

Journalists held without trial for up to 620 days

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at 2:30pm -- around the time Sheikh Hasina was fleeing Gonobhaban.

The first information report (FIR) states that Shraban was shot in the left side of his chest, and the bullet exited through his waist. He was declared dead at Dr Azmal Hospital at 3:20pm.

Shraban, the son of a motor mechanic from Naogaon, came to Dhaka to study and took a job as a lab assistant to support his education.

The case, which was filed nine months after Shrabon died, names 408 accused, 25 of them journalists.

The basis for including the journalists appears in a single paragraph of the FIR. Accused numbers 212 to 236 -- the journalists -- are described as practitioners of "yellow journalism" who "broadcast false information through electronic and print media" and "provided provocative statements" that instigated law enforcement to kill. The case does not mention any specific broadcast or statement.

Three witnesses named in the case told The Daily Star they had no idea it was filed, nor were they eyewitnesses.

In a separate case, Farzana Rupa and Shakil Ahmed are co-accused alongside former ministers, senior police officers, and AL leaders. The case statement described them collectively as having "aided in the declaration of war against the general public." The complainant states he identified the journalists among the accused by "interrogating locals."

Both Rupa and Shakil were taken into remand for 5 days in this case.

Mozammel Haque Babu is also named in the killing of a 19-year-old named Imran Hasan, who was preparing to sit for his secondary school certificate exams when a bullet took his life.

Imran was shot around 1:00pm on August 5, when the police descended upon unarmed protesters and hunted them point blank.

The case filed with the Jatrabari police on September 4, 2024, names 297 people and a further 250 to 300 unnamed accused. Eleven of them

are journalists.

The FIR states that the accused, acting "under the direct orders and pre-planned conspiracy" of Sheikh Hasina and the leaders of the 14-party alliance, spread "rumours via online and offline platforms" that led police, Rab, and BGB officers to conduct "indiscriminate firing and physical and mental torture on innocent, unarmed students."

Babu, a television editor, is among those held responsible for the words of a former prime minister and the bullets of the police force.

Shahriar Kabir is named in a case filed over the death of Md Rafiqul Islam, who was killed during an attack on the crowd on the night of July 18, 2024, in front of Monowara Hospital in Jatrabari.

His wife Narzia filed the case with Jatrabari Police Station five weeks after her husband's death -- naming Kabir, a 75-year-old journalist and filmmaker, among those responsible.

While the grieving families of these victims seek justice, Farzana Rupa and Shakil Ahmed have been held in pre-trial detention for 619 days, Mozammel Haque Babu and Shyamal Dutta have been inside for 593 days and Shahriar Kabir for 592 days.

Farzana Rupa is accused in nine cases, Shakil Ahmed and Mozammel Babu in eight cases, Shyamal Dutta in six cases, while Shahriar Kabir is accused in at least nine cases, including one at the International Crimes Tribunal.

"There is no hope of bail from the lower courts in these cases.... Any time one of them get bail in a lower court, they are 'shown arrested' in another case immediately after," said Advocate ZI Khan Panna, a senior counsel who is representing Babu, Dutta and Kabir.

Family sources close to Shakil and Rupa said the duo were rejected bail at every turn in the lower courts before reaching the higher courts early last year.

The one-time bail was granted, it was suspended soon after. On January 20, 2025, the High Court granted bail to the couple in a murder case, but just two days later, the

Supreme Court's Appellate Division stayed that order following a petition by the state.

They had to start from the bottom up again -- a year-long process -- before finally securing a date with the High Court for a rule on April 28 this year.

That ruling, however, was postponed to May 11 after the state sought more time to investigate, even though hearings had concluded on April 21.

Three United Nations special experts questioned the interim government about them on March 7, 2025.

"It is notably concerning that journalists have been accused of charges of the utmost seriousness, reportedly including murder and inciting murder, and put under provisional detention without reportedly having had any evidence of their direct participation in such acts presented. We are concerned that the arrest and detention of Rupa and Ahmed may be directly linked to their work as journalists and their exercise of the right to freedom of expression," said the letter.

The letter was jointly signed by Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression; Ganna Yudkivska, Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; and Margaret Satterthwaite, Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.

They rejected the presumption that journalism can incite murder -- speech can incite hostility only under very narrow circumstances, the letter noted, and cannot be "conflated with the offences of incitement to murder or murder".

