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## Sarba Mitra offers to resign after latest controversy

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amid criticism over repeated incidents of moral policing on the Dhaka University campus, Ducusu leader Sarba Mitra Chakma yesterday announced his resignation.

In a Facebook post, Sarba apologised for his actions but defended them, saying, "I did not do it for any personal gain, but for the betterment of the campus."

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Braving a cold winter morning, two farmers in the Barind region are busy transplanting Boro seedlings. The photo was taken yesterday at Rajabari area of Godagari upazila in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## TRIBUTE TO MARK TULLY

### A witness to Bangladesh's Liberation War

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR



Mark Tully was among the last of a generation -- not just in terms of the sweeping change they witnessed, from radio to television to the internet and the flood of social media, but also in terms of the respect and trust that reporters once commanded.

Beginning with radio, Tully was the BBC's voice from India for more than two decades, during which he covered South Asia. But for Bangladesh, he will forever be the voice that told the story of the Liberation War.

The BBC's coverage of the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 is widely appreciated. At

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### Daredevil free-climbs Taiwan's tallest building

AFP, Taipei



An American climber took on Taiwan's tallest building on Sunday, becoming the first person to scale Taipei 101 without a rope, harness or safety net.

Hundreds of spectators gathered at the base of the 101-storey tower to watch Alex Honnold, 40, embark on his daredevil feat, which was also broadcast live on Netflix.

After an hour and a half, he successfully made it up 1,667 feet before triumphantly rappelling down to reunite with his wife, Sami McCandless Honnold.

Speaking at a press briefing afterwards, Honnold said "time is finite", and people should "use it in the best way".

"If you work really hard... you can do hard things," Honnold added. Honnold has conquered some of the world's most intimidating rock faces and rose to global fame in 2017 after he climbed Yosemite's "El Capitan", lauded among his peers as the pinnacle of technical difficulty on the massive granite monolith.

## Observers return in droves to monitor this election

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED DEEPTO

The February 12 election is set to be held under the watch of the largest contingent of local and international observers since the 2008 polls.

The extended presence of observers, from grassroots civic groups to seasoned international missions, reflects a surge in both domestic vigilance and global curiosity about the country's democratic transition.

They said this election is widely hoped to be the first competitive contest since 2008, when Bangladesh last witnessed largely accepted and participated polls.

International and local observers noted that their mandate extends beyond simply watching events on

election day. While short-term monitors focus on polling and counting, long-term international observers usually track the broader process -- examining preparations, the legal framework, and its enforcement, the conduct of campaigns, and the mechanisms for resolving electoral disputes, said EC officials.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said 55,454 observers from 81 registered local organisations will be on duty. In addition, there will be around 500 foreign observers monitoring the polls.

A total of 1,59,113 local and 593 international observers

monitored the 2008 polls.

Polls expert Badiul Alam Majumdar, also chief of the now-defunct Electoral Reform Commission, told The Daily Star that the number of local and international observers has increased significantly as a competitive election is set to be held on February 12.

"Many international observers showed apathy in monitoring the three previous polls, as they were not contested. In many cases, they faced various obstacles, including being denied visa," he said.

Although parliamentary polls are scheduled every five years, this election comes just two years after the last one, following the fall of the Awami League regime, which had remained in power since 2008.

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People take part in a demonstration in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US on Sunday, a day after Alex Petti was fatally shot by federal immigration agents during an attempted detention. Billionaire Bill Ackman donated \$10,000 to a fundraiser for Petti's family, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing his spokesman.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## BCL leader gets bail 3 days after deaths of wife, child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days after the death of his wife and infant son, Chhatria League leader Jewel Hasan Saddam, who is currently at Jashore Central Jail, was granted bail yesterday.

The High Court granted him six months' ad interim bail in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act with Bagerhat Police Station on March 6 last year, Saddam's lawyer Sayed Ahmed Raza told The Daily Star.

The HC also issued a rule asking the state to explain why Saddam should not be granted permanent bail in the case.



The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan came up with the order and rule following a petition filed by Saddam's lawyer seeking his bail in the case.

Raza said the court granted bail to his client on humanitarian grounds following the recent deaths of his wife and son.

He added that with this order, Saddam has now secured bail in all pending cases against him.

Saddam, president of now-banned student organisation Chhatria League's Bagerhat Sadar Upazila unit, was arrested in Gopalganj following the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5, 2024, and had been charged in several cases.

Earlier on Saturday night, Saddam was allowed to see his wife and son for the last time under police supervision at the gate of Jashore Central Jail. Family members said they had applied for his release on parole but then had to arrange for the bodies to be taken to the jail gate instead.

Witnesses at the jail gate had described scenes of profound grief during the final farewell. The incident later drew criticism across social media, with many arguing that Saddam should have been granted parole to attend the funeral.

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## 'Speak up' and take action

Obama, Clinton urge Americans after Minneapolis shootings; Trump says administration 'reviewing everything'

AGENCIES

Two Democratic former presidents on Sunday condemned the scenes in Minnesota after Alex Petti was killed this weekend, framing the tragedy as a pivotal moment that calls Americans to "speak up" and take action.

Former president Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama called Petti's death a "heartbreaking tragedy" in a statement. "It should also be a wake-up call to every

American, regardless of party, that many of our core values as a nation are increasingly under assault," the Obamas wrote.

The Obamas criticised the "unprecedented tactics" the Department of Homeland Security has employed. White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said Obama was exploiting the moment to "sow more division."

Former president Bill Clinton called the scenes in Minneapolis

"horrible" in a statement on social media. "Over the course of a lifetime, we face only a few moments where the decisions we make and the actions we take will shape our history for years to come. This is one of them," he wrote.

Clinton said "the people in charge" are lying to the public and telling them "not to believe what we've seen with our own eyes," reports NBC News online.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিক শাখা

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

চিকিৎসা গেইট, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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পরিচালক

(হাসপাতাল ও ক্লিনিক সমূহ)

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা

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