

Swechchhasebak Dal leader killed in 'BNP factional clash'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanangani

A leader of Swechchhasebak Dal has been killed in a clash allegedly between two BNP factions at Trishkania in Kanchan municipality area in Rupganj upazila.

The deceased was identified as Azhar Uddin, 48, senior vice-president of the Swechchhasebak Dal's Ward No 9 unit.

Three others -- Sabuj, Ripon and Emrat -- were injured in the clash and are receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Local sources said an internal discussion meeting of BNP and its associate bodies was held at the Ward No-9 office on Friday evening.

During the meeting, an argument broke out between Ward Swechchhasebak Dal president Sabuj and Jubo Dal activist Rajib Hossain over the placement of names in a programme list.

At one stage, Rajib and his associates allegedly punched Sabuj and Azhar. Azhar fell to the ground after being injured. He was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition where doctors declared him dead.

Rupganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shabzel Hossain said Azhar was killed during a scuffle stemming from a dispute over name placement in a party programme. The body has been sent to a morgue for autopsy, he said.

Applications for Hajj visa open from February 8

UNB, Dhaka

The Religious Affairs Ministry has announced that applications for Hajj visas for the current year will open on February 8 and continue until March 20.

The Religious Affairs Ministry issued a notice in this regard on Thursday.

All registered Hajj pilgrims, both through government and private channels, are currently undergoing health check-ups at government hospitals, it said.

According to the directives of Saudi Arabia, pilgrims must complete their medical examinations and receive the required vaccinations to obtain a fitness certificate.

With the certificate, they can apply for Hajj visas through the Saudi Nusk Masar system between February 8 and March 20.

The ministry urged all registered pilgrims, including expatriates, to complete health check-ups at any government hospital in Bangladesh, required vaccinations, and obtain fitness certificates before applying for visas.

This year, no pilgrim will be allowed to perform Hajj without a valid fitness certificate.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Businesspeople and local residents form a human chain at Charsindur Bazar in Palash upazila, Narsingdi yesterday, demanding a speedy probe and justice in the killing of businessman Moni Chakraborty, who was shot dead by miscreants on January 5.

3,200 doctors to join field services in 10 days

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Over 3,200 doctors are set to join field-level services within the next 10 days, providing a major boost to healthcare, particularly in rural areas.

For the first time, upazila health complexes will have emergency medical officers to provide emergency services.

Recruited under the 48th special BCS, a total of 3,263 health cadres -- 2,984 assistant surgeons and 279 assistant dental surgeons -- will formally submit their joining letters today.

"The joining of such a large number of doctors at the upazila level and below will have a positive impact on rural health services," Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The development comes at a time when around 10,000 doctor posts remain vacant at the field level. There have been widespread complaints that many doctors are not providing services at upazila-level facilities and below, leaving patients deprived of

care.

The authorities completed the recruitment process within eight months. The circular for the 48th special BCS was published on May 25 last year, and the final gazette was issued on January 22 this year.

"This is unprecedented in the country," Sayedur said.

The health ministry has

"We will then begin the posting process and hope to complete it before the general elections," said Sanjida Sharmin, joint secretary of the health ministry.

Sayedur said around 3,500 nurses were appointed, mostly at the upazila level, late last year, and their postings were processed, for the first time, through a fully automated system.

The selected doctors will also be posted using the automated method. Each upazila health complex will receive four to five doctors, including two emergency medical officers, while some doctors will be posted at the union level.

According to 2023 health ministry data, 6,587 (18 percent) of the 36,760 doctor posts under the Directorate General of Health Services remained vacant.

The data also show that of the 1,636 doctor posts under the Directorate General of Family Planning, 686 (42 percent) were vacant.

AT A GLANCE

Upazilas to get emergency medical officers

Rural healthcare set for major boost

Automated system to handle postings

Doctor vacancies remain high at field level

asked all selected doctors to submit their joining letters today and has arranged a programme at the Shaheed Abu Sayed International Convention Centre in Shabbagh, Dhaka, for this purpose.

St Martin's closes for tourists from today

UNB, Cox's Bazar

St Martin's Island, the country's only coral island located in the north-eastern part of the Bay of Bengal, will remain closed to travellers for nine months from February 1 as part of a conservation measure.

As a result, tourists staying on the island are returning to their respective destinations on January 31 and February 1.

Although Saint Martin's was opened to tourists for three months, overnight

stays were permitted for only two months. In addition, the daily number of tourists was capped at 2,000, and entry without prior registration was not allowed. Due to these restrictions, the local tourism business has suffered significantly.

Earlier, the government announced a nine-month suspension of tourism activities on St Martin's Island. According to a decision by the government, tourism activities for the current season officially ended yesterday. Consequently, no tourist vessels will operate to the island from today.

'Students don't want me to quit'

Sarba Mitra retracts Ducsu resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The controversial executive member of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu), Sarba Mitra Chakma, has withdrawn his decision to resign from his post.

He announced his resignation on a Facebook post on Monday after a video went viral showing him forcing a group of teenagers to perform squats while holding their ears at DU's central field.

On the same day, the university authorities issued him a show-cause notice over the incident and asked him to respond within 24 hours.

Sarba yesterday told the media that he reconsidered his decision following the opinions expressed by students.

"Students do not want me to resign. They say such a resignation would be seen as an 'anti-student' move. Resigning this way would betray their trust. Hence, I have withdrawn my decision," he said.

Sarba, a resident of Rangamati, won an executive post from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-led panel in the Ducsu election last year.

He has previously drawn attention for leading several controversial eviction drives against floating shops and vagabonds on campus.



Uprisings failed to deliver lasting

FROM PAGE 3

"some gains were made, some were not" can become a form of self-deception.

