

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXIV NO. 175

SRABAN 2, 1431 BS www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 10, 1446 HIJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00







PHOTOS: COLLECTED; RAJIB RAIHAN; RASHED SHUMON

Defiant and fearless, quota reform protester Abu Sayed of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University faces the police just moments before they shot him down in front of his university around 2:30pm, left.. The capital's Science Lab area yesterday turned into a battlefield as BCL members and quota protesters were locked in clashes throughout the afternoon. The photo was taken around 4:00pm, top right. An alleged BCL activist shoots at student protesters with a shotgun in Chattogram city's Muradpur area around 4:45pm.



6 killed as violence spreads

Fierce clashes break out in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rangpur between BCL, police and quota protesters; govt deploys BGB in 6 districts; all universities, colleges, secondary

schools closed; univ students asked to vacate halls; Thursday's HSC exams suspended

Respect freedom fighters of every stripe Says PM

In a major escalation of violence, at least six people, including three students, were killed and several hundred injured in clashes between quota protesters and Chhatra League activists and police across the country yesterday.

STAR REPORT

Three, including two students. were killed in clashes between The demonstrators announced a coffin procession and a gayebana janaza at Raju Bhashkarjo in Dhaka University at 2:00pm today.

The protesters set fire to the residence of vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University following

Late last night, the University Grants Commission citing an education ministry decision said all public and private universities and their affiliated colleges would be closed until further notice. It asked the students to vacate their dorms as well

Hasnat Abdullah, one of the coordinators of the quota-reforms said protests, state-sponsored attacks were carried out against the protesters across the country.

Bullets end life of family's brightest star

MD ABBAS and KONGKON KARMAKER

Abu Sayed, the youngest of nine siblings, was studying in the English department at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur.

Poverty forced his elder brothers and sisters to quit education, but they all chipped in to make sure Saved continued his. Sayed dreamt of joining the civil

service, a job he believed would change his family's fate. So

he joined the quota reform protest.

police But bullets cut his short dream yesterday.

His peers brought his bullet-hit body Rangpur Medical College

Hospital after a



Abu Sayed

clash between protesters and law enforcers, where doctors said Sayed was already dead. "Sayed was our only hope," his brother

Ramjan told The Daily Star. "We had big dreams for him, but all those dreams shattered today [yesterday],' he added.

Their father, Makbul Hossain, is ill and bedridden, and can hardly afford a treatment.

"We used whatever little we earned to support his education," Ramjan continued, "hoping that one day he would be successful and better days will come. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Govt moves SC to scrap HC verdict that reinstated quota system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the High Court judgement, which effectively reinstated quotas in government jobs

The attorney general's office submitted the petition to the apex court seeking a "leave" to scrap the HC verdict.

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh yesterday Hasina said freedom fighters should always be accorded the highest respect irrespective of their political affiliations.

Handing over Prime Minister's Fellowship (PMF)-2024 to the recipients at a programme at her office, she said it should be always kept in mind that they are valiant freedom fighters.

"Abandoning their dreams, leaving behind SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

protesters and BCL men in Chattogram.

In the capital, two people died after being attacked in Dhaka College and Science Lab areas where protesters and Chhatra League activists fought pitched battles for over seven hours.

In Rangpur, a student of Begum Rokeya University was killed in police firing during a protest.

Incensed by Monday's BCL attacks on Dhaka University campus, the quota protests swelled yesterday with students from private universities and colleges joining.

Soon the violence spread nationwide. Clashes between BCL

the death of its student Abu Sayed in police firing.

In the face of a counterattack by protesters, 10 Chhatra League activists were injured in Chattogram. Two of them fell from a building trying to escape the attack.

men and police and students BGB in Dhaka, Chattogram, demanding reforms to the quota system were reported in Rajshahi, Bogura, Jhenidah, Cox's Bazar, Narsingdi, Sirajganj, Barishal, Kishoreganj, and Faridpur as well. government deployed The

Bogura, Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Gazipur.

It closed secondary schools and colleges indefinitely and suspended the HSC exams scheduled for Thursday.

Another coordinator, Asif Mahmud, announced that there would be a coffin procession and a gayebana janaza (funeral without the body) at Raju Bhashkarjo at 2:00pm today to pray for the salvation of those killed during the violence.

He urged all students to join. Yesterday, they blocked key intersections in the capital, including Jatrabari, Science Lab, Pragati Sarani, Shantinagar, Badda, Motijheel Shapla Chattar, Tantibazar, Uttara,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

In the petition, it has been argued that keeping provision of quotas in the public service is a policy decision of the government and the court cannot interfere with SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

5 rights bodies slam attacks on quota protesters 114 eminent citizens demand justice STAR REPORT

Several rights organisations vesterday issued statements condemning the attacks on quota reform protesters at Dhaka University and other campuses across the country.

The attacks resulted in the deaths of six people and injuries of hundreds of students over the past two days.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Police raid BNP's Nayapaltan office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police raided the BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital over the suspected involvement of party members in subversive activities.

A team led by DB chief Harunor-Rashid launched the raid around midnight.

"We conducted the raid after two buses were set on fire in front of Jatiya Press Club," Harun told journalists at the spot.

Around 100 crude bombs, 500 sticks, and five to six bottles of SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Baily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Ashura. There will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. Visit our website for updates.

GDP, per capita income to stay unchanged

Says finance ministry on adjustment of export data

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's GDP and per capita income will stay the same after the reconciliation of export data as the two data points are calculated based on the actual export receipts registered by the central bank, says the finance ministry.



Bangladesh The of Statistics, Bureau the government agency responsible for collecting

statistics on demographics and the economy, uses the Bangladesh Bank's figures as export earnings, the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"As a result, the apprehension the GDP and per capita income will also come down is not right," the statement said.

The statement comes after Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali held a meeting on Monday on the mismatch in export data. Ahasanul Islam Titu, the state minister for commerce, BB Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



BGB patrols the capital's Mirpur Road yesterday afternoon after clashes broke out between quota protesters and Chhatra League activists in the Science Lab area. Inset, two buses were set on fire near the National Press Club in the capital by unidentified arsonists around 8:00pm.



City

PHOTOS: ORCHID CHAKMA, PALASH KHAN, RAJIB RAIHAN, COLLECTED

Students paint the road with the slogan, "Amar Shonar Banglay Boishommer Thaai Naai [There's no place for discrimination in my golden Bengal!]" in front of the Brac University campus in the capital's Badda area, left. BCL activists injured after falling from a building while trying to flee from attacks by protesters in the Chattogram's Muradpur area, centre. Armed with a hockey stick, a helmet-clad youth attacks an unarmed quota protester in the capital's Farmgate intersection, top right. Shima Akhtar breaks down next to the body of her husband, Md Faruk, 32, a staffer of a local furniture shop in the port city's Sholokbahar area, a collateral victim of the clashes.

6 killed as violence spreads

FROM PAGE 1

and Beribandh, bringing traffic to a halt

They also blocked rail lines in Mohakhali for more than six hours, snapping communications between Dhaka and most parts of the country.

The students also obstructed Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Tangail, Dhaka-Mymensingh, and Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highways for most of the day.

Tension was high on public university campuses yesterday following the incidents of attacks on Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University students on Monday and early yesterday.

Yesterday, Chhatra League and quota protesters held separate rallies on DU campus. Both the groups ended their programmes without any major incident. Chhatra League held a rally near TSC while the demonstrators held their rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the evening.

But there was mayhem in Dhaka College and Science Lab areas and violence in Chankharpul, Rayshahebbazar of Old Dhaka, Bhatara on Pragati Sarani, Mirpur-10, and Farmgate.

Two youths were killed during clashes in Dhaka College and Science Lab areas between the BCL men and protesters.

One of the two was identified as

treatment at the DMCH.

Two buses were torched in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the evening.

Around noon, a brief clash broke out between students of Dhaka International University, United International University and American International University, Bangladesh, and activists of Chhatra League in Bhatara area.

Rajon Kumar Saha, assistant commissioner of Badda zone, said, "We removed the Chhatra League

UTTARA

IRPUR

admitted to the hospital.

CMCH Director Brig Gen Taslim Uddin said the condition of two were critical.

The protesters were supposed to hold a rally in Sholashahar Railway Station area around 3:00pm, but BCL activists occupied the venue since 1:00pm.

When the demonstrators were heading towards the venue in droves, Chhatra League men attacked them at Muradpur, Sholashahar Railway activists from the area and the Station and Sholashahar Gate No 2, students were demonstrating on the triggering chases and counter chases,

with stones, causing at least two activists to fall from the five-storey building.

'At least 10 Chhatra League activists were stabbed," said Nurul Azim Roni, former general secretary of Chattogram city unit Chhatra League, who led the Chhatra League activists there.

He claimed that Jamaat-Shibir activists in disguise were behind the attack on BCL men.

Saiful Islam, commissioner Chattogram Metropolitan of Police, told this newspaper that they recovered two bodies from Sholashahar Railway Station area around 4:30pm. RANGPUR

Abu Sayed, 25, a student of English department at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, was killed during a clash between police and the protesters on campus yesterday.

He was the son of Mokbul Hossain from Babanpur village of Rangpur's Pirganj upazila.

Demonstrators said a procession of students from Lalbagh area reached the university Gate-1 around 2:30pm and a clash ensued with the police.

A video clip making the rounds in social media shows a shot being fired at Saved when he is standing with his arms spread out in front of a group of police across the street. Moments later, he is seen falling to the ground A student who took Sayed to the hospital, said, "Police were firing rubber bullets and tear gas at us. Sayed was hit in the chest and fell unconscious on the street. We took him to the hospital in a battery-run rickshaw. I tried to talk to him, but he did not respond."

GDP, per capita income

and higher-ups from different ministries

and government agencies were present. The same methods will be used by all the government agencies for data

collection, the statement said. "So, it is expected from now on that there will be no major difference in export data collected by the BB, Export Promotion Bureau and the National Board of Revenue. It is worth mentioning that there will also not be any major change in the balance of payment (BoP)

although little revision in the current account and fiscal account was done." The revised BoP has already been

published on the BB website, the statement said. The amount of cash incentive given

to the exporters is disbursed after a third party audits the export receipts, it said.

As a result, the amount of cash incentive that was given to the exporters is also correct," the statement added.

However, economists are predicting the size of GDP will drop once the export

Respect freedom fighters

FROM PAGE 1

their families, parents and everything, they joined the war with whatever they had responding to the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

She mentioned that the country's victory was achieved through their sacrifices. "Therefore, they should always be given the highest respect."

Hasina said she knows that many of the freedom fighters may not support her party. "Wherever they go, it doesn't matter to me. It is important to me that they sacrificed everything -- their lives, their blood -- and many were maimed to make this country free and victorious."

"We are paying special attention to ensure that they get all the facilities of the society, so that they do not fall behind.'

"The most pressing implication of

the correction of the shipment value of

exports is for the GDP growth estimate,'

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist

at the World Bank's Dhaka office, told

BBS has projected GDP growth of 5.8

In making this calculation, they

Recently, the BB data showed that

actual exports in the first 10 months of

fiscal 2023-24 were nearly \$14 billion

less than the shipment value of goods

growth may be about one percentage

point lower than the government's

could be 4.8 percent due to the shortfall

in actual export growth relative to the

export growth projected, other things

preliminary estimate, Hussain said.

Following the correction, economic

"Thus the 5.8 percent GDP growth

projected a 5.63 percent growth in the

real exports of goods and services.

published by the EPB earlier.

equal.'

The Daily Star recently.

percent in fiscal 2023-24.

The PM asked the fellows of the Prime Minister Fellowship to take responsibilities of the country prior to leaving for higher studies abroad.

"You have many things to give. You have to develop the country further in future."

She asked them to remember that they are going abroad for higher

Md Shajahan, 24, a hawker who had a makeshift shop in front of Balaka Cinema Hall.

He was found in a pool of blood near City College and was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 7:00pm.

"My son had nothing to do with the protest. He was a hawker. Who killed him?" lamented Ayesha Begum, the mother of the youth, at the DMCH.

In the afternoon, another youth with critical head injuries was found near Dhaka College. Sabuj Ali, 25, son of Badsha Ali and Surja Banu, of Nilphamari Sadar was taken to DMCH where he was declared dead. Police had to scan his fingerprint to ID him.

Science Lab area turned into a battle zone as clashes continued between quota protesters, mostly college students, and Chhatra League activists for over seven hours.

Both stick-wielding groups threw brick chunks at each other and chased each other.

The clash ensued around 1:45pm and finally ended after 8:45pm.

At least 127 people, including protesters and BCL activists, were injured.

Ten crude bombs exploded during the clashes.

Chase and counter-chase continued for hours with brief pauses. At least two police personnel were assaulted at the time. And the protesters vandalised a police box.

Around 7:00pm, the protesters chased away Awami League leader and former member of parliament Haji Salim at Science Lab intersection near LabAid Hospital.

