



BNP trying to establish one-party rule

Alleges Jamaat ameer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Leader of the Opposition and Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday alleged that the BNP is attempting to establish one-party rule in the country.



"The government has already committed many irregularities. From appointing the central bank governor to interfering in banks like Islami Bank, removing qualified university vice-chancellors and appointing loyal party affiliates, and placing party cadres as administrators in important institutions like district councils -- these are all efforts to establish one-party rule in Bangladesh," he said while addressing a party conference as the chief guest at the central Eidgah ground in Masdair, Narayanganj.

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Canada forward Jonathan David celebrates after scoring one of his three goals against Qatar in their FIFA World Cup 2026 Group B match at BC Place Vancouver yesterday. The Juventus forward's hattrick helped the co-hosts to a 6-0 victory in the match, which also saw two Qatar players sent off.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Canadians celebrate first World Cup win

REUTERS, Niagara Falls

Pints of beer, bowls of poutine, maple candies and Niagara Falls for a backdrop -- Canadians and tourists at one of the most iconic natural wonders in North America were spoilt for choice when they turned up to watch Canada take on Qatar at the World Cup on Friday.

The cherry on top was a 6-0 win over Qatar -- a historic first win for Canada at the finals in their Group B match in Vancouver.

Ecstatic supporters hugged their friends and families on the final whistle, which capped off a dominant display by Canada against a Qatar side that ended the match with nine men.

"We're here for Canada's first-ever win at the FIFA World Cup, set next to one of Canada's natural landmarks. It's unreal. What an experience. You couldn't ask for more," said Dylan McAleer, a local resident.

"Watch out for Canada. We're coming out. This is our time, I think," he signed off.

The gathering, organised by Niagara Parks, welcomed hundreds of people just steps away from the cascading waterfalls.

Every goal from Canada was cheered by fans as they rose from their Muskoka chairs, with some breaking into a celebratory dance.

Fifty-seven-year-old Najeeb Bataineh, a resident of the city of St. Catharines, started handing out a Canadian

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Sherwood Forest oak in Robin Hood legend has died

CNN ONLINE

When knights of old went looking for Robin Hood, they knew where to find him. The legendary outlaw has been associated with England's Sherwood Forest for centuries, and one tree in particular has traditionally been cited as his hideout: the Major Oak.

Scientists now believe this 1,200-year-old oak tree has died after it failed to produce any new leaves this spring, British conservation body the Royal Society for



the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said in a news release.

With a canopy spread of 28 metres (92 feet) and a trunk circumference of 11 metres (36 feet), the Major Oak was one of the biggest trees in Britain.

Simon Parfey, the managing director of soil microbiology firm SoilBioLab, who was part of the team caring for the tree, said in the press release: "While the Major Oak team worked tirelessly to revive the environment around this iconic tree -- and saw encouraging signs of life in some areas -- the damage, it now seems, was already too deeply entrenched to fully reverse." The Major Oak became famous as a tourist attraction thanks to its connection to Robin Hood.

AL FOUNDING ANNIV

PHQ issues alert over possible clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police Headquarters has issued a nationwide alert over fears of possible clashes between Awami League activists and members of other political parties, centred on the party's founding anniversary on June 23.

In a notification signed by DIG Kamrul Ahasan, the PHQ on Thursday sent instructions to the heads of all units across the country, asking them to remain alert and take necessary precautionary measures.

According to the notification, leaders and activists of the Awami League, which faces a ban on its activities, may try to hoist party flags at local offices and bring out processions carrying banners marking the party's founding anniversary in different districts.

Such activities could lead to confrontations with activists of other political parties, especially members of the National Citizen Party and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, the

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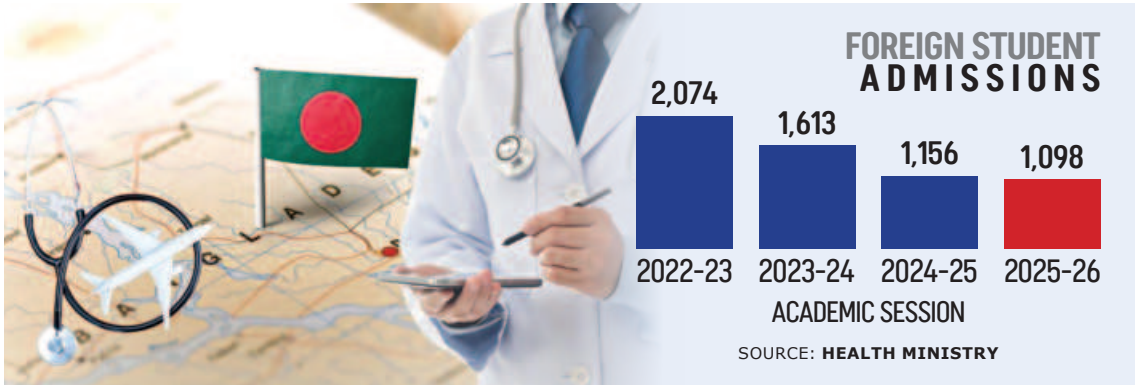
PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGES

Foreign student enrolment drops over past 3 years

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Enrolment of foreign students in Bangladesh's private medical colleges has declined sharply over the past three years, raising concerns about the sector's competitiveness and the country's

position as a destination for medical education. Admissions of foreign students dropped to 1,098 in the 2025-26 academic session from 2,074 in 2022-23 -- a decline of nearly 50 percent, according to health ministry data.



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The fall has been driven primarily by a decrease in the number of Indian students, who traditionally make up more than two-thirds of foreign students

accreditation system, a sharp reduction in fees at Indian private medical colleges, and an increase in admission capacity of medical colleges in India, they said.

Each of the 72 private medical colleges in Bangladesh is allowed to enrol foreign students up to 45 percent of its total seats.

In the 2025-26 session, 6,278 seats were available in these colleges, meaning they could admit more than 2,800 foreign

students. However, they managed to enrol only 1,098 foreign students.

Public medical colleges have 125 seats reserved for students from SAARC countries and 99 seats for students from other countries. In the current session, 106 students

enrolled from SAARC countries, while around 20 students, mostly from Palestine, were admitted under the "other regions" category.

REASONS BEHIND THE DECLINE Prof Moazzem Hossain, general secretary of Bangladesh Medical College Association, identified two major reasons behind the decline: propaganda amid strained Bangladesh-India

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Journo held in case over reports on Shahe Alam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

The Detective Branch (DB) of Bogura police has arrested a journalist in connection with a case filed under the Cyber Security Act over a series of reports that allegedly defamed State Minister for IGRD Mir Shahe Alam.

The journalist, Md Rezanur Islam, acting editor of daily Agrajatra Pratidin, also faces extortion allegations.

Law enforcers arrested Rezanur in Gazipur on Thursday night, said Iqbal Bahar, inspector of Bogura DB police. Rezanur is from Basura village in Joydebpur, Gazipur.

Judge Abdullah Al Mamun of Bogura Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court sent him to jail yesterday after he was produced before the court, said Atowar Rahman, additional superintendent of police (Media Wing), Bogura.

Another journalist,

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Gaza ceasefire a 'deadly illusion'

Unicef says 265 children killed, over 400 injured since truce

AFP, Geneva

The ceasefire declared in Gaza more than eight months ago is a "deadly illusion", the UN charged yesterday, with 265 children killed there since the fighting was supposed to have stopped.

Despite a ceasefire being declared in October 2025, Israel has continued to launch strikes across Gaza, killing at least 992 Palestinians since then, according to the occupied territory's health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

The UN children's agency said the number of Palestinian children killed since the ceasefire was announced between Israel and Hamas, which runs Gaza, was an "absurd and devastating figure".

"During a period supposedly defined by restraint and protection, a child has been killed, on average, every single day for more than eight months," Unicef spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva, speaking from Amman.

In addition to those killed, more than 400 children had been injured since the ceasefire was declared, "many with catastrophic wounds", Elder said.

"For many, many months, the world has been told there is a ceasefire in Gaza. Yet for Palestinian children, this so-called ceasefire has become a cruel and a deadly illusion."

Elder stressed that the children killed since the ceasefire was declared "were not killed in a war zone".

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Khadija Amara, who local residents said had not left her home, fills a jerrycan with water as she sits among the rubble of a house damaged by an Israeli strike, in Qlaileh in the Tyre district of southern Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BNP leader hacked in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ward-level BNP leader was seriously injured in a machete attack by unidentified assailants in Dhaka's Mohammadpur yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Nurul Islam, 55, is the senior joint general secretary of Ward 33 BNP.

The attack took place around 2:30pm on Road 4 of the Sat Masjid Road Housing area.

Nurul's younger brother, Billal Hossain, said he was attacked while returning home from Juma prayers.

"Six men arrived on three motorcycles and hacked my brother on the face, shoulder, and left hand before fleeing the scene."

Hearing his screams,

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