Meanwhile, after being rejected at the lower courts, Shyamal Dutta sought relief with the High Court.

Eight months after his arrest, the High Court issued a rule asking the government to explain why Dutta should not be granted bail. The state challenged the rule.

His lawyer Panna said that the matter is now before the Appellate Division, where the court has spent the better part of a year deliberating on a single question -- why should he not be granted bail.

Babu's bail hearing is set for today but his lawyer Panna expects the state to drag it to the Appellate Court Division.

Shahriar Kabir has been taken into remand in five of the nine cases filed against him.

In August 2025, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention flagged the case of Shahriar Kabir to the UN Human Rights Council, arguing that Kabir's "deprivation of liberty allegedly lacks legal basis", that his detention is "arbitrary", and that he is being denied a fair trial.

It stated that Kabir was arrested without a warrant, prevented from accessing legal representation immediately after, and at court, and is being maltreated in custody.

"Kabir has a metal rod in his upper and lower left leg; he thus cannot walk freely and needs a walking stick or a wheelchair. During the court proceedings, Kabir requested permission from the Court to sit on a chair, but the magistrate did not allow him to do so," said the working group, adding, "The police did not provide Kabir with a wheelchair or allow him to use the elevator."

The submission noted how Kabir was attacked twice at court, and how it is evident that "police are seen protecting themselves rather than Kabir" as he was "dragged to the second floor of the court building".

In an interview with The Daily Star last week, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture Dr Alice Edwards, said that the cases involving arbitrary detention "clearly require judicial oversight".

"The police should be non-politicised, and the investigative body should be a professional police force operating to the same standards regardless of which political party a person represents," she commented.

"What I would really like to see is a recognition that a society cannot be built on cycles of revenge. It must be built on the rule of law, the separation of powers, and human rights -- and all of this will also lead to political stability, peaceful transitions of power, and overall improvement in everyone's lives."

Big projects top agenda

FROM PAGE 1
policymakers will discuss these proposals and provide necessary directives at the conference, which will continue until May 6 and feature 34 sessions over the four-day period.

A review of over 50 agendas proposed by the DCs reveals various initiatives, the implementation of which would require the government to undertake large-scale projects. Sylhet's DC proposed constructing an expressway from Lakkatura to the airport on the Sylhet-Osmari Airport Road, while Mymensingh's DC suggested upgrading the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway to eight lanes.

Noakhali's DC proposed establishing an international-standard airport, and Gazipur's DC recommended setting up an economic zone to relocate the district's industrial factories to a designated area.

The DC of Cox's Bazar proposed a project to establish a salt processing plant, while Rangpur's divisional commissioner suggested constructing a 1,000-bed hospital. To modernise the tourism industry, Moulvibazar's DC proposed integrated development projects in tourist areas. Additionally, Rajshahi's DC called for establishing labs to test the quality of exportable goods like vegetables, mangoes, and betel leaves.

The DC of Panchagarh suggested setting up foreign language learning centres in all districts and upazilas. Furthermore, at least 12 DCs and one divisional commissioner -- including those from Madaripur, Barguna, Sylhet, Habiganj, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Khulna, Meherpur, and Cox's Bazar -- proposed projects for planned waste management centres and water plants in all unions and municipalities across the country.

Naogaon's DC proposed gradually establishing indoor stadiums in every district, while the DCs of Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Kurigram, and Bogura suggested setting up service and assistance centres for persons with disabilities in all districts.

Meanwhile, several DCs have also submitted development proposals for marginalised communities. These include establishing government primary schools in tea gardens, making education free for all students with disabilities and from low-income families on a district-wise basis, and introducing an integrated curriculum and assessment system to ensure learning for all children.

Additionally, they proposed formulating a policy for the establishment of qawmi madrasas, and recruiting teachers in relevant languages to ensure that students from ethnic minority groups are taught in their own languages.

Speaking at a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday, Cabinet Secretary Nasimul Ghani said 1,729 proposals were sent by divisional commissioners and DCs from across the country, of which 498 have been selected for discussion. Responding to a query, he said the conference will not only focus on the proposals but will also see government policymakers issue necessary directives to the DCs.

