



NEWS IN FOCUS

Khulna Tanti Dal leader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A leader of the BNP-affiliated Tanti Dal was hacked to death by assailants at his business establishment in Khulna city yesterday.

The deceased, Syed Humayun Kabir, was joint convener of the Khulna city unit of Tanti Dal, the BNP's affiliated organisation of handloom weavers, said Mizanur Rahman Milton, convener of Khulna city BNP's media cell.

The attack took place around 6:30pm at Hill Canteen, behind Rayermohol Boro Mosque.

According to police and witnesses, a group armed with sharp weapons attacked Humayun, leaving him with multiple injuries, including to his chest.

He was taken to Khulna Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said his relative Syed Didarul Alam Biplob.

Aranghata Police Station Officer-in-Charge Halimur

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Two confess in journalist Alif murder case



OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrokona*

Two suspects arrested in connection with the murder of journalist Lutfuzzaman Fakir, also known as Alif Fakir, in Netrokona's Durgapur upazila gave confessional statements before a court yesterday.

Judge Nurul Kabir Bhuiyan recorded the statements of Imran Islam alias Emon, 24, of Moktarpada in Durgapur municipality, and Md Sabbir Ahmed, 25, of Teribazar in the same upazila under Section 164 of Code of Criminal Procedure.

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The Buriganga river continues to be polluted by untreated chemical waste from printing, knitting and dyeing factories near Dhaleshwar Gudara Ghat in Shyampur, Dhaka. Toxic waste from more than a hundred factories in the area is discharged into the river, posing a serious threat to aquatic life and the environment.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

HSC RESULT SHOCK

A tale of two systems

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

One needs to look only at the performance of cadet college students in the board exams to understand what is wrong with Bangladesh's mainstream government schools.

In this year's HSC exams, 536 of 569 students of all 12 cadet colleges secured GPA-5, meaning 94 percent students got a perfect GPA. In SSC, 607 of 618 (98.22 percent) cadets got a perfect score. Not a single one failed in either exam.

But in the rest of the country, just about half managed to pass the HSC (51.62 percent), the lowest rate in over two decades. Almost 600,000 students failed, and at 181 institutions, every student failed.

In SSC, the pass rate stood at 64.05 percent, the lowest since 2007, and the number of institutions firing all blanks was 312.

Now, if it were one student or even a few thousand out of almost 1.2 million examinees, it might have been put down to individual failure or lack of effort. But when half the students fail, the problem must be systemic.

Looking at the resources spent on an average student and a cadet, the reason behind this systemic failure should become obvious.

As former education minister Dipu Moni told the parliament, the government spends about Tk 5.34 lakh annually on each cadet college student -- 10 times more than the public expenditure per student at the higher-secondary level.

But it is not just the quantum of funds that makes the difference.

Cadet college students, living in a residential environment, are under constant supervision and kept under strict discipline. They have three proper meals and two snacks every day.

Cadet colleges rarely, if ever, face teacher shortages and have excellent facilities, strong institutional management and a stable learning environment.

The difference in outcomes is not due to merit; it reflects starkly different environments, resource allocation and prioritisation.

Cadet colleges show what is possible when schools have adequate funding, qualified teachers, strong leadership, effective supervision, and an environment that nurtures both academic excellence and personal development.

The worst SSC and HSC results in decades have exposed exactly those deep-

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NEWS ANALYSIS

WEEKEND PROTEST

France begins 'attempted murder' probe

Over 770 arrested; school blockades resume today

AGENCIES

France has launched an attempted murder investigation after a petrol bomb was thrown at security forces during a weekend protest in Paris, prosecutors told AFP yesterday.

On Saturday, clashes erupted in Paris and some other cities after hundreds of thousands of people staged a third weekend of protests against soaring living costs. More than 770 people were arrested in the protests, the interior ministry said yesterday.

The protests followed a wave of Gen Z-led demonstrations across Europe this year. In Serbia, student-led activism helped unseat the country's longtime leader at the ballot box, while protests in France have descended into rioting and looting.