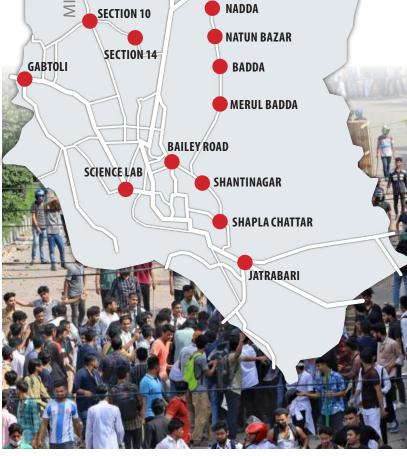
Md Babu, who accompanied Haji Selim, told The Daily Star that the AL leader had seen a doctor and was leaving in his vehicle when 300 to 400 protesters stopped his and an accompanying vehicle.

Haji Salim and four of his aides were chased into the LabAid Hospital.

Four students of Jagannath University and a student of Kobi Nazrul Government College were shot at Rayshahebbazar intersection in Old Dhaka.

Protesters claimed that when several hundred students took out a procession around 3:30pm, AL and Jubo League activists attacked them. The

five were undergoing



AREAS IN DHAKA CITY WHERE QUOTA

PROTESTERS BLOCKED ROADS

HOUSEBUILDING

KURIL

RAJLAXMI

witnesses said

During the clash, several gunshots

Chhatra League activists retreated

They started throwing brick

The demonstrators then stormed

In the face of the fierce attack by

residential building near Muradpur

chunks and flower pots at protesters

from the roof of the building, The

Daily Star correspondents saw and

the building and beat up the BCL

the demonstrators, many Chhatra

League men tried climbing down

from the building using the external

plumbing, shows a video clip making

pelting the Chhatra League activists

A handful of protesters were seen

the rounds in social media.

battles too.

were heard.

intersection.

took footage of it.

men

Students of BRAC University In Muradpur, Chhatra League blocked a road in Merul Badda area activists hurling brick chunks at students, prompting the students to around 10:00am. retaliate in kind. There were running

Habibur Rahman, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We are working strategically to keep the law-and-order situation under control."

"A police sergeant and a constable and went inside Meer Manzil, a were hurt ...

CHATTOGRAM

road.'

Three people were killed during clashes between the quota protesters and BCL men in Chattogram.

The victims were Wasim Akram, 24, a student of Chittagong College, Faisal Ahmed, 24, student of management at the Omargani MES College, and Md Faruk, 32, an employee of a furniture shop, said Chittagong Medical College Hospital doctors and police.

Nuzhat Inu, on duty doctor at the CMCH, said the body of Faruk had bullet injury marks while Akram was stabbed.

Some 30 injured people were

Eunus Ali, director of Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said, "One injured student was brought dead to the hospital at 3:05pm."

"The emergency unit informed me that he suffered injuries from rubber bullets," he said.

Around 30 students, including several female students, were also injured in the incident.

Md Moniruzzaman, commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that a group of students were demonstrating on the campus around 2:30pm.

He said students from nearby education institutions also joined the protest.

He claimed that the protesters attacked a police station nearby, injuring several police personnel, and damaged vehicles. The clash ensued as police retaliated, he said.

Tension ran high when student attempted to take Saved's body to the campus as the police intercepted and took the body to the hospital for an autopsy.

The protesters set fire to the residence of Begum Rokeya University vice-chancellor following the death of its student Abu Sayed in police firing. The students also ransacked the ground floor of the residence.

VC Prof Abdur Rashid along with 15 to 20 officials, teachers, and staffers were confined to the building when the students attacked the residence in the evening, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The protesters also torched five university vehicles, said Mondal, general Asaduzzaman secretary of BRUR's teachers' association, adding that the students left the area after 7:00pm.

Law enforcers later rescued them, the teacher said.

The students also set fire to a BCL leader's room at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of the university.

She also mentioned that freedom fighters defeated the enemies and brought victory.

Hasina said many freedom fighters might not agree with her opinion, they might not agree with her party, still they are freedom fighters. "I respect everyone. And we want that the people will uphold that honour for ages.

She said the freedom fighters were once neglected. "Since I assumed power, I have given them every kind of support and they can proudly say that I'm a freedom fighter.'

She said the country has minorities, differently abled people and autistic people. The government is sympathetic to all of them.

Bullets end life

FROM PAGE 1

But bullets ended all that." The mood in Sayed's village home in Babanpur of Rangpur is one of grief

and disbelief. The loss is too heavy for his mother Monowara Begum. The news of Sayed's death has plunged her into a cycle of breakdowns and fainting spells. She was in no condition to talk to The Daily Star.

Anwar Hossain, a neighbour, said, Saved was the brightest among his siblings. Humble and gentle, he was the only one among his siblings receiving higher education. His death has deeply saddened us all."

Just a day before his death, Sayeed shared on Facebook how he was ready to sacrifice his life for the cause if needed.

12:37pm on Monday, he

Police raid BNP office

FROM PAGE 1

petrol were recovered from the spot, he said, adding that seven Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists were also arrested at the time.

The DB chief said a group was trying to derail the ongoing quota movement by offering financial support and weapons to create confusion.

He assured that the authorities have identified those responsible and will arrest them soon.

Speaking on the issue, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul

Kabir Rizvi claimed the raid on the Nayapaltan party office was conducted to divert attention away from the quota reform protests.

"They staged a drama inside the party office. This drama is part of an ongoing attack against Chhatra Dal and affiliated activists," Rizvi told a virtual press briefing following the raid.

"Why didn't they [police] conduct the raid when party leaders and journalists were present at the office? As part of the master plan, the raid was conducted in the middle of the night."

education with the fellowship paid for by the people. "You have to pay special attention to serve the people The prime minister asked them to

work for the country and its people after returning home upon completion of their studies.

This year, as many as 11 individuals have got PhD and 39 got masters fellowships

So far, 308 masters fellows and 116 PhD fellows have been awarded the scholarship at the expense of around Tk 336 crore to study at world-class universities. Of them, 215 masters fellows and 26 PhD fellows have already completed their studies.

The fellowship was introduced in 2018 by the prime minister to facilitate the capacity development of resources across all sectors.

shared a photo card of Rajshahi

University teacher and martyr Prof Dr

Shamsuzzoha, who was killed in police

firing in 1969 during a student protest.

"Sir! We desperately need you right

now, sir! Everyone of your generation

has passed away, but you live on

even after death. Your legacy is our

inspiration. We are enlightened by your

"And to those of our generation,

you too will die one day as per the laws

of nature. But as long as you live, live

with integrity. Support the just cause,

take to the streets, stand as a shield for

the students. You will receive genuine

respect and honour. You won't be lost

in the sands of time after your death.

You will live forever like Shamsuzzoha.'

ideals.

The accompanying caption read:

DHAKA

Scenes of unrest across the country as students and BCL clash, hurling bricks at each other (left). Protesters set fire to tyres during demonstrations (top right). Police lob tear gas shells to disperse the crowd (bottom). PHOTO: STAR

Quota protests WHO SAID WHAT

The government will not do anything about the reforms of quota in government jobs bypassing the Supreme Court. **ANISUL HUQ**

LAW MINISTER

No one will be spared if destructive activities are carried out in the name of anti-quota movement. Many students are immature. They are saying slogans taught by someone. ASADUZZAMAN KHAN HOME MINISTER

Everywhere, we have tried to bring the situation under control by requesting the protesters and not using force.

At times, we had to bring in local influential people and teachers to convince the students. HABIBUR RAHMAN DMP COMMISSIONER

The government should not ignore the logical demands of the students by passing the burden onto the courts; rather, it should take steps for a logical, modern, peaceful, and constitutional solution.

MD IFTEKHARUZZAMAN TIB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Many BCL leaders resign over attack on demonstrators STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Campuses, streets turn into battlegrounds

Protests, clashes break out across the country as students, BCL lock horns

STAR REPORT

Violence centring quota reforms in government jobs was not only limited to the capital yesterday, it also spread like wildfire across the country.

Students and BCL members clashed on campuses and major throughfares in Savar, Rajshahi, Cumilla, Barishal. Sirajganj, Faridpur, Narsingdi, Tangail Jhenaidah, Pabna, Gazipur and Mymensingh, among other places.

At Jahangirnagar University at least 70 individuals, including students, teachers, journalists, and police, were injured in clashes that started when armed individuals, allegedly Chhatra League members, attacked protesters near the vicechancellor's residence late at night.

The injured were taken to Enam Medical College for treatment, university authorities while convened an emergency meeting to form a committee to investigate the incident and ensure medical support for the victims.

at JU, criticised the administration injured as BCL members attacked for failing to prevent unauthorised students. which he campus, onto believes exacerbated the violence. In Rajshahi, students of Rajshahi attacked a police box. University yesterday brought out a massive procession on campus, breaking the locks of the hall gates around 3:00pm.

members chased away students and forced them into the halls. They also locked the hall gates. However, around 3:00pm, students broke the locks and brought out protests,

Earlier, around 2:30pm, BCL Technology brought out protest rallies and blocked the Dhaka-Pabna highway.

In Tangail, at least three students were injured after a procession of quota protesters came under attack carrying bamboo and sticks in hand. by BCL men in the town's Shaheed



In Barishal, Government BM Minar area at around 11:00am. Manosh Chowdhury, a professor College, nine protesters were

Later, students of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University and different colleges

GM Quader terms protesters 'Bir Muktisena'

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024

SRABAN 2, 1431 BS

The Daily Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Party chairman and opposition leader of the House GM Quader yesterday expressed his solidarity with the ongoing quota reform movement.

Terming the agitators seeking reform in the quota system "Bir Muktisena" (valiant freedom fighters), Quader condemned the attack on the agitators.



"I congratulate the youth who are leading the quota reform movement," he said in a statement.

"Divisions have been created in the country in many ways under the incumbent government. A beneficiary group has been created following the division. Quota policy is a part of that process," said Quader.

The opposition leader urged [the government] to accept the demand of the protesters. Otherwise, the JP leader said, the country and the future generation will march towards an uncertain and conflicting future.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Stand by quota protesters Fakhrul, JCD urge people UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday called upon the country's people and all political parties to stand beside general students who are demonstrating across the country against the reinstatement of the quota system in government jobs. Speaking at a discussion, he



also described the Bangladesh Chhatra League's attacks on anti-quota protesters as the most heinous incident in the country's political history.

"Lying on hospital beds, bloodied students are calling upon us to protect them, stand by them and stay with their movement. This is the appeal of Bangladesh... I think the entire nation should respond to this call. All political parties should come forward and stand by them," Fakhrul said.

Bhasani Anusari Parishad arranged the programme at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the birth centenary of SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

BNP and Jamaat instigating quota protests: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that BNP acting chairperson



A number of Chhatra League leaders have announced their resignation in the last two days over the "attack" on agitating students.

While many BCL leaders expressed their solidarity with the ongoing protests, some came up with their resignation announcement on social media.

So far, 18 BCL leaders of Dhaka University and its different hall units had resigned, according to sources.

The same situation was created during the quota reform movement in 2018. At that time, several hundred BCL leaders resigned from the organisation, protesting the attack on students.

A leader of Jahangirnagar University unit of BCL yesterday announced his resignation through a Facebook post, protesting Monday night's attack on agitating students.

In his account, the leader wrote, "I was involved in Chhatra League politics with an ideology in my heart

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

They took position at the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway and blocked vehicular movement.

Around 5:00pm, a section of students stormed various dorms, including SM Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall, and Bangabandhu Hall, and searched for BCL men in the rooms. Rooms of RU BCL President Mostafizur Rahman Galib and

General Secretary Asadullah-Hil-Galib were vandalised.

nse, pro Barishal-Kuakata highway and

At least seven police personnel were reportedly injured at the time. The Daily Star's photojournalist, Titu Das, was injured by a tear gas shell fired by police in Barishal. The unrest spread to other districts as well.

In Sirajganj, clashes between students and police left at least 20 injured. Two were left with bullet wounds at the time.

In Faridpur, six students were injured as BCL members attacked protesters.

Meanwhile, students of Pabna University of Science and

blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway for around an hour from 1:15pm.

In Mymensingh, Bangladesh Agricultural University students staged a demonstration at Mukta Mancha around 3:00pm. Students of Mymensingh Medical College and Community Based Medical College also organised protest rallies and blocked Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

Protesters blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Bhelanagar area under Narsingdi Sadar upazila for hours.

Chase and counter-chase took place between them and BCL activists in the area for around two SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Tarique Rahman took over the leadership of the ongoing quota reform movement and his party is openly supporting the movement.

They are conspiring to turn a non-political movement into a



He said BNP-Jamaat is instigating the ongoing quota movement, but they will never be successful as people's support is not with them.

He once again said the quota reform issue is "sub judice", and thus there is no scope to take any decision in this matter through force or any other means outside the court.

Responding to a question, Quader said allowing quota SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Commuters suffer amid blockades, clashes

STAR REPORT

Major thoroughfares in Dhaka and other parts of the country ground to a halt yesterday as protesters demanding quota reforms blocked roads and clashed with BCL members in numerous areas.

The capital's key intersections and entry points were paralysed for hours, stranding commuters on highways and disrupting both public and private transportation services.

Road blockades were reported at Mirpur-10, Badda, Notun Bazar, Jatrabari, Gabtoli, Uttara, Motijheel, Shantinagar, and Progoti Sarani, while clashes occurred at Science Lab, Mohakhali, and Chankharpool.