PROPOSALS INCLUDE

- Major infrastructure projects, including expressway in Sylhet
- Economic zone in Gazipur to relocate industrial factories
- Waste management centres, water plants across all unions and municipalities
- Development initiatives for marginalised groups, including free education

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LP GAS LIMITED

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh



Ref No. 28.27.0000.000.014.99.0001.25-286

Date: 30 April, 2026

Invitation for International tender notice for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LPG Cylinder retesting system (tilting testing ramp with 10 post) with Other machineries & equipment including related services.

LP Gas Limited (LPGL) hereby invites offer from reputed manufacturers/suppliers for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LPG Cylinder retesting system (tilting testing ramp with 10 post) with Other machineries & equipment including related services accordance with the terms and conditions set out hereinafter:

1	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources / Energy & Mineral Resources Division	
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	LP Gas Limited (A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)	
4	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram, Bangladesh.	
5	Invitation for	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LPG Cylinder retesting system (tilting testing ramp with 10 post) with Other machineries & equipment including related services.	
6	Invitation Ref. No.	28.27.0000.000.014.99.0001.25-286	
7	Date	30/04/2026	
KEY INFORMATION			
8	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM) for Turnkey Contract, ICT	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9	Budget & Source of fund	Own fund of LPGL	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
10	Tender Package No.	Ctg/(Re-testing)/25	
11	Tender Package Name	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LPG Cylinder retesting system (tilting testing ramp with 10 post) with Other machineries & equipment including related services.	
12	Tender Publication Date	03/05/2026	
13	Tender Last Selling Date	16/06/2026	
14	Tender Closing Date & Time	17/06/2026, Time- 14:30 Hrs (BST)	
15	Tender Opening Date & Time	17/06/2026, Time- 14:45 Hrs (BST)	
16	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address	
	- Selling Place of Tender Documents	i) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, 10 th Floor, BTMC Bhaban, 2 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. ii) LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.	
	- Receiving Tender Documents	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.	
	- Opening Tender Documents	-Do-	
17	Offer Validity Time	150 (One hundred fifty) days from the date of tender opening.	
18	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Place: LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh Date: 19/05/2026 Time: 11:00 Hrs (BST)	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
19	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	As per Tender Document.	
20	Brief Description of Goods & Works	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LPG Cylinder retesting system (tilting testing ramp with 10 post) with Other machineries & equipment including related services.	
21	Brief Description of Related Services	Related Services are as per Tender Document.	
22	Price of Tender Documents	BDT 10,000 or US\$ 80 (Non-refundable) per set	
23	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location
	1	Single Lot	LP Gas Limited
		Tender Security Amount	Completion Time in Weeks
		BDT 20 (Twenty) Lac or US\$ 16300 (Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred)	32(Thirty Two) Weeks
PURCHASER DETAILS			
24	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Siddique Hossain	
25	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (O&D)	
26	Address of Official Inviting Tender	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh	
27	Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +88-02333301586, Mobile: +88-01715-694093 E-mail: sidd_hossain@yahoo.com	
28	Bidder(s) must submit the original money receipt for Tender Document along with their offer and Seal & Sign in every pages of tender documents.		
29	This Tender Notice/Document will be available at BPC website: www.bpc.gov.bd and LPGL website: www.lpgl.gov.bd		
30	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers in part or in full or annul the tender proceedings without assigning any reason.		

GD-975

(Engr. Md. Siddique Hossain)
General Manager (O&D)



Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)

BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Research Grants for Post Graduate Medical Students

FY: 2026-2027

Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) invites application for research grants (thesis/dissertation) from post graduate medical students. Eligible candidates are requested to submit their protocol according to PP-03 through proper channel (including letter of supervisor/guide and approval letter from local IRB) with relevant documents. Four (04) copies of the Protocol (with Questionnaire & Consent Form) along with a soft copy (word documents) to be submitted with application mentioning the undersigned from 03 May to 09 June, 12:00 Noon, 2026 (except holidays).

N.B: Grants will be possible to disburse only after getting funds from the government.

Director, BMRC

Tel: +88 02 222298396 | Fax: +88 02 222263820

Email: info@bmrcbd.org | Web: www.bmrcbd.org

GD-977



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কর কমিশনারের কার্যালয়
কর অঞ্চল-যশোর

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৩০ এপ্রিল ২০২৬ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

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০৩	উচ্চমান সহকারী	২২ টি
০৪	সীটমুদ্রাকরিক-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর	২৩ টি
০৫	অফিস সহকারী কাম কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাকরিক	২৭ টি
০৬	অফিস সহায়ক	২৭ টি

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GD-974