The Paris police prefecture said that several hundred rioters had attacked security forces with projectiles, including a Molotov cocktail, reports AFP. "Explosive devices were thrown at around fifteen gendarmes as well as police officers," the prosecutor's office said yesterday.

The head of a student group confirmed a campaign of high school blockades would restart from today, adding the government's proposals did not go far enough.

Meanwhile, riot police with dogs stormed protest camps in Lisbon and Porto early yesterday, charging demonstrators with batons, arresting 13 people and leaving dozens injured in the latest confrontation over

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Parties run on power-centric business model

TIB study of 32 parties finds lack of transparency, accountability and internal democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abuse of power, black money and political criminalisation are fuelling internal conflict and turning political participation or party positions into a "power-centric business model", TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman has said.

He made the remarks at the publication of a report titled "The Institutional Governance of Political Parties in Bangladesh", yesterday at the office of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) in Dhaka.

The study has found a serious lack of good governance, transparency, accountability, and democratic practice in the activities of the country's political parties.

They also lack internal democratic practices and accountability in political financing, TIB said in the study covering 32 parties. It reviewed activities from the start of party registration in 2008 through December 2025, using updated data up to August 2026 where relevant.

"The lack of democratic practice, participation and inclusion in party activities has led to the creation of a one-person-centered leadership, familyism, authoritarianism, elitism, majoritarianism and patriarchal culture within the parties," said the report.

The exclusion of grassroots members, women, and people from diverse backgrounds allowed dynastic politics and elitism to dominate, depriving capable local leaders of opportunities.

TIB Executive Director **Iftekharuzzaman**

Iftekharuzzaman said the exclusion of grassroots members, women, and people from diverse backgrounds allowed dynastic politics and elitism to dominate, depriving capable local leaders of opportunities.

Weak prevention and accountability were normalising the use of money, muscle power and political violence, he added.

TIB's study found family-centred succession in 10 parties, including the BNP, the Awami League (whose political activities are currently banned), and the Jatiya Party.

The chiefs of 12 parties had served for at least 10 years, seven of them for more than 20.

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People gather at Novi Sad railway station in Serbia yesterday during a memorial marking the second anniversary of the deadly canopy collapse that sparked a protest movement and ultimately helped unseat long-time President Aleksandar Vucic, after an opposition bloc led by student activists won last week's election.

PHOTO: **REUTERS**

Son's HSC success costs Chuadanga JCD chief committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Facebook post celebrating his son's HSC success has sparked controversy over Chuadanga district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Shahjahan Khan Mia's continued leadership of a student political organisation.

Questions have also been raised on social media about him holding a senior position in the organisation, despite being married.

Amid the controversy, the JCD central committee dissolved its Chuadanga district unit yesterday.

The central body also dissolved its Meherpur district committee, citing the expiry of both committees' terms, reports Prothom Alo.

The controversy began after the HSC and equivalent examination results were published on Saturday. Shahjahan shared a photograph of his son on Facebook, congratulating him on passing the examinations.

The post prompted widespread discussion about his age, which could not be confirmed, and continued involvement in student politics.

The Chuadanga district committee was formed on June 5, 2018, for a two-year term.

In a statement signed by JCD central office secretary Md Jahangir Alam, the organisation said its President Rakibul Islam Rakib and General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir had approved the dissolution of the two committees. New committees would be announced soon, it added.

The immediate-past Chuadanga district general

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Alaska, California ballot fights heat up

REUTERS, *Washington*

President Donald Trump's administration pressed a criminal investigation into Alaska's pivotal US Senate race and said on Saturday it would likely take its fight over thousands of California mail-in ballots to the Supreme Court, as the midterm campaign for control of Congress entered its final weekend.

In Alaska, federal prosecutors are investigating whether aides to Democratic challenger Mary Peltola helped to recruit a retired schoolteacher, Daniel J Sullivan Jr, to run because his name is similar to the Republican incumbent, Senator Dan S Sullivan. The closely contested race is seen as crucial to Democrats' hopes of taking the Senate in Tuesday's vote.