"As a private job holder commuting between Mirpur 12 and Bailey Road, I couldn't find any transportation to return home today [yesterday]," said Akhter Sultana, waiting at Shahbagh around 5:00 pm.

Mohammad Kibria, from Kerinaganj, faced similar challenges. "There's chaos everywhere. Very few buses are operating, and rickshaw fares are exorbitant. might have to walk home to Sadarghat," he said.

Bishwajit Das, who came from Chattogram for a bank recruitment exam, found himself stranded at Sayedabad due to road blockades at Jatrabari.

Kamrul Islam, a journalist, experienced delays on the Kalni Express from Dhaka to Sylhet.

The train was supposed to depart at 2:00pm but left at 8:00pm due to blockades in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narsingdi," he said.

Anusua Roy, a student at Kumudini Women's Medical College, faced a harrowing journey from Mohakhali to Farmgate after getting caught in between the violence.

Progga Paromita, recovering from a



leg fracture, encountered difficulties travelling from Dhanmondi to Green Road by rickshaw.

"I had to disembark near Science Lab due to the chaos and was later picked up by family," she said.



DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024 SRABAN 2, 1431 BS The Daily Star

RUQAYYAH HALL Protesters drive out female BCL leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating students of Begum Ruqayyah Hall at Dhaka University yesterday night allegedly beat up female leaders of Chhatra League and drove them out of the hall. The incident took place around 11:00pm.

On the condition of anonymity, a student of Ruqayyah Hall told The Daily Star that 11 BCL leaders were chased, beaten, and driven out of the hall.

They ran and took refuge in the provost's bungalow.

Around midnight, an ambulance ferried them from the premises.Dhaka University Professor Dr M Maksudur Rahman said, "Eleven students were evacuated from Ruqqayah Hall by ambulance."

However, Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said none of the students were brought to the DMCH. Ruqayyah Hall Provost

Nilufar Parvin said, "I won't comment at the moment." In a video sent by a student from Ruqayyah Hall, it was seen that the general students drove hall BCL President Pritha and Secretary Atika out of the halls.

Petition seeks HC order to take action against Aziz STAR REPORT

A writ petition has been filed with the High Court seeking its directive on the Anti- Corruption Commission (ACC) to take steps regarding reported corruption allegations against former army chief General (retd) Aziz Ahmed.

A journalist named Md Sohail Rana, son of Yousuf Ali from Kaprangapara village under Panchagar Sadar Police Station in submitted Panchagar, the petition to the HC on Monday through Supreme Court lawyer AM Jamiul



Keeping onion fresh for over 6 months

Growers in Faridpur happy with model storages

SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

Onion growers in Faridpur are optimistic about the newly constructed model storages for onion and garlic, which promise to reduce spoilage and enhance profitability.

According to the Department of Agricultural Marketing, onions, being perishable, are challenging to preserve without proper storage.

Approximately 30 percent of the 3.5 million tonnes of onions produced

annually in Bangladesh are wasted due to inadequate storage, leading to

shortfall а 6,00,000 of 7,00,000 to tonnes. This forces

farmers to sell their produce quickly and at low prices, said Shahadat



marketing officer in Faridpur. To address this, DAM is building 65 model storages across villages in Saltha (30 storages) and Nagarkanda upazilas (35 storages).

Of them, 62 have already

Each storages are shared by

been completed.

Faridpur ranks second in onion production in Bangladesh, with cultivation expanding from 35,305 hectares to 40,433 hectares between 2018-19 and 2022-23.

increased from Output 4,45,982 tonnes to 5,52,736 tonnes during this period.

A recent visit to villages in Saltha and Nagarkanda revealed that the storages, costing Tk 4.5 lakh each, are constructed from months," he added.

tin-bamboo, iron, and concrete. Each storage, occupying one decimal of land, can store 300 maunds of onion for 6-9 months.

The structures are 25 feet long and 15 feet wide, with a concrete base, 15 concrete pillars, and three lofts.

Six fans ensure air circulation, while a tarpaulin protects them from rain.

Md Amjad Matubbar, 52, from Jonakhali village, received his storage in 2022-23.

"Last year I stored 140 maunds of onion, all of which remained good. This year, two of my neighbours stored 110 maunds," he said.

Mustafizur Rahman from Aduakandi village shared similar success

"I produce 400-600 maunds of onion yearly and used to store them in tin-shed houses, where they would rot within a month due to heat. The new storage keeps the interior cool, preserving the onions for several

GD-59

GD-57

MP AZIM MURDER Daughter gets death threat

NEWS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muntarin Ferdous Dorin, daughter of the slain Jhenaidah-4 MP Anwarul Azim Anar, received a death threat yesterday from unknown miscreants. The threat was issued via the social media

platform IMO to her cousin, Md Ashraful, the mayor of Kaliganj Municipality. Confirming the development, Dorin said she

plans to file a general diary at the Kaliganj Police Station regarding the threat.

Recently, Dorin told reporters that her father Anwarul Azim Anar was killed for political reasons.

Two top leaders of the Jhenaidah Awami League, General Secretary Saidul Karim Mintu and Welfare Affairs Secretary Kamal Ahmed Babu, are currently in jail in connection with Anar's murder. Babu initially gave a confession statement but has recently applied to recant it, alleging coercion.

Two electrocuted in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

Two workers were electrocuted and five more injured while installing new poles for Palli Bidyut in Raipura upazila of Narsingdi yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdus Salam, 29, from Dangapara of Dinajpur; and Jamal Hossain, 50, from Mithapukur of Rangpur.

It was learned that a group of seven electricians working for Sujan Mia was replacing wooden poles with cement ones in Ashrabpur area.

After installing the new poles, the power line was reconnected. However, the workers were electrocuted through a line at the base of the poles, resulting in two deaths and five injuries.

Rezaul Karim, deputy general manager of Raipura Palli Bidyut, said the incident occurred due to negligence of the contractor. OC Safayet Hossain Palash of Raipura Police Station, said the bodies were sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue.

UK announces £30,000 for flood victims

UNB, Dhaka

The UK is providing £30,000 or Tk 4.5 crore of humanitarian assistance to support floodaffected communities in Sylhet, where over three million people have been impacted and 260,000 are displaced.

The current flooding in Bangladesh has so far affected over 14.8 million people in different parts of the country, said the British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

This UK contribution in Sylhet will be managed by Start Fund Bangladesh and implemented by

Hoque Faisal.

In the petition, he prayed to the HC to pass an order on the ACC to submit a report before this court regarding the steps taken against General (retd) Aziz Ahmed.

Petitioner Sohail Rana, who introduced himself as "currently employed as message editor in a daily newspaper" in the petition, cited reports published about Aziz Ahmed in the daily Jugantor on May 31, the daily Kalerkantha on May 31, and in the daily Manabzamin on June 5 this year.

Lawyer Jamil Hoque Faisal told The Daily Star vesterday that the High Court may hold hearing on the petition next week.

LUXURY DUPLEX FOR SALE

5,000-9,800 sq. ft. on 5-10 katha. Move-in ready. Act fast! now: +880 1833-317823 (WH

Stand by quota protesters FROM PAGE 3

the Pakistan period."

and without any self-

what happened last night,

I can never forgive myself."

Mujibur Rahman Hall unit

Hasib wrote, "I am cutting

FROM PAGE 3

Jatir

Bangabandhu

Mashiur Rahman (Jadu Miah), one of the founders of BNP.

"What this regime carried out yesterday (Monday), we have never seen before in Bangladesh. We have never seen the ruling party cadres enter the hospital and attack the wounded... We can never think of this, even during

remarked that the ruling party's current atrocities

> are no less than those of the Pakistani Army and said the government has unleashed its armed cadres to suppress a justified movement of the common students.

Many BCL leaders resign

interest. If I stay quiet after friends were beaten up.

BCL leader Hasibul Hasan of Jagannath University

off my relations with the University unit and other

Janak

Sheikh

Hossain, a senior agricultural groups of five farmers.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student organisation, also

Chhatra League. Many of

my younger brothers and

I feel appalled as I have

worked as an activist of the

Chhatra League. Goodbye,

(JnU) unit of BCL, Comilla

Besides, several leaders

Chhatra League!"

The BNP leader also students yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP's Navapaltan central office, JCD president Rakibul Islam Rakib strongly denounced the reported attacks on anti-quota protesters by the Chhatra League on different university campuses.

He said July 15 will remain as a black day in announced to stand by the Bangladesh's history.

announcements.

units have made similar

secretary, Law Faculty of

Comilla University unit

BCL, wrote on Facebook

that student politics was

his passion but from today

(yesterday) he will no

longer keep any ties with

Borhan Uddin, joint

GM Ouader FROM PAGE 3

Irrational stubbornness will not bring any welfare for anyone, he added. GM Quader said the way the names of freedom

fighters are being used and misused, the valiant freedom fighters might be reluctant to disclose their identity in the future.

BNP

FROM PAGE 3 movements indicate weakness.

Quader added.

Campuses, streets

FROM PAGE 3

BCL.

hours, starting at 2:00pm. Daily Star's The Narsingdi correspondent, Jahidul Islam, was injured as a group of BCL men

In Cox's Bazar, a few protesters were injured after they got into a clash with BCL activists and police around 11:00am.

They engaged in the clash after BCL activists started beating protesters with sticks. Two motorcycles were vandalised during the clash. In the evening, students Cox's blocked Bazar-Chattogram highway.

least five students were injured after BCL men

attacked protesters at Wazir Ali School and College ground around 11:30am.

In Gazipur, protesters blocked Dhaka Mymensingh and Joydevpur - Tangail

highways. Students of Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for around three hours from 3:00pm.

PRAYER 🖷 TIMING JULY 17 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17

does not administrative "We are maintaining

patience, and patience does not mean weakness. What would you say if we came down harshly on the movement? You will see everything in time. Befitting action will be taken at the proper time," Caritas Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Navy East Patenga, Chattogram, Bangladesh Phone: +88 02333301117, Mobile: +8801769744450 Fax: +88 0233301123, E-mail: commerce@cddl.gov.bd, contact@cddl.gov.bd, Website: www.cddl.gov.bd

Chittagong Dry Dock Limited

23.02.1565.341.53.006.24.68

Dated: 16 July 2024

TENDER AMENDMENT NOTICE

Tender Ref No 23.02.1565.341.53.006.24.57 Date: 07 July 2024 for purchase of MS PLATE (MARINE GRADE-A) & MS ANGLE (MARINE GRADE Q235B) has been published on 08 July 2024 in The Daily Star and The Daily Jugantor shall be amended as follows

1.	Procuring Entity	Chittagong Dry Dock Ltd		
2.	2. Invitation for Tender Documents For MS PLATE (MARINE GRADE-A ANGLE (MARINE GRADE-A) (Detail Technical Specifications Mentioned in Tender Doc			
3.	Tender Reference No	23.02.1565.341.53.006.24.69 Date: 16 July 2024		
4.	Tender Closing	25 July 2024 at 12.15 PM		
5.	Tender Opening	25 July 2024 at 12.30 PM		
N.B	. All other relevant terms	and conditions are available at CDDL website (www.cddl.gov.bd)		

Head of Commerce & Purchase Department

ZARJ.

TANVIR AHAMMAD TALUKDAR Commander BN For Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Engineer Health Engineering Department (HED)

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 www.hed.gov.bd

Memo No. 45.02.0000.002.07.012&013.24-62

Dated: 16/07/24

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works, details are given below

SI No.	e- Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of work	Last date & time of selling tender document	Tender closing date & time
1.	1002449	Rajshahi/ Male Students- 7	Construction of 15 (Fifteen) Storied Male Hostel Building with 15 (Fifteen) Storied Foundation at Rajshahi Madical College in Rajshahi.	13.08.2024 16.00	14.08.2024 14:00
2.	1002450	Barishal/ Male Students- 11	Construction of 10 (Ten) Storied Male Hostel Building with 10 (Ten) Storied Foundation at Sher- e-Bangla Medical College in Barishal.	13.08.2024 16.00	14.08.2024 14:00

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 System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP

help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



Mir Sarwar Hossain Chowdhury, afwc, psc Chief Engineer E-mail: hedhq@yahoo.com



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

- 1. RFP/BAN/2024/027: Provision of Cleaning and Janitorial Services with other Messenger Service for WHO Bangladesh under Long Term Agreement.
- Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 31 July 2024 (Dhaka time).
- 2. RFP/BAN/2024/028: Engaging TV Media buying agency to disseminate the 3D animation on Breastfeeding through Bangladesh TV Channels.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 31 July 2024 (Dhaka time).

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(I)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

attacked him.

In Jhenaidah town, at JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024 SRABAN 2, 1431 BS The Daily Star



Carrying locally-made fish traps on his shoulders, Sumon Biswas heads out to a nearby market to sell those. He sells these traps to fishers for Tk 100-200 each, depending on size, and makes around Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 per month. The photo was taken in Jhalakathi recently. PHOTO: TITU DAS

14KM BAJUA-PODDERGANJ ROAD Unpaved for 50 years

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

14-kilometre-long Bajua-The Podderganj road of Bangladesh Water Development Board in Khulna's Dacope upazila has been connecting around 8,000 people across several villages in the upazila for around half a century.

