



Sust students free VC, others after 14 hours

Demo for Sucsu polls may resume today

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *Sylhet*

Students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology have postponed their protests against the High Court order that suspended the Sucsu and hall union polls slated for today.

They announced the postponement of their sit-in in front of the administrative building around 1:15am.

The students also unlocked the administrative building where the vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor, treasurer, and other high officials had been confined since noon.

However, they asked the VC not to leave Sylhet until the Sucsu election is held and to complete all the necessary processes to hold the polls as soon as possible.

The students said they will resume their demonstrations in Golchattera area on the campus from this

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Students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology block the Sylhet-Sunamganj highway yesterday afternoon as part of their demonstrations against a High Court order that suspended the Sucsu and hall union polls slated for today. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

645 incidents against minorities, 71 communal

Govt says about 2025

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday said 645 incidents involving members of minority communities occurred between January and December last year, and that only 71 of those were communal in nature.

The 71 incidents include 38 instances of temple vandalism, one temple theft, eight temple arsons, one murder, and 23 other types of incidents like threats to break idols, inflammatory Facebook posts, and damage to worship pavilions.

In connection with these 71 incidents, 50 cases have been filed so far, and at least 50 persons have been arrested, the Chief Adviser's Office said in a Facebook post, citing official police records.

The 574 other incidents deemed non-communal in the post include 51 neighbourhood disputes, 23 land-related disputes, 106 thefts, 26 prior enmities, 172 unnatural deaths, 58 rapes, and 138 other incidents like abduction, extortion and intimidation.

At least 544 cases, including 154 related to unnatural deaths, were filed, and 498 persons were arrested in the incidents, it added.

According to the statement, Bangladesh remains

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91 BNP rebels still in race across 45 seats

Expulsions fail to clear field; allies worried

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

With rebel BNP candidates refusing to bow out in more than four dozen constituencies, the party finds itself in an increasingly tricky spot.

Sources say BNP high-ups are still negotiating with those contesting the polls in defiance of central directives and expulsion warnings.

Today is the deadline for candidacy withdrawal.

According to party insiders, 91 rebels remain active across more than 45 constituencies.

Many former or current local leaders who have been denied party tickets are running as independents, splitting local units and also weakening campaign coordination in several key constituencies.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said, "We tried to persuade the rebels and those holding party posts to withdraw from the race. Most of them have, while many were expelled for disobeying party instructions. We will certainly honor the commitments we have made to our allied parties."

Withdrawals were announced in Brahmanbaria-1 and 6, Sunamganj-5, Barishal-3, Bhola-1, and Rajshahi-6.

Meanwhile, at least six BNP rebels are contesting in constituencies allocated to alliance partners under a seat-sharing agreement.

The entry of BNP leaders into constituencies already allotted for alliance partners has sparked tensions and raised fears of vote splits and potential losses.

After resigning from Gono Odhikar Parishad, Rashed Khan joined the BNP and is contesting the Jhenaidah-4 seat as the party's nominee.

He said, "A rebel candidate is contesting in the same constituency... The candidate was asked to come to the Gulshan office but he did not respond. This is highly inappropriate."

Rashed expressed hope that the BNP would address the issue with a firm hand.

Alliance leaders have also privately conveyed their frustrations to the BNP, warning that failure to rein in rebels could be seen as a breach of trust.

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'Serial killer' held in Savar

Suspect tells cops he killed 6 people in 7 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Savar*

A man has been arrested in connection with six murders committed over the past seven months in Savar, including five killings inside an abandoned community centre, police said.

The suspect, Mashiur Rahman Samrat, 40, was detained from Mukti Mor area on Sunday after police analysed CCTV footage following the recovery of two burnt bodies from the Savar Municipal Community Centre, said Arafatul Islam, additional superintendent of police (crime, operations and traffic-north) of Dhaka.

During preliminary interrogation, Samrat confessed to involvement in all six murders, including the latest double killing, Arafatul said, adding that the motive could not be known immediately.

Samrat was later shown arrested in the double murder case filed by police



Samrat

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8,780 polling centres 'most vulnerable'

Identifies govt, rolls out election security plan involving drones, dogs, bodycams

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MUNTAKIM SAAD

With the 13th national election and referendum approaching, the interim government has placed the most vulnerable polling centres under heightened security, tightened controls on firearms and ordered law enforcers to take swift legal action against anyone attempting to disrupt the vote.

Of the country's 42,761 polling centres, 8,780 have been categorised as "most important", 16,548 as "important" and 17,433 as general centres. Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said they were describing the vulnerable centres as important ones. "Important means those that are risky from a security standpoint," he told the media yesterday.

Meanwhile, a total of 8.97 lakh members of law enforcement agencies, including security forces, will be deployed for seven days from February 8 to maintain law and order.

As part of the measures, police will use

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LAW ENFORCERS TO BE DEPLOYED	
Army	100,000
Navy	5,000
Air Force	3,730
Police	149,443
Ansar	576,314
BGB	37,453
Coast Guard	3,585
Rab	7,700
Fire Service	13,390
SOURCE: HOME MINISTRY	

Bid to stage 2008-style polls will fail: Nahid

NCP meets CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam has cautioned that any bid to stage a national election resembling the 2008 polls would fail, insisting that the upcoming election must be conducted in line with the 1991 model.

Speaking at a press conference after meeting the chief adviser at Jamuna yesterday, Nahid said his party would not allow an "engineered" election.

"There is no doubt about the election if a fair environment is ensured. But if there is a plan to engineer it, such a plan will fail and be resisted."

"We want to contest the election in the field, but the Election Commission should not force us onto the streets."

Nahid alleged that under pressure from the BNP, the EC has legitimised dual citizenship holders and

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ALIF MURDER

Chinmoy, 38 others indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A Chattogram court yesterday framed charges against 39 accused, including former Iskcon leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, in a case filed over the killing of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif outside the court premises in November 2024.

All 23 arrestees, including Chinmoy, were present at the courtroom.

Judge Md Jahidul Haque of the Chattogram Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal also set February 2 for recording the complainant's statement.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Raihanul Wazed Chowdhury, also the complainant's lawyer, told The Daily Star, "The court framed charges against Chinmoy under sections 302 and 109 of the Penal Code and brought charges against 22 others under sections 147, 148, 149, 302/34."

Abdus Sattar, president of Chattogram District Bar Association, said Chinmoy was represented by Dhaka

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Former Iskcon leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari being taken to the courtroom from the prison van under tight security, as a Chattogram court yesterday framed charges against Chinmoy and 38 other accused in the lawyer Saiful Islam Alif murder case. PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Humam recalls torture before tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Humam Quader Chowdhury, a victim of enforced disappearance, yesterday testified as the first prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case involving enforced disappearances, recounting his seven-month ordeal in secret detention at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC), popularly known as "Aynaghar."

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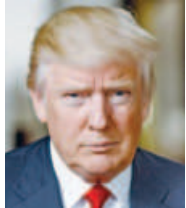
CONTROL OF GREENLAND

Trump links threat to Nobel snub

REUTERS, *Oslo*

US President Donald Trump linked his drive to take control of Greenland to his failure to win the Nobel Peace Prize, saying he no longer thought "purely of Peace" as the row over the island yesterday threatened to reignite a trade war with Europe.

In a written message to Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre that was seen by Reuters, Trump said: "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America."



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অভ্যাস পরিবর্তন করুন, হর্ন বাজানো বন্ধ করুন

অযথা হর্ন বাজানো শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ

শব্দদূষণ (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) বিধিমালা, ২০২৫ মেনে চলুন

দেশজুড়ে জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন ও পরিবেশ দূষণ বিষয়ক সচেতনতামূলক প্রচারাভিযান প্রকল্প

পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়