"After so much bloodshed, avoiding hard self-criticism is not just an analytical failure, it is an injustice to those who lost their lives," he said.

He also said the bureaucracy has strong "staying power" and can "diffuse, delay and nullify" reform, partly due to a lack of political literacy about how the state functions.

Academician Subho Basu said the 1969 uprising took place in a global context, as the 1960s saw student, youth and worker movements worldwide amid Cold War politics.

He said Ayub Khan's so-called "decade of development" came with a form of "military capitalism", where wealth was concentrated among a few families, while unemployment, inflation and declining real incomes burdened workers and the middle class.

These pressures helped drive the 1969 movement, he said.

Drawing a parallel with the period before July 2024, he said claims of economic progress under Sheikh Hasina concealed structural problems such as youth unemployment, insecure work and rising living costs.

Prof Syeed Ferdous of Jahangirnagar University cautioned against viewing mass uprisings as events with clear beginnings and endings, questioning whether July 2024 was being assessed too early.

"We are still sitting inside the event," he said.

Referring to 1969 and

1952, he said baton charges, tear gas and shootings occurred, but casualties were limited and protesters were not subjected to enforced disappearances.

He contrasted this with 2024, saying the scale of bloodshed raises serious questions about why political change today appears to require so many deaths.

Umama Fatema, former spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination, said lived experiences are often erased when uprisings are later written into official history.

She said people join movements because of daily realities such as inflation, job insecurity and authoritarian control, not abstract ideas.

However, she expressed concern that July was already being claimed by partisan interests and reduced to a referendum.

"Why should the entire July uprising be reduced to a referendum's yes or no?" she asked.

She urged journalists and researchers to document the "real history" of 2024 without delay.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said he participated in the 1969 movement as a Dhaka University student and described it as an unforgettable experience.

He said major student organisations united around a programme addressing labourers, peasants, the economy and, in particular, regional autonomy.

Through a non-violent struggle, students and people showed they had the capacity to remove Ayub Khan's military rule, he said.

However, he added that unity forged during uprisings often fades after the fall of a ruler, and Bangladesh has repeatedly failed in the constructive phase that follows.

Referring to the July charter, he said it includes many positive recommendations from different commissions and expressed hope that at least the major proposals would be implemented, noting the persistent gap between decision-making and execution.

At the event, Laisa Binte Kamal sang a song, while Mashrur Shakil recited a poem.

The discussion was moderated by The Daily Star journalist Emran Mahfuz.

It's bizarre

FROM PAGE 3

Jamaat joined hands with Sheikh Hasina and became a partner in governments led by Khaleda Zia.

It said that in the twenty-first century, such a regressive stance seeks to deprive more than half of the country's population -- women -- of their rights.

The statement also said the Jamaat leader spoke of reducing women's working hours and imposing dress regulations based on religion, which Naripokkho described as politically motivated and aimed at further restricting women's freedom and reinforcing a patriarchal society. Any attempt to deprive women of their rights is unacceptable, the organisation said.

Naripokkho called on all to resist any effort aimed at undermining the establishment of equal rights for women.

UTTARA BANK PLC.

PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT

DEPARTMENT, HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for

- 1. Construction and other related works of proposed Uttara Bank PLC. Ashugonj Branch, Brahmanbaria; and**
- 2. Supplying & installation of various Microsoft products under the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for the next 03(three) years for Uttara Bank PLC.**

Please visit
www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender for details.

General Manager

Office of the Sub-Project Manager
Improving Rice Productivity in Phosphorus-Deficient Soils Through Genetic and Microbial Innovations (HEAT-PSTU-13566)
Dumki, Patuakhali-8660

Memo No: PSTU/GPB/HEAT-ATF/PIN_13566/e-Tender/2025-2026/44 Date: 30.01.2026

Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Goods given

SI No	Tender ID No	Invitation Reference No	Name of Works	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
01	1216958	HEAT-ATF-PSTU-13566	Supply and installation of specialized molecular biology equipment	16-Feb-2026 17:00	17-Feb-2026 13:00
02	1216964	HEAT-ATF-PSTU-13566	Supply and installation of general laboratory and sample processing equipment	16-Feb-2026 17:00	17-Feb-2026 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenderers will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the national e-GP portal ((<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and form e-GP help desk (Email: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Professor Dr. Md. Mahmudul Hassan
 Sub-Project Manager
 HEAT-ATF Sub Project (PIN_13566)
 Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding
 Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Dumki, Patuakhali-8660

GD-227

Spanish

FROM PAGE 3

were trapped on The Daily Star's roof as attackers destroyed furniture, equipment, posters and photographs, with fires spreading from the ground floor to the upper levels of the building.

The Daily Star filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station against 350-400 unnamed individuals in connection with the violent attack under the Penal Code, the Special Powers Act, the Cyber Security Ordinance and the Anti-Terrorism Act.

PRAYER TIMING

FEBRUARY 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
 Directorate of Planning and Development

e-Tender Notice

No. P&D/LP(S-1)/203/REC/26/CERM-01/Dr-342 Date: 31 Jan 2026

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders have been published through e-GP Portal.

e-Tender ID & Package No.	Name of goods	Last selling and closing date & time
Tender ID: 1222457 Package No: LP_S-1_203 REC Fund/CERM-01	Supply and Installation of Desktop Computer with UPS for the Centre for Environmental and Resource Management, BUET, Dhaka.	16/02/2026; 16.00 17/02/2026; 15.00
Tender ID: 1220698 Package No: LP_S-1 205 REC Fund/Phy-05	Supply and Installation of 300W Xenon Lamp Light source system for the Department of Physics, BUET, Dhaka	15/02/2026; 16.00 16/02/2026; 15.30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Director
 Directorate of Planning and Development
 BUET, Dhaka

GD-229