Surprisingly, throughout this long time, the road has remained unpaved, with no step to improve it from its earthen condition.

As such, every monsoon, the entire 14-km stretch of the road turns into a muddy ordeal, leaving the people with a harrowing time using the road for commute.

This monsoon, the scenario is no different than it has been in the past 50 years.

The local residents could hardly find answer to the question why the road has not received any attention from public representatives or government agencies over this time.

"There is no alternative to this earthen road for going to my college. When it rains, the road becomes covered by deep mud. No vehicles



if one is careless while walking on this muddy road, he might slip and hit a tree, eventually getting injured," Saidul Sheikh of Pashorder Chunkuri village.

"Taking patients to hospital using the road becomes an arduous task," he added.

Mizanur Mirza, local union can ply the road in that condition, parishad member of Ward-4, said and we have to walk through the mud around 8,000 residents of at least for our commute. It needs urgent eight villages have been suffering for the road over the years. "Students of three primary schools, two high schools and two Sakhina Begum of Bhangapara colleges use this road. Often, the younger ones have to skip school as they cannot use the road after it rains. Also, after evening, hardly anyone uses the road to avoid mishaps in darkness," he said.

budget from the union parishad is too small to work on the road. Also, Local Government Engineering Department has been very reluctant about doing development work in this upazila. Many other roads in my union are also lying unpaved," said Manosh Roy, chairman of Bajua

union parishad. "I heard that a Tk 798 crore project is awaiting approval of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council, which might solve the problem if approved," he added. Contacted, M Zahangir Alom, upazila engineer of LGED in Dacope upazila, said they sent a proposal to the higher authorities for renovating 3-km portion of the road with bricks.

TK 9.30 LAKH BRIBERY CASE Bail of 2 HC Division staffers cancelled

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two days after granting the bail, a Dhaka court vesterday cancelled bail of two High Court Division employees, who were arrested for their alleged involvement with taking Tk 9.30 lakh as bribe in a judge's name.

The employees are Md Abdur Rashid, a peon of the HC Division bench, and Md Hafizur Rahman, a peon of the Supreme Court registrar general office.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sultan Sohag Uddin issued the order after Rajib Sheikh, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station and also the

July 14 submitted an application for cancelling their bail in the case.

In the application, SI Rajib said the two will need to be taken into custody for quizzing about the issue. So their bail should be cancelled, said the IO.

On July 12, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Tarikul Islam granted them bail after they were produced before the court with a forwarding report.

In the forwarding report, the IO said both were directly involved in taking bribes in the name of a judge for acquitting death-row convicts in a murder case, which are serious

investigation officer of the case, on offences. So they need to be confined to jail until the investigation is completed.

But the magistrate turned down the prosecution pleas and granted them bail, considering the depth of the offences brought against them in the case.

The bail order had created a mixed reaction among people, litigants, and lawyers

According to the case statement, it was alleged that the two allegedly took Tk 9.30 lakh in bribes from the people of death-row convicts in a murder case, in front of the court No-21 of the Supreme Court's main building around 5:00pm on July 10.





unesco

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education Secondary and Higher Education Division International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) 1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 www.imli.gov.bd

Memo No. 37.26.0000.114.23.001.22-499

Date: 16th July 2024

Application/proposal for International Mother Language Award 2025

Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Chief Patron of the Institute would kindly present the "International Mother Language National Award 2025" and "International Mother Language International Award 2025" on the Glorious Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day 2025.

- 2. Following the instructions of International Mother Language Award Guidelines notified (Memo No. 37.00.0000.082.22.005.16.1551; Date: 24 Dec 2019) with the approval of Secondary and Higher Education Division under Ministry of Education, applications or proposals from foreign nationals or institutions/agencies are being invited for "International Mother Language International Award 2025". Applications/proposals shall be sent in prescribed format for 2 (Two) awards in international category. Applicants are requested to download the prescribed formats in the appendices A/B and of the notification for International Mother Language Award Guidelines 2019 available on the website: www.imli.gov.bd
- 3. Application/proposal would be processed in the light of Articles 7.0 (Eligibility for receiving the award) and 8.0 (Instructions for processing the applications or proposals) of the aforesaid "International Mother Language Award Guidelines 2019". Three hard copies of applications or proposals would be sent to the Director International Mother Language Institute, either by hand or by post or by courier service, within 15 September, 2024. The application/proposal must reach the office on or before 15th September 2024 during Bangladesh office time (office time: 09:00am to 05:00pm). Right at the time of sending the hard copies, soft copy of the same would also be sent to the email address: imli.moebd@gmail.com and cc to imliaward2025@gmail.com

It is to be noted that the performance of the prospective awardee up to December 2024 and in special cases the total contributions of the awardee or institution would be taken into consideration.

- 4. For sending documents by post: Director International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) Shahid Captain Mansur All Sarani 1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.
- Value of Award

renovation," said Imran Sheikh, a student of Bajua Surendranath College and a local resident.

village said elderly people seldom use the road in the monsoon as it becomes very risky.

To make the matter worse, the social forestry department planted thousands of trees with sharp thorns along this road. As a result,

road almost every day. However, our lawmaker," he added.

"We will start the work after "Locals complain to me about the receiving DO letter from the local

Confiscate more properties ACC sues Sadeeq Agro owner, livestock dept COURT CORRESPONDENT officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed a case against seven people, including Sadeeq Agro owner Imran Hossain and livestock department officials, on charges irregularities and corruption.

ACC Assistant Director Abul Kalam Azad filed the case with the ACC's Dhaka-1 integrated office, said ACC Public Relations Officer Akhtarul Islam.

Apart from Imran, the six other accused are Department's Livestock Director (Production) ABM Khaleduzzaman; its Deputy Director ABM Salah Uddin; Central Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm Director Md Monirul Islam; its Buyer Officer Saiful Islam; Upazila Livestock Officer (Leave Reserve) Firoz Ahmed Khan; and Sadeeq Agro's Touhidul Alam Zenith.

"After a preliminary investigation into Sadeeq Agro's scandal involving American Brahma breed cattle, the ACC has filed the case," said Abul Kalam Azad while talking to reporters.

of Matiur, family: court

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate more moveable and immovable properties of Matiur Rahman, former National Board of Revenue official, and his family members in connection with corruption allegations against them.

The other family members are Matiur's wife Laila Kaniz Lucky, also upazila parishad chairman of

Narsingdi's Raipura, their Ahmed Taufiqur son Rahman, and daughter Farzana Rahman Ipshita, and Matiur's second wife Shammi Akhter Shewly and one of their close relatives MA Kaiyum.

Judge Mohammad Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Md Anowar Hossain, also the enquiry officer applied to the court in this regard.

In the application, the ACC official said Matiur and his family members were attempting to transfer the properties and to launder the money. So, an order was needed to prevent them from making such attempts, said the IO.

The immoveable properties are a total of 137.28 decimals in Gazipur's Tongi and a flat (8,070 square feet total) located in Dhaka's Basundhara residential area.

They also opened 19 beneficiary owner's (BO) accounts of different brokerage houses.

ACC public prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the application on behalf of the watchdog. Earlier on July 11, the same court ordered confiscation of all moveable and immovable properties of Matiur

and his family members.

immoveable The properties are a total of 2.212.35 decimals in Dhaka's Savar. Mymensingh's Valuka, Gazipur, Natore's Singra and Narsingdi's Shibpur, and four flats (7,248 square feet total) located in Dhaka's Mirpur.

are Tk 13,44,36,471 deposited at

116 bank accounts in the country. However, the court also ordered to

freeze of all 116 bank accounts. They also opened 23 beneficiary

owner's (BO) accounts of different brokerage houses.

On June 24, the same court issued a travel ban on Matiur Rahman, Laila and Arnob in connection with corruption allegations against them.

Earlier, the ACC formed a threemember committee to enquire into the allegations brought against them over amassing a huge amount of wealth through illegal means.

- An 18 (eighteen) carat Gold Medal of 35 (thirty-five) grams along with a Certificate of Appreciation and USD Dollar equivalent to taka Four Lakhs would be conferred as awards.
- 6. Eligibility for the award
 - 6.1 Contributions towards the protection, promotion and revitalization of mother languages;
 - Specially proven contributions towards the practice and culture of mother language (Published standard 6.2 books would be submitted as evidence);
 - Special contributions towards the research of mother language; 6.3
 - Special contributions towards the innovation of digital technology with regard to the preservation, 6.4 protection and revitalization of mother language;
 - 6.5 Special contributions towards the publicity and spread of mother language and foreign language in the world;
 - 6.6 Special contributions in the translation of literary works written in mother language and in the translation of original books on other discipline/subjects (Published standard books would be submitted as evidence);
 - Special contributions in the translation of books written in foreign language as well as in translation of 6.7 books on other subjects into Bengali (Published standard books would be submitted as evidence).
- 7. Instructions to be followed for processing the applications or proposals
 - 7.1 Three (03) copies of application or proposal filled in duly in prescribed format (available in the appendices A/B of International Mother Language Award Guidelines 2019) shall be sent to the Director, International Mother Language Institute, either by hand or by post or by courier service, within the specified time stated above. Soft copy of the same shall also be sent to the email address imli.moebd@gmail.com with a copy to imliaward2025@gmail.com
 - 7.2 Applications or Proposals shall be 'rejected' in case of providing any false or incomplete information or indistinct/vague statement in the application/proposal, as well as due to the failure of properly enclosing the certificates/testimonials;
 - 7.3 Conferment of International Mother Language Award in any category (National and International) shall remain 'postponed' for the concerned year unless the competent person/institution is found;
 - 7.4 The same person or institution/agency shall not be eligible for 'International Mother Language Award' for the second time;
 - 7.5 This award shall not be conferred posthumously. In case of the death of the person after being nominated for the award, the selected successor among the heirs or heiresses, upon the submission of succession certificate duly countersigned either by Deputy Commissioner or by Ambassador/High Commissioner, or having no heirs or heiresses an appropriate person would receive the award on his/her behalf.
- 8. This notification would be available on the following websites. For unavoidable circumstances, in case of any correction of the notification particular portion shall be uploaded on the following websites.

www.shed.gov.bd, www.dshe.gov.bd, www.bncu.gov.bd

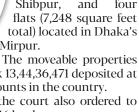
GD-58

www.mopa.gov.bd, www.mofa.gov.bd, www.ugc.gov.bd www.en.unesco.org

www.imli.gov.bd, www.naem.gov.bd

25/09/28

Md. Azharul Amin Director (Routine Charge) International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) 1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Tel: +88 02 8391346 E-mail: imli.moebd@gmail.com imliaward2025@gmail.com





In the wake

violent clashes

protesters and

Chhatra League

wave of support

from celebrities

has emerged for

the quota reform

movement. The

incident, which

15, resulted in

approximately

300 injuries,

students and

BCL members.

occurred on July

including female

(BCL) activists

University, a

Bangladesh

at Dhaka

between student

of recent

ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN Celebrities rally behind quota reform amid violent clashes

City

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As of July 16 (7:30pm), six people have been reported to be killed nationwide due to the ongoing clashes.

The unrest spread to other public universities Bangladesh, across Jagannath including University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, and Eden Mohila College.

As tensions escalated, prominent figures from the entertainment industry took to social media to express their views on the contentious issue. Their statements reflect a growing concern over the government's response to the students' demands and the use of force against non-violent protesters.

Sohel Rana advocated for the quota's removal. He shared his opinion on his Facebook account, stating, "Freedom fighters fought at the call of Bangabandhu for independence... We achieved that immediately after the War. We freedom fighters have nothing more

secretary of Actors Equity Bangladesh, advocated for a nuanced approach to quota reform, "Quota reform is certainly possible. The quota for freedom fighters and their children will naturally become ineffective in a few years. A minimum honorary quota from the state for our valiant freedom fighters is necessary." However, Hasan also hinted at possible ulterior motives, noting, "The way this movement of thousands of students has been directed clearly indicates who the masterminds are."

Director Ashfaque Nipun showed solidarity with the students by sharing a powerful image of two female students being assaulted during the protests, simply stating, "Stand by the students."

Filmmaker Mishuk Moni expressed Veteran actor and freedom fighter his sorrow over the violent scenes unfolding in the city. He criticised the government's tendency to label dissenters as traitors, saying, "In this country, speaking against the government labels you a traitor. Criticising any government official's corruption also makes you a traitor.

"Dhaka University is covered in blood. suppressing dissent, saying, "Now, the bravely confronting agitators and Why is it that blood has been spilled on exploited people are their nemesis." our campus? I strongly protest against

such acts." Musician Ziaur Rahman of the Shironamhin band argued that the quota system may have outlived

Director Khijir Hayat questioned the judiciary's role, asking, "Can't the Appellate Division of the Honourable Court expedite their decision considering the current situation of its original purpose. He explained, the country, instead of delaying it for a



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

trampling the quota system. Mishu's caption reads, "No matter how lightly vou take it, throw as many taunts as you like. We will take bullets with our chests out, we will break the system of 'quota'."

Actor Shohel Mondol criticised the government's tactics, describing them as "catching fish in muddy waters" and urged the public to cultivate social awareness to avoid being deceived by political machinations.

Niloy Alamgir made a heartfelt appeal to the prime minister, saying, "Honourable PM, today's students are tomorrow's future leaders. They can't all be wrong in their demands. As a freedom fighter's son, I urge you to reform the quota system."

Popular YouTuber and actor Salman Mohammad Muqtadir took a proactive stance, offering accommodation and assistance to students affected by the violence. He stated, "If there are any students who have been attacked or cannot enter their halls, I will try to manage accommodation for you. If you need a place to stay or require medical assistance, I am here for you."

Khairul Basar shared an emotional post with the photo of an injured female student, expressing his anguish: "She is my sister. My heart aches to see this! You are staining this divine campus, beloved Dhaka University, with blood. Do you ever reflect on your actions?"

Actress Pori Moni added her voice to the chorus of dissent by sharing a disturbing image of a female Dhaka University student being brutally beaten during the quota reform clash. The caption reads, "If you remain silent about violence against women, you are a hypocrite."

As the quota reform movement continues to gain traction, these celebrity voices add weight to the students' cause, highlighting the need for peaceful dialogue and reform. Their diverse perspectives reflect the complexity of the issue and the widespread concern over the use of violence against protesters.

NEWS

AL, BCL men to take position at unit offices

might now serve "hidden self-interests,"

as it no longer logically benefits freedom

Actor Rawnak Hasan, general

fighters or their children.

FROM PAGE 12

freedom fighters and uphold the keep law and order under control. spirit of Liberation War," sources said. Violence has been taking place in FROM PAGE 12 IF IF COMPAGE 12 IF IF COMPAGE 12 IF IF COMPAGE 12 IF COMPA

to ask for." While acknowledging the Participating in a movement system's past merit, Rana questioned its for rightful demands makes you a current relevance: "53 years have passed traitor." Moni questioned the use of force, asking, "Why did BCL activists, since the country's independence. At this point, neither freedom fighters wearing helmets and armed with sticks, nor their children are of age to seek injure students in the quota reform government jobs. So, I don't see the movement? The government could have need to keep the quota system active sent representatives to negotiate with even now." He suggested the system the students."

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Ayman Sadiq, content creator and founder of 10 Minute School, strongly condemned the violence against protesters, expressing his dismay:

opportunities, them to navigate their daily lives with frustration." He called for change, stating, "Let the youth be freed from the quota system. Let merit and qualifications be recognised." Author and publisher Mohammad

Nazimuddin offered a scathing critique of the situation, dismissing claims that the protesters were misled by opposition parties. He stated, "They are not naive or misled by BNP-Jamaat as they say. The real culprits are the vote-rigging thieves and sycophants!" Nazimuddin warned of the consequences of

Dhallywood actor Siam Ahmed a path for severe expressed his dismay at the transformation of his alma mater into a misuse. As a result, talented and qualified battleground, questioning, "Why has my youth are losing their campus become a war front? Why are

> forcing students being attacked?" Noted actor Nasir Uddin Khan shared images of the brutal attacks on protesters, showcasing the extent of injuries inflicted during clashes with BCL leaders. His question cuts to the heart of the issue: "If the country is moving towards progress, then why is it that blood is shedding all over the place?"

Cartoonist Morshed Mishu took a creative approach to express solidarity with the protesters. He illustrated a student as a Hulk-like figure draped in the colours of the Bangladeshi flag,

Govt moves SC to scrap HC verdict FROM PAGE 1 the circular, issued by the public public jobs, if necessary, and can fill

this policy decision, Attorney General administration ministry on October the vacant posts from the general

Protesting the HC judgement

educational institutions, including

Dhaka University. They took to the

streets on July 1. Since then, the

protesters have been continuing

demonstrations, demanding reforms

to the quota system through the

the status quo order following

two separate petitions filed by

the government and two Dhaka

University students seeking a stay on

High Court shall remain inoperative

till that period," the Appellate Division

The impugned judgement of the

On July 10, the SC delivered

5, students

at

staged

different

merit list if any quota in government

recruitment is not fulfilled.

on June

demonstrations

formulation of a law.

the HC judgement.

"The quota system month?" now only serves as

position at the AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue as "striking forces" and will rush whenever and wherever needed.

"We don't want any confrontation. But we will also not allow anyone to block roads and carry out vandalism," said Dhaka South unit AL president Abu Ahmed Mannafi, adding that all BCL units under Dhaka City were asked to remain vigilant.

The city AL activists will lend law enforcers a hand to keep the situation under control, he added.

professional bodies on the streets to "counter insulting remarks against

public Facebook page with nearly 7

and generated about 2.5 lakh likes

and 38,000 comments at the time of

of Dhaka's Institute of Business

Administration, posted on the

issue again on Monday, the day that

Chhatra League activists swooped

on quota protesters on the Dhaka

University campus, leaving at least

Why is there blood on my campus? I

"Dhaka University is bloodied.

Sadiq's post was followed by the

official Facebook page of 10 Minute

School changing its profile picture to

a black screen, often used to express

grief or solidarity with a cause or

The post was shared 6,400 times

Sadiq, a graduate of the University

million followers on July 13.

Govt cancels Tk 5cr fund

Meanwhile, police were asked not to use force unless necessary.

Police have already increased vigilance and instructed its members to ensure security of all key infrastructures, public transport, government establishments and police establishments, police sources said.

They have been asked to take footage and photographs of agitations to identify any infiltrators. Police will later file cases against these "troublemakers and instigators".

Law enforcers will conduct raids AL also has taken initiatives and arrest the "troublemakers" once to ensure presence of different the situation returned to normal, according to police sources.

Facebook page announced cancelling

minister of ICT Division, the parent

of Startup Bangladesh, made an

identical post minutes later.

10MS

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state

Palak and 10MS did not respond to

But in a dialogue organised by the

The Daily Star's request for comment.

Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters

Forum at the secretariat vesterday,

Palak said that disclosing the reasons

for funding cancellation would

breach the non-disclosure agreement

signed by Startup Bangladesh with

Asked if Sadiq's Facebook posts

were the reason behind Startup

Bangladesh's pulling out from the

deal, Palak said: "Whoever the person

or whichever the organisation,

they must uphold the sovereignty

of Bangladesh and the spirit of the

Liberation War. Someone can be a

successful entrepreneur, journalist,

lawyer and have different political

its proposed investment into 10MS.

"We are working strategically to

some places, but police are not using force and not taking a frontline position, as it may instigate the protesters," Dhaka Metropolitan Commissioner Habibur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"A police sergeant and a constable got hurt, and the police outpost at Science Lab was vandalised but still we acted patiently and did not use any force," he said.

The protesters blocked 29 points in Dhaka, he said, adding, "Everywhere, we brought the situation under control by requesting the protesters and sometimes bringing local influential people and teachers to convince the students.'

ideologies, but there should be

"In that case, if anyone takes a

stand or expresses opinions against

the spirit of the Liberation War,

there is a saying that even though the

wretch is a scholar, he is abandoned,'

Startup Bangladesh was supposed

Founded in 2015 by Sadiq and

Abdullah Abyad Raied, 10MS

provides content material for school

curriculum and skills development. It

also offers a video library, preparation

tips, model tests, and pre-scheduled

live classes for admission preparation,

to disburse the funds to 10MS over

the next few days, according to people

informed with the proceedings.

AM Amin Uddin told reporters at his office

Replying to a question on whether his office will move the petition before the Appellate Division's chamber judge soon, the attorney general said the apex court is scheduled to hold a hearing on the petition on August 7.

In response to another question, AG Amin Uddin said he thinks that those who are instigating the students for the quota protests are diverting them in the wrong way for political agendas.

Even though the apex court has asked the students to place their arguments before the court, they are continuing their demonstrations, he said, adding that, "Nobody can change the apex court verdict."

Following a writ petition, the HC on June 5 this year declared illegal

Editors' Council no debate on the Liberation War, Bangladesh, and the Father of the

FROM PAGE 12

online news portal, the statement said. The statement added that The Daily Star senior photographer Prabir Das, Prothom Alo staff photographer Dipu Malakar, Daily Janakantha photojournalist Sumanta Chakraborty, and its Dhaka University correspondent Motahar Hossain, Pulak Raj of Daily Bhorer Pata, and Miraj Uddin of Daily Amar Sangbad were wounded on Dhaka University campus.

In Chattogram, Shyamal Nandi, photographer of online news portal sarabangla.net, and Runa Ansari, bureau chief of Deepto TV, were hurt while covering clashes in Chattogram's Sholashahar yesterday, it added.

Israeli forces battle Hamas

FROM PAGE 12

Israeli jails, had appeared to be making some progress, negotiators had said.

USStateDepartmentspokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday that two senior advisers to Netanyahu said Israel is still committed to reaching a ceasefire.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the Israeli officials that casualties among Palestinian civilians "still remain unacceptably high".

4, 2018, which cancelled the quota system in government jobs.

The circular said in the case of direct recruitment to the posts of 9th grade (formerly class-1) and 10th to 13th grades (formerly class-2), the appointments should be made based on merit.

The HC in the full text of the judgement, which was released on July 13, has also directed the government to restore and maintain the quotas for "districts, women, physically challenged people, tribes, minor races, ethnic groups and others, if any," and to publish a notification in this regard as soon as possible, preferably within three months from the date of receipt of this order.

The HC also said the government can change, reduce or increase the ratio or percentage of the quotas in

> Punctuality of Biman

said in the full text of its order.

FROM PAGE 12

To improve efficiency, Biman has taken various measures including closing the check-in counters 60 minutes before the departure of international flights.

Biman is providing its employees training to increase its capacity in ground handling at the Dhaka Airport, the Biman officials said.

Mobile internet sluggish

FROM PAGE 12

Jahangirnagar University, also said they were experiencing slow mobile internet connections.

Alin Khan Farhan, a student of Rajshahi University, said mobile internet connection was too slow to use around the campus area.

Multiple students from Jahangirnagar University including Amit from the philosophy department, said mobile internet became slow in the evening, making it impossible to use social media or browse the web, adding that the slow speeds lasted till late last night.

However, even though the internet was slow, they said they were still able to make regular phone calls.

Ashura today

FROM PAGE 12

event.

FROM PAGE 12

filing the report.

300 people injured.

protest," he posted.

the religion of peace and harmony, is a shining example in the history of humanity

The day is a public holiday. On the eve of Ashura, President

Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued separate messages, paying

deep respect to Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA) and other martyrs of Karbala.

The president hoped that the great teachings of Ashura would reflect in the lives of all.

The PM, in her message, termed Ashura a very mournful, significant, and glorious day.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh

Television, and private TV channels will air special programmes while

Nation.

Palak added.

university courses.

Startup Bangladesh.

newspapers and online news portals publish supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

On the occasion, special prayers and discussions highlighting the significance of Ashura will be held at mosques and other places.

Ittefaq, and Shakib Ahmed of an

A Palestinian official close to the talks told Reuters yesterday that

Hamas was keen not to be seen as halting the talks despite the steppedup Israeli attacks.

"Hamas wants the offensive to end, not at any price. It says it has shown the flexibility needed and is pushing the mediators to get Israel to reciprocate," the official, who asked not to be named said.

competitive examinations, and Until yesterday, 10MS raised \$7.5 million, including Tk 5 crore from

Daily Ittefaq

Somoy Television cameraperson Shimul and Bijoy Television cameraperson Mostafa were wounded while gathering information during clashes in Dinajpur.

In Bogura, Jamuna Television senior reporter and bureau chief Meherul Sujon, Daily Karatoa photojournalist Shafiqul Islam, photojournalist Bimu Rahman, Gazi Television cameraperson Enamul Haque, and an online journalist were injured.

"We call upon the government, all student organisations, and law enforcers to ensure the safety of journalists while they discharge their professional duties," the statement said.

About 16 hours after Sadiq's post, Startup Bangladesh on its official

INTERNATIONAL

Nine killed in **Oman Shia** mosque gun attack

REUTERS, Dubai

Nine people were killed, including three attackers, in an assault on a Shia Muslim mosque in Oman late on Monday, authorities said, in a rare breach of security in one of the most stable countries in the Middle East.

Four Pakistani nationals and a policeman were among those killed in the gun attack, according to Pakistani and Omani officials. Authorities said 28 people of various nationalities were wounded, including security personnel.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said the attack took place in the Ali bin Abi Talib mosque. A local source said it was also known as Imam Ali mosque.

Describing the incident in the Wadi al-Kabir district of Oman's capital Muscat as a "terrorist" attack, the Pakistani ministry said 30 injured people were in hospital.

J&K FIGHTING Five Indian security personnel killed

AFP, Srinagar

Five security personnel were killed in a firefight with gunmen in Indianadministered Jammu and Kashmir, the army and police said yesterday, with security sources saying militants had made a "tactical shift" in attacks.

A security official, who asked not to be named, said militants had shifted operations from the mainly Muslim Kashmir valley to the Hindu-dominated southern Jammu area, where "counterinsurgency measures are not as strong".

Kashmir's top political official Manoj Sinha said forces would "avenge" their deaths. The Indian army's 16 Corps said security forces had launched an operation in the Doda forest on Monday evening, some 135 kilometres southeast of the territory's capital Srinagar, in the Jammu area. "heavy firefight А ensued," the army said, saying four men were killed, including a captain. chief Indian armv Upendra Dwivedi sent his "deepest condolences" to the families of the men. A police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP a police officer also died of his wounds, adding two other soldiers had been hospitalised.



An injured man lies on a cart while arriving at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, amid the ongoing Israeli bombardments across the enclave. PHOTO: AFP

Access to Gaza getting increasingly difficult

Warn 13 leading NGOs, denounce Israel's ongoing attacks on aid operations

AFP, Paris

Access to Gaza has become increasingly difficult for humanitarian groups, 13 leading NGOs warned on Monday, accusing Israel's military of blocking muchneeded aid from reaching the Palestinian territory.

Denouncing "Israel's systematic obstruction of aid and its ongoing attacks on aid operations", the humanitarian organisations said that Israel had facilitated only 53 less than half -- of the 115 relief missions they had planned.

The aid groups slammed what it called Israel's "siege tactics" in its

The so-called "humanitarian zone" had become "an



the obstacles imposed by the to the deterioration in security continuation of Israeli military conditions", the statement said. operations on the ground," a press release summarising the 13 NGOs' views warned.

continue to come up against crossing points in the south "due More than 1,500 trucks of humanitarian containing inside the country, the medicines, first-aid kits and basic IOM said. An additional 2.8 necessities were stuck in the million people were already Egyptian city of Al-Arish as a result. Meanwhile, in the north of displaced by previous conflicts in the country. the Gaza Strip -- which has been isolated from the south by the Fighting between the Israeli army -- aid delivery is "very army and paramilitary limited". Oxfam said it took it

More than 10m displaced by Sudan war Says IOM

REUTERS, Cairo

More than 10 million Sudanese, or 20 percent of the population, have been driven from their homes since the war there began, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said yesterday, as the world's largest displacement crisis continues to worsen.

The number is the latest dire figure out of the east African country, devastated by a conflict that began in April 2023. The war has left half the population of about 50 million facing a hunger crisis and in need of humanitarian aid, the most of any country.

More than 2.2 million people have fled to other countries since the war began, while almost 7.8 million sought refuge

Musk pledges \$45m a month to electing Trump

AFP, Washington

Tech billionaire Elon Musk said he plans to commit roughly \$45 million each month to a new fund backing Donald Trump for US president, the Wall Street Journal reported Monday.

Musk's donations will go to a political group dubbed America PAC, which will focus on promoting voter registration, early voting and mail-in ballots among residents in swing states ahead of the November general election, the Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Musk is one of several major backers of the new fund, with others reportedly including Palantir cofounder Joe Lonsdale, former US ambassador to Canada Kelly Craft and cryptocurrency investors Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss.

The Tesla founder formally endorsed Trump's candidacy for US president on Saturday after the former president survived a shooting at a political rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

"I fully endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery," Musk wrote on the social media platform X, which he acquired in 2022.

Musk, the wealthiest man in the world with an estimated net worth of \$250 billion, has grown increasingly friendly with Trump over the course of the 2024 US election.

In March, the two met in person during a donor breakfast hosted at the Florida residence of billionaire Nelson Peltz.

Metsola wins 2nd term as EU Parliament chief Warns against polarisation

REUTERS, Strasbourg

Roberta Metsola, a Maltese lawmaker from the centre-right European People's Party, easily won a second term yesterday as president of the European Parliament and she appealed for a more

inclusive politics to help combat polarisation. Metsola, who in 2022 became the first woman in 20 years to head the European Union assembly, has emerged as a strong supporter of Ukraine in its war with Russia and its bid to join the EU. President Volodymyr Zelensky sent his congratulations.

Some 562 EU lawmakers out of the 623 who took part in yesterday's vote backed her reappointment to the mainly

ceremonial role for a further two and a half years, the largest margin of victory ever for a president the European Parliament.

"Polarisation in our societies has led to more confrontational politics, even political violence," Metsola, 45, told the assembly. We need to move beyond this zero-sum thinking that has excluded

active combat zone", say aid groups

struggle against Hamas.

said the so-called It "humanitarian zone" where most of the strip's population of 2.4 million people now reside had become "an active combat zone" and "extremely unsafe".

The charities also criticised the bombing of UN schools used as shelters by displaced Palestinians. At least six schools have been hit over the past nine days.

"These recent events are the NGOs added. exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe at a time when NGOs aid"

Oxfam, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children and the Norwegian Refugee Council were among the charities to contribute to the document.

Since Israel began its ground offensive in Rafah in May, humanitarian workers have faced major difficulties in delivering aid to the Gaza Strip's south.

Israel's capture at the beginning of May of the Rafah crossing, which has since been destroyed, brought aid deliveries to a "complete halt",

Tonnes of "absolutely necessary were left blocked at the

Rapid Support Forces that five weeks to transport just 1,600 broke out in the capital food parcels from Jordan to Gaza Khartoum last year quickly a journey it said "should take no expanded across Darfur, with RSF taking control of most centres. UN experts At Kerem Shalom, designated since say hunger has replaced May as a priority crossing point for humanitarian aid, the situation violence as the largest had "deteriorated significantly driver of migration from since Israel's offensive in May", the Darfur, where they face difficulty delivering aid.

> World's rarest whale washes up on New Zealand beach

people, that turns people away," she said.

Metsola urged the European Parliament to remain a strong supporter of Ukraine, the rule of law, and women's rights, while preparing to add new countries to the EU.

In his message of congratulations, Zelensky wrote on X: "I greatly appreciate President Metsola's personal involvement in supporting Ukraine, as well as her unwavering commitment to protecting people and upholding our European way of life.'

POST-POLLS FRANCE PM Attal to take caretaker role

AFP, Paris

President Emmanuel Macron was set to accept the resignation of the French government yesterday, but ask Prime Minister Gabriel Attal to head up a caretaker administration for now, cabinet sources told AFP.

French politics have been in gridlock since an inconclusive snap election earlier this month, with parties in the National Assembly scrambling to put together a governing coalition and no successor to Attal in sight.

Macron made the announcement vesterday at the first cabinet meeting since his allies got roundly beaten in the snap parliamentary election he called to "clarify" the political landscape.

Macron told the ministers that he would accept Attal's resignation "at the end of the day", but ask him to stay on "for some weeks", probably until after the Paris Olympics, which open on July 26, meeting participants said.

This gives political parties more time to build a governing coalition after the July 7 election runoff left the lower house without an overall majority.

A broad alliance called the New Popular Front (NFP) which includes Socialists, Communists, Greens and the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) won the most seats, with 193 in the 577-strong lower chamber.

Macron's allies came second with 164 seats and the farright National Rally (RN) third with 143. The divided NFP alliance has been scrambling to come up with a consensus candidate for prime minister.

But internal conflicts -- notably between the LFI and the more moderate Socialists -- have thwarted all efforts to find a personality able to survive a confidence vote in parliament.

5 rights bodies slam attacks on quota protesters

FROM PAGE 1

Asia, in a statement posted on its verified Facebook page, called on the government to immediately guarantee the safety of all peaceful protesters and proper medical treatment of the injured.

"Bangladesh must uphold its obligations under international law and its own constitution to fully respect the people's rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and protect peaceful protestors from further harm.

Transparency International Bangladesh, in its statement, expressed outrage over the attacks on the student protesters by the ruling party's student wing and external attackers, urging that these attackers be identified and held accountable.

In the statement, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman termed the attacks on students "disgusting and barbaric".

reported that even female students faced indiscriminate attacks and public harassment while a student in Rangpur has died during clashes, said the statement issued in the afternoon.

Amnesty International South and disappointed by the attacks. We demand the attackers be identified and brought to book, regardless of their political positions and identities."

He added that the government should not ignore the logical demands of the students by passing the burden onto the courts. "Rather, it should take steps for a logical, modern, peaceful, and constitutional solution.

The International Human Rights Commission's Bangladesh chapter, Manobadhikar Sangskriti Foundation, and Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik have also expressed concerns over the attacks.

They urged that effective steps be taken to solve the crisis and said the human rights situation in the country will deteriorate to the extreme, creating obstacles for common people, if the crisis continues.

The statements said the attacks Reliable media sources have on protesting students, especially the females, are gross violations of the constitution and human rights, adding that the state failed in protecting the students. **114 CITIZENS CONDEMN**

"We are appalled, outraged, a statement yesterday strongly condemned the attacks on quota protesters over the last two days.

They demanded justice for the students and exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attacks.

The statement said, "We've observed with deep concern that yesterday [Monday] and today [yesterday], the quota reform activists and students of different universities were indiscriminately attacked. Media reports state that Chhatra League leaders and activists of different units attacked the protesting students with pistols, rods, sticks and sharp weapons.

"Even female students were not spared ... We're outraged and saddened by this barbaric attack. We strongly condemn the painful news of the deaths of at least four people in the attacks on the protesters.'

"Attacking the demonstrators, killing several and injuring hundreds of them are serious criminal offences under the country's customary law. The injured students were attacked again while they were at the emergency of Dhaka Medical At least 114 eminent citizens in College Hospital for treatment,

which is equivalent to crimes against humanity," it added.

more than six hours".

aid groups said.

They also demanded that the ministers and Awami League leaders concerned be brought to book for ordering these attacks.

Condemning the failure of the police and university administrations to prevent the attacks, they extended their support to the logical demands of the quota reform movement.

Ali Imam Majumder, former cabinet secretary; Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue; Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh; Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik; Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association; Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University: Prof Swapan Adnan; CR Abrar, executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit; Prof Asif Nazrul and Prof Shahnaz Huda of DU; Shahidul Alam, renowned photographer; and Maha Mirza, development researcher, were among the signatories.

The body of a spadetoothed whale -- a species so rare it has never been seen alive -- appears to have washed up on a New Zealand beach, scientists

> The remains of the obscure, five-metre long, beaked creature were found near a river mouth in southern Otago province on July 4, government researchers said.

It was identified by experts from New Zealand's Department of Conservation and the national museum, Te Papa, as a male spade-toothed whale. A DNA investigation has been launched to confirm its classification.

"Spade-toothed whales are one of the most poorly known large mammalian species of modern times," said the conservation department's coastal Otago operations manager, Gabe Davies.

AFP, Christchurch said.

EDITORIAL

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Stop this violence before more deaths

We protest mindless attacks on students

We are horrified by the atrocious violence carried out by the members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) across campuses and on streets in Bangladesh over the past 48 hours in the name of teaching anti-quota dissenters a "lesson." Countless protesters have been injured in the attacks that show no signs of abating, and as of writing this editorial, at least six individuals have died during clashes. We urge the government to immediately stop this bloodbath before any more loss of lives and a complete breakdown of law and order.

On Tuesday, both protests and attacks escalated, spreading across the country. Along with public university students, students from some private universities and even schools and colleges too joined hands to protest BCL's attacks on the previous day. Science Lab in Dhaka turned into a warzone for most of the day, with chases and counter-chases between students and BCL leading to at least a hundred individuals getting injured. The situation in Rangpur and Chattogram were also very volatile, with clashes leading to at least one death in Rangpur and three in Chattogram. A number of students were also reportedly shot.

These attacks began on Monday when Dhaka University turned into a bloody battlefield for over five hours. According to media reports, BCL men, armed with sticks and rods, swooped upon students who had gathered to protest what they called a "disparaging comment" by the prime minister. Their brutality did not stop with injuring over 300 students, many of whom were women; they stormed into DMCH's emergency department in the evening and beat protesters again, causing unimaginable panic among critically-ill patients who had come for emergency treatment. At midnight and early morning on Tuesday, they continued their mayhem across other campuses. During these clashes, lethal weapons including machete and petrol bombs were used.

It is unimaginable that such violence could take place with impunity, without any attempt by law enforcement agencies to stop them from happening-not even when it took place in the biggest public hospital in the country. Are we to assume that our law enforcers are helpless in the face of BCL's wrath, or that BCL is now an armed extension of the state machinery? Even if we assume that the protesters were in the wrong and needed to be apprehended, what legal or constitutional mandate does a student wing have to carry out such attacks? While the home minister had previously warned of police action against quota protesters if they crossed the line, he seems to now see no excesses in BCL's actions, which are directly undermining the role of his ministry and that of law enforcers. In fact, he has gone so far as to dismiss the ongoing violence as mere "difference of opinion" between opposing groups.

By allowing and enabling such attacks, the government is essentially pushing the protesters to a point of no return, which can have disastrous consequences for the country and its citizens. It must act as a government should-sensitive to citizens' needs and demands. It has to take stern action against those carrying out attacks against members of the public and making a mockery of the democratic and constitutional processes that we fought the Liberation War for.

The government should realise that the ongoing protests are more than just about quotas-they signify a deep sense of dissatisfaction among the youth about the way the country currently operates. The way out is to hear the students' concerns and engage them in dialogue, not to allow violence inflicted upon them, which can only exacerbate their frustrations against the status quo.

Is political violence transforming Awami League?



The images that surfaced on online news portals, including this newspaper and social media, showing helmetwearing activists of Chhatra League attacking protesters, including girls, with various weapons and sticks to break student demonstrations at several universities are deeply outrageous, depressing, and deplorable.

demonstrators were These demanding reforms to the quota system in civil service recruitment, which was scrapped in 2018 following a similar protest but restored on June 5 following a judicial ruling. This ruling shocked many young people. The government's appeal against the ruling suggests it also wants a change in the outcome.

The latest wave of violence against the protesters follows a public pronouncement by the ruling party's general secretary, Obaidul Quader, that Chhatra League would teach a lesson to those who allegedly undermined the spirit of the war of independence. This allegation centres around distortions, selective quotations, miscommunications, and a lack of empathy and understanding. These unnecessary escalations involving party members punishing protesters must stop immediately, and the responsibility squarely falls on the leadership of the ruling party.

These latest developments add to the concerns over the increasing tendency towards intolerance and the preference for violent means to suppress any dissent, whether political or apolitical. The latest data on casualties of political violence in Bangladesh, despite their shortcomings in accuracy, clearly show that the ruling party, Awami League, has seemingly lost control over the organisation. Consequently, the party has turned into fertile ground for factionalism and turf wars. It must be acknowledged that there is no established institutional mechanism for monitoring political violence in Bangladesh, and some civil society organisations, mainly rights groups, compile data from media reports violence without independent verification, and their choice of news outlets is not always consistent.

This perhaps explains why the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), in its latest report, stated that 91 people were killed in "political violence" in the first six months of this year, while Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), another rights group, reported 41 deaths during the same period due to political rivalry and clashes.

Deadly political violence is not

in the last six months, leaving at least 4,026 people injured. The report observed that most casualties were due to election violence, dominance, and internal conflict between the ruling Awami League and Chhatra League. There were also a few clashes between police and opposition party leaders and activists.

1,004 incidents of "political violence"

According to the report, 50 people were killed in violence due to Chhatra League's dominance and infighting on public university campuses. While some may argue that the higher levels of violence and casualties during this period were due to the parliamentary election held on January 7 and subsequent upazila elections, both were boycotted by the main opposition BNP and most other opposition

elections, and their reasoning cannot be dismissed outright.

However, looking at historical data of political violence over the last 10 years suggests a disturbing political transformation largely within the ruling party. For example, the number of casualties of political violence in 2022, compiled by ASK, shows that Awami League versus Awami League conflicts resulted in 12 deaths that year, compared to one death from violence between the Awami League and the BNP. According to a Dhaka Tribune report, an earlier publication by ASK compiling data over nearly five years (57 months) between January 2013 and September 2017 found that Awami League and its affiliate organisations had an average of 15 incidents of internal conflict per



Activists of the ruling party swoop on student protestors on July 15, 2024.

rare in our political culture, where the winner-takes-all principle drives political activists to the extreme. In a democracy, a strong opposition acts as a powerful deterrent to deadly violence. But in the absence of an effective opposition, it is natural for the rulers to face opposition from within, leading to internecine conflict. The ASK data, too, cited elections that led to incidents of violence

including the current parliamentary opposition Jatiya Party, also largely stayed away from upazila elections, leaving these elections as intra-party contests for the ruling Awami League.

PHOTO: STAR

parties. Allies of the ruling party, month, leading to the loss of three lives each month.

This situation raises the question of whether the current leadership of Awami League, on its 75th anniversary, will consider answering It could be argued that the ruling crucial questions about whether this party's decision to allow and, in transformation into violent politics some cases, encourage its members will help or harm the party in the long to run against its official nominees run. Additionally, will they take urgent propelled intra-party rivalry. Many measures to stop further loss of lives The HRSS report, published on July political observers had warned about among their members and political

Out of control healthcare costs

A holistic approach needed to reduce out-

of-pocket expenses

A research finding has confirmed our fear that many people are facing poverty because of high healthcare costs in Bangladesh. A study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), according to this daily, showed that approximately 6.13 million people were pushed below the national poverty line in 2022 because of out-of-pocket health expenditures.

The findings also revealed that more than half the population faces financial difficulties while seeking medical services in hospitals and that a large portion of the healthcare cost is spent on medicines. This is no surprise since many people in Bangladesh visit a pharmacy for basic ailments and buy medicine based on the shopkeepers' recommendations instead of consulting physicians, who are often not available at primary healthcare centres in unions and upazilas. Even when doctors are available, the poor quality of services at health facilities and the high cost of private ones often discourage people from seeking professional help. There is also a tendency among health professionals to overprescribe drugs and write brand names of medicine in prescriptions as a favour to pharmaceutical representatives who shower doctors with incentives.

The most disheartening part is that while out-of-pocket health expenditure continues to rise for the public (from 68 percent in 2020 to 73 percent in 2021), a portion of the health sector allocation remains underutilised. Plus, a significant portion of the allocation is spent on the salaries and wages of staff and health professionals, which often do not benefit patients directly. Although the health minister hinted at introducing a government-based health insurance system, many other ills in this sector need to be fixed to reduce people's healthcare burden. First, our focus needs to shift from curative to preventive care. Then the shortage of doctors and other health professionals must be resolved by instituting proper incentives and monitoring systems at duty stations. Policies and regulations should be introduced and implemented strictly to prevent the over-prescription of drugs, unethical practices of pharmaceutical companies, and regulate fees at private healthcare facilities. Corruption and inefficiencies in health sector procurement processes must be checked. Besides, a well-developed patient referral system will also decrease costs, stopping people from unnecessarily visiting specialists and paying higher fees. Only an overhaul of the entire sector, not just ad hoc measures, can re-establish people's trust in the health sector and reduce healthcare costs.

7, stated that 91 people were killed in this likelihood well before these rivals?

A slogan lost in translation

Azmin Azran

at The Daily Star

is diaital features coordinator



AZMIN AZRAN

reform protests has taken a drastic turn over the last two days. On Tuesday, at least six individuals, mostly students, died during clashes between protesters and members of Bangladesh Chhatra League and the police-marking a further escalation from the previous day's events. Few would have imagined this scenario when students gathered in Dhaka University and other campuses on Sunday night.

For over two weeks prior to this, they had been boycotting classes and exams, and blockading key intersections in Dhaka and major highways in different places of the country with the demand to reform the quota system in civil service recruitment. But what made them flood campus streets on that night was a specific comment that touched a nerve for the wider student community. On Sunday, in response to a journalist's question during a press conference, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "Why do they [anti-quota protesters] have so much resentment towards the freedom fighters? If the grandchildren of the freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?'

This questionable dichotomy is what lit the fuse, leading to students they did on Sunday night. And the

The course of the ongoing quota exploding with renewed vigour. And among all the slogans heard across the DU campus that night, the one that seems to have had the most intense impact is the one that goes: "Tui ke? Ami ke? Razakar, Razakar! [Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar!]" There have been other, more explanatory variations of the slogan, but for whatever reason, those didn't get much coverage. The question is, what made these students-otherwise proud citizens of an independent Bangladesh, and carrying the legacy of our independence struggle-utter such incendiary slogans?

> Grievances over the preferential quota system are nothing new; in fact, the way the protests have panned out this time are starkly reminiscent of what happened during the 2018 quota reform movement. Protests began at Shahbagh then as they did now, before spreading across the country. In 2018, like this time around, a senior member of the ruling party remarked in parliament, "Will the children and successors of those who risked their lives to fight for independence not get an opportunity? Will the children of Razakars get the chance? Will the quota for the freedom fighters be shrunk for them?"

Six years ago, students protested this particular line of reasoning—as reaction to it on both occasions was totally different connotation. And nothing short of extraordinary. That said, it is totally unfortunate that in a movement that concerns the wellbeing of general students in modern-day Bangladesh, the word "Razakar" has occupied so much of the conversation. On principle, we must say we are against any identification-however unintended—with this term. Students, having been familiarised with the

After Sunday night, we have seen the ministers of road transport and bridges, education, and social welfare, and state ministers for **ICT and information** all come out with hardened words against the protesters. None of them seemed to have noticed that the protesters themselves offered further explanation of their mood by chanting, "Chaite gelam odhikar, hoye gelam Razakar [Demanded rights, only to become Razakar]".

history of our nation from a young age, should have known better than to use something that only invokes the hateful memories of the atrocities committed by Razakars in 1971.

But students say the slogan was lost in translation. Their use of term, they say, was sarcastic the and heavy with context. Take away that context, and you have a

this is what is happening at the moment. Unfortunately, despite the clarification from students, there has been little hint of reciprocation from those protesting the use of the word Razakar. Clearly, a mismatch exists between the protesting students and the powers that be. But what was stopping Bangladesh Chhatra League, a student party made up of students, from trying to understand the feelings of pain and anguish that led to such utterances? Why, instead of trying to impress upon them the inappropriateness of their slogan or supporting their just cause for quota reforms, did Chhatra League unleash violence on them?

After Sunday night, we have seen the ministers of road transport and bridges, education, and social welfare, and state ministers for ICT and information all come out with hardened words against the protesters. None of them seemed to have noticed that the protesters themselves offered further explanation of their mood by chanting, "Chaite gelam odhikar, hoye gelam Razakar [Demanded rights, only to become Razakar]". Instead of trying to engage with the students and bridge any gap in communication, the Awami League general secretary has instead called BCL to provide a "fitting reply".

We have seen the destructive nature of that reply over the past two days. Such violence and brutal attacks over a naive use of an objectionable slogan are hard to accept. We must remember that these students would never support anti-liberation ideals. Attempts could have been made to clear any confusion through amicable means. That would have been a much wiser way to deal with these realities instead of the violence that has ensued since.

The Daily Star Reg. No. DA 781

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Mahfuz Anam Printed by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd at Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, editor@thedailystar.net Registered & Head Offices: The Daily Star Centre 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Phone: 09610222222

Newsroom: Fax- 58156306 reporting@thedailystar.net

Advertisement: 01711623910 advertisement@thedailystar.net GPO Box: 3257 Subscription: 01711623906

thedailystar.net bangla.thedailystar.net,

GEOPOLITICAL INSIGHTS DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 17, 2024 SRABAN 2, 1431 BS The Daily Star How Trump's assassination attempt affects the US election



Throughout

Sarzah Yeasmin is a Boston-based Bangladeshi writer. She works at Harvard Kennedy School and is currently pursuing a micro-master's in data and economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

SARZAH YEASMIN

intended for the republican nominee. Donald Trump, and if it becomes a reality, it would significantly alter US policy and institutions. The much-talked about debate between the two-party candidates was a smudge, a mishmash of dubious claims-the optics

of which takes the public further away from

considering the real policy changes and

tangible upheavals that they will encounter.

The debate did nothing to change minds-

that they can be dependable service providers for the public. It is the public that should be pushing politics not the other way round, but the opposite is the reality.

The Secret Service which shot the shooter down, has a long discreet relationship with the Trump family with a reputation for spending millions of taxpayer dollars on Trump's hotels, private properties and clubs.

institutions from the flare of party politics so to the movement. Trump has established, although mostly rhetorically, that he is the commander-in-chief who gets things done and he is the one who is taken seriously by the world leaders. The assassination attempt could legitimise Trump's rhetoric for swing voters. Regardless of the sound bites we must not forget what was actually accomplished during Trump's last term and the risks associated with the promises of Project 2025. From the cusp of misinformation, we slid into the labyrinth of fake news, alternate and multiple realities, loss of objectivity, immense push backs against reproductive rights, scandalous turnovers in the government.

The extent to which the public has been exposed to chaos has truly made them immune to the likes of such ruptures in US institutions which were meant to be trusted. The ultimate and the biggest numerical outcome of the Trump presidency was the number of Covid deaths and insensitivity at a time when the world needed to come together. Sure, there was some progress in foreign policy, but the magnitude of loss is much greater. And an important question needs to be considered: would the genocide of Palestinians by Israel stop if Trump takes office? That is a complicated question given that Trump courts evangelical Zionists who are quite influential in the broader national political landscape. He also called Biden a "bad Palestinian" denigrating an entire people and glossing over the constant trauma and brutality against humanity.

Technocracy of the Democratic Party may have made it a party of the elites, but the Republican Party is not quite the people's party and it hasn't been in a long time. People may rather prefer doctors to run a hospital versus a family who would run the healthcare establishment like a business. Trump is known to appoint his family members and loyalists in influential government posts, which reeks of corrupt "third world" family-run governments with compromised institutions. But whether American citizens will see that truth, and the problem with that, seems further away today than it was before the assassination attempt.

Joe Biden-whose candidacy was in doubt, with talks of his replacement dominating the headlines before Trump's assassination attempt-is now in a more precarious position. Biden is a leader who has delivered before, both on the goods and bads, but he has reached a ceiling with his support for the genocide—another political move to keep Israel sympathisers in the Democratic party's pocket. Pollsters can make sound predictions about the general election, but the future of both parties, particularly the Republican Party, looks bleak as its institutional rigour erodes and the party turns into a movement progressive voter bases are lacklustre-with around one man and his family cantered topout a full-fledged impartial investigation, much of the lethargy stemming from the down leadership. The optics of the shooting event will only expedite that erosion. In this

assassination has been memorialised, canonised and imprinted onto the public psyche. In many cases the act of assassination has been a turning point-from Benazir Bhutto, to Indira Gandhi to John F Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln, all these world leaders have had an abrupt end to their flaring political careers, but are remembered more for their good than bad, regardless of which side of the political line the public of the day inclines. While many have come up with conspiracy theories after the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump in a rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday, Trump has received words of assurance, condolence and kindness across the board. The imagery of blood trickling down his face and fist up in the air is quite iconic and heroic-supporters who loved him love him more, and the ones who did not look at him are looking at him now.

history any

attempted

This unprecedented event has not only pivoted attention away from major world issues, at least in the US, but it could also be a major turning point for the outcome of the current election. It has already charged the Republican Party, and it will continue to shape their strategy as they move forward with packaging their rhetoric. However, despite the fact that the attack could have been avoided with some form of gun control, the party's position on gun control and the Second Amendment will remain intact. Two of the most talked about US presidents in history, who were party favourites-Theodore Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan were also

Since the last week of June, Trump has held a lead in the national polls according to FiveThirtyEight; after the assassination, it has gone up by two percent over Biden, while **Biden's national disapproval** rating is on the rise.

survivors of assassination attempts and Trump has now joined that list. Though his felony cases did not really play a pivotal role in the public's decision to support or not support



Former President Donald Trump pumps his fist as he is rushed offstage following his assassination attempt at a rally on July 13, 2024 in Butler, Pennsylvania. PHOTO: AFP

case against Donald Trump on the grounds that the Department of Justice unlawfully appointed special counsel Jack Smith.

Since the last week of June, Trump has held a lead in the national polls according to FiveThirtyEight; after the assassination, it has gone up by two percent over Biden, while Biden's national disapproval rating is on the rise. The political ground has been made fertile for Project 2025-a \$22 million project led by the right-wing think tank, Heritage Foundation, with an autocratic bend that aims to realise staunch Christian nationalist principles, undermine separation of power, eliminate the department of education, him, this incident takes away any clout from curb climate change and civil liberties the hush money, falsification of business related regulations, push for significant cut records, corrupt dealings and hearings might to social security provisions and establish

undecided voters are still undecided and will likely remain undecided and the ones who have decided not to pick the lesser of the two evils won't hit the polls. The Republican National Convention proved to show a Republican Party recharged with Trump's words minutes after surviving the attempt: "Fight, fight, fight." Security was ramped up for the convention so that the security failures were not repeated, although questions still remain both for the security apparatus and the public on how the shooter got so close and why there was a failure. The Justice Department under Attorney General Merrick Garland can be trusted to carry but the question persists if the same can be

What we are witnessing is a monumental loss of institutionalisation for the Republican Party, as its politics revolve around amplifying Trump, a move from defending conservative ideals which are fundamentally against debasing the branches of the government. The creation of the new party platform for the Republicans is a closed process, which is unlike other election cycles. As Biden attempts to try his chances by declaring he knows how to say the truth, in many ways, so does his opponent Trump is clearly adept at speaking his version of the truth.

While many of Biden's liberal and US' role in the ongoing genocide in Gaza-

have had. Following the attack, a Florida judge partisan leadership in major agencies. It is a expected from the Justice Department under Trump activists are on the move, and this market place of democracy, we have only a dismissed the federal classified documents presidential transition operation specifically another Trump presidency. It is vital to save shooting event has only added more fuel few bad choices.

The most incredible election in French history



Melenchon's interest for a left-wing government (under a different figurehead) to succeed.

To benefit Melenchon personally, the NFP would need to be able to execute on its entire electoral programme; but that will never happen without an absolute majority. Moreover, the next government-whatever shape it takes-will soon have to answer to

election. Thus, it is not necessarily in differences with him, the arrangement paid off electorally. Of the 40 additional seats won by the left, all went to the Socialists and Greens, whereas France Unbowed made no new gains. One is reminded of the leftwing union that French President Francois Mitterrand led after his election in 1981: by forging an alliance with the Communists, he was in a better position to weaken them later. Looking ahead, the most likely scenario

Most pundits had come to believe that the French electoral system's natural immunity against the far-right no longer worked. But this election disproved that. Though the far-right is now the country's leading political force, it cannot do anything without allies, and it has none.

personalities will play a much larger role than labels like "left," "right," or "centre." As in every political system, some French politicians want to pursue stability and compromise, while others are bent on crushing perceived enemies. Thus, the coming year will be marked by

deep political uncertainty, which will not help France's economic outlook. No matter what, though, the next government must agree on the $2\overline{0}25$ budget within the next few months.

Perhaps the new National Assembly will find some common ground on electoral reform. The current two-round procedure is suited for a bipolar political system, but this election provided further confirmation that French politics is now tripolar. Given the emergence of distinct left-wing, right-wing, and centrist blocs, the only solution is to introduce proportional representation, with each party establishing its level of support and then pursuing voluntary coalitions after the votes are counted. Within the left, for example, the Socialists would not have to tie themselves to France Unbowed to get elected, and they could form alliances with otherssuch as Macron's party-once in parliament.

France's fragmented politics are not so different from those of other European countries. But its political culture and institutions are unique in the degree to which they favour confrontation over coalitionbuilding.

Will this election outcome spur French politicians to see things differently, or will everyone just keep behaving as they always have? In the latter scenario, RN need only bide its time, capitalise on the government's ineffectiveness, and sooner or later win everything.

By calling a snap parliamentary election in the wake of his party's defeat in the June European Parliament election, French President Emmanuel Macron hoped to "clarify" the political situation for his own benefit. Clearly, he failed. The election produced no parliamentary majority, only a great deal more confusion. With many losers and very few winners, it is the most astonishing election in the country's modern history.

Among the many losers is National Rally (RN), the far-right party that clinched a decisive and shocking victory in the European elections just weeks earlier. Though RN has increased its seat count and emerged as the largest party in the National Assembly, it fell far short of expectations. The second round featured a powerful anti-RN mobilisation, as voters shifted tactically from the centre to the left, and from the right to the centre. Many French apparently concluded during the campaign that RN's candidates were ill prepared to hold power.

Most pundits had come to believe that the French electoral system's natural immunity against the far-right no longer worked. But this election disproved that. Though the farright is now the country's leading political force, it cannot do anything without allies, and it has none.

The second loser is Macron, whose party lost around 100 seats. Before the election, his Ensemble grouping could anchor a relative majority. Now, it is dwarfed by the left-wing New Popular Front (NFP), which won the most seats overall.

But while Macron probably will be forced to appoint a new prime minister from the left,



Supporters of French far-left opposition party gather to celebrate the results of the early French parliamentary elections in Paris, France, on July 7, 2024. PHOTO: REUTERS

coalition whose members disagree on much and whose leader, Jean-Luc Melenchon of France Unbowed, has only one objective: to radicalise public debate and create the conditions for a face-off between him and

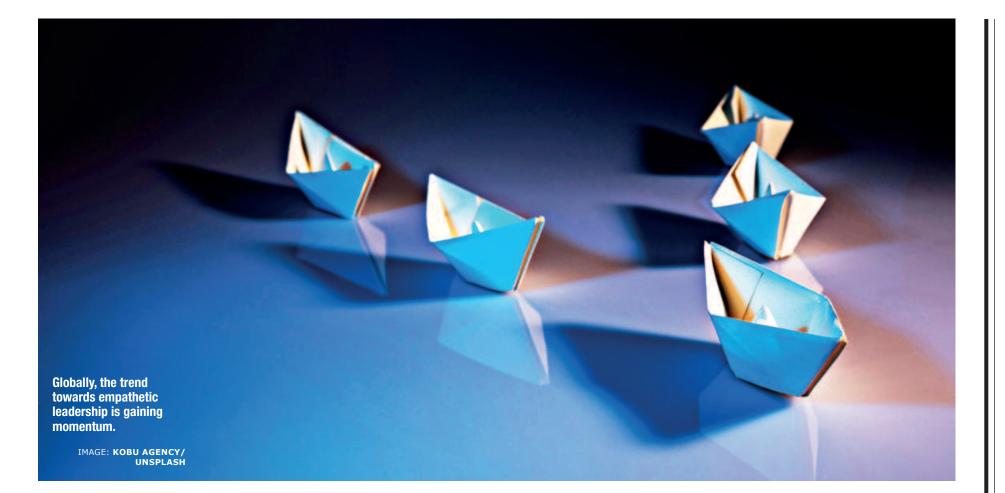
an absolute majority. Moreover, it is a loose the European Commission, which recently is that a moderate minority government launched an "excessive deficit procedure" against France.

Still, the NFP is not likely to break up anytime soon. While the Socialists and Greens drew much criticism for allying the NFP remains around 100 seats short of RN's Marine Le Pen in the 2027 presidential with Melenchon despite their fundamental

will be formed to serve as a caretaker for the next year (the president cannot dissolve the National Assembly again until June 2025). But with Macron on the defensive and lacking a parliamentary majority, France will be in uncharted waters. Specific political







The future of leadership is **KINDNESS**

In our personal lives, we strive for happiness, fulfilment, and love, actively avoiding toxic relationships. Yet. paradoxically, in the workplace, many still believe that power and toughness are the keys to success.

ZARIF FAIAZ

In recent years, the business world has seen a paradigm shift in the qualities we value in leaders. Long gone are the days when assertiveness and strength were seen as the sole indicators of effective leadership. Instead, a new wave of thinking, championed by figures like Jacinda Ardern, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, is advocating for kindness and empathy as core tenets of leadership. Ardern aptly put it, "We've placed over time so much emphasis on notions of assertiveness and strength that we have assumed it means you can't have those other qualities of kindness and empathy." This evolution in leadership ethos is not just a passing trend but a necessary transformation for the future.

The paradox of power and happiness

In our personal lives, we strive for happiness, fulfilment, and love, actively avoiding toxic relationships. Yet, paradoxically, in the workplace, many still believe that power and toughness are the keys to success. This dissonance is baffling. Why should our professional lives be any different from our personal lives when it comes to the qualities we value and the environments we create? It's time to debunk the myth that kindness and empathy are weaknesses in the corporate world.

of their managers. The evidence is clear: poor necessitates a supportive and empathetic leadership, devoid of empathy and support, work environment. drives people away.

The science of supportive leadership

On the contrary, the science supports the benefits of kind leadership. Gallup's surveys of US workers consistently find that receiving compliments, recognition, and praise boosts self-esteem, improves self-evaluations, and triggers positive emotions. Similarly, a study by the American Psychological Association found that employees who feel supported by their supervisors are more likely to be engaged and committed to their work. Google's data collection has reached similar conclusions: in the best teams, members listen to one another and show sensitivity to feelings and needs. This approach fosters a collaborative and innovative environment where employees feel valued and engaged

Competitive advantage through empathy In their book CEO Excellence, McKinsey noted that the most successful CEOs treat the 'soft stuff'-talent, culture, and organisational design-with the same rigour as financial performance. These CEOs understand that getting the people aspect right is a source of competitive advantage. This insight is not just The future of leadership applicable globally but is highly relevant to the The future of leadership lies in kindness. As we Bangladeshi corporate sector as well.

cent have seriously considered leaving because more than just competitive salaries; it

Global perspectives on employee satisfaction and leadership

Globally, the trend towards empathetic leadership is gaining momentum. According to a survey by Deloitte, 94 per cent of executives and 88 per cent of employees believe that a distinct corporate culture is important to a business's success. Moreover, a study by the Harvard Business Review found that leaders who project warmth are more effective than those who lead with toughness and power. This is supported by findings from the University of California, Berkeley, which suggest that compassionate leaders are more likely to be respected and followed.

The World Economic Forum has also highlighted the importance of empathy in leadership, noting that empathetic leaders can better connect with their employees, understand their needs, and foster a more inclusive and supportive work environment. This is particularly crucial in today's diverse and dynamic work environments, where employees come from various backgrounds and have different needs and expectations.

move forward, it is imperative that we redefine

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

Robi Axiata Limited

Manager, Revenue Assurance Deadline: July 17



Eligibility:

• Graduation from any reputed preferably university, from Computer Science, Technology, and Telecommunication.

Minimum experience: 4 years



UNICEF

Communication Officer Deadline: July 23

Eligibility:

• University degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, or a related field.

Minimum experience: 2 years

SAJIDA Foundation

Fund & Treasury Manager



Deadline: July 20

Eligibility: • Bachelor's degree in Banking, Finance, Accounting, or a related field. Minimum experience: 5 years

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)



Lecturer, various departments

Deadline: August 5

Eligibility:

• Master's and 4-year Bachelor's degree with excellent results in all examinations.

Minimum experience: N/A





The myth of niceness as weakness

There is no scientific basis for the belief that being nice, charismatic, or likeable makes one a pushover or unworthy of respect. This outdated thinking lacks evidence and ignores the numerous studies that highlight the benefits of supportive and empathetic leadership. For instance, a 2019 US study revealed that 57 per cent of employees quit their jobs because of their boss. Moreover, 14 per cent have left multiple jobs due to managerial issues, and an additional 32 per competitive, retaining top talent requires empathetic future in leadership.

The Bangladeshi context

In Bangladesh, the corporate culture is gradually evolving. Historically, hierarchical and authoritarian leadership styles have dominated, often leading to high employee turnover and low morale. However, forwardthinking companies in Bangladesh are the rