooperative Society announced an indefinite countrywide strike from today in the marketing and supply of the fuel.

Though the association had set a 24-hour ultimatum, it called the strike last night in a press statement. The statement said the traders will not collect LPG from the companies’ plants.

The development comes after it staged a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding higher distribution and retail charges.

“Without our consent, the BERC fixed the January rate. At this rate, we cannot even purchase cylinders. On top of that, the administration has been conducting drives,” said its President Selim Khan.

The association demanded that distribution charges be raised from Tk

50 to Tk 80 and retailer charges from Tk 45 to Tk 75, and called for an end to the “harassment” under the administration’s drives.

They had warned that if their demands were not met by Thursday, they would suspend distribution and marketing indefinitely.

According to the association, the main reason behind the price hike is a supply crunch.

“Only 1.25 crore cylinders out of 5.5 crore are being refilled by companies. The rest remain empty, increasing distributors’ costs. With most companies shutting down, distributors are on the verge of bankruptcy,” Selim said.

Meanwhile, the LOAB has requested that the government restructure VAT on LPG.

In a letter to the NBR chairman, LOAB proposed withdrawing 7.5 percent VAT at the production stage and imposing 10 percent VAT at the import stage, while keeping the advance tax at zero.

Shibir wins top posts in first JnUCSU polls

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received 2,203 votes.

In the AGS contest, Shibir-backed Masud Rana secured 5,020 votes. His JCD-backed rival BM Atikur Rahman Tanzil received 3,944 votes.

Riazul is the president of Shibir’s JnU unit and Arif is its secretary, while Masud Rana is the organiser of Up Bangladesh at the university.

With the three top posts, the Shibir-backed panel won 15 of the 21-strong JnUCSU.

JCD-backed candidates secured four posts with Riasal Rakib elected as library and seminar secretary, Mahid Hossain as transport secretary, Takrim Ahmed as literature and publication secretary and Sadman

Samyo as member.

Only one independent, Jahid Hasan, was elected member.

In reaction to his victory, Riazul said, “We’ve won because of the spontaneous support of students. Insha’Allah, we will work for them.”

Arif said the absence of a central students’ union since the institution was given the status of a public university two decades ago had demoralised students. “Now we will work together with everyone for the development of the campus,” he said.

AGS-elect Masud Rana said they would work with students to address their demands.

Most of the JCD-backed candidates could not be reached for comments as

members of Shibir began celebrating the victory on the campus.

Although the voting was held on Tuesday, the first set of results from four centres was announced at about 7:30am yesterday.

Vote counting was later suspended for nearly six hours because of technical problems and resumed around 12:30am.

Asked about the delay, Election Commissioner Kaniz Fatema Kakolee said counting was suspended for some time due to technical glitches.

“Results were announced after verification through both manual and digital methods to ensure transparency and accuracy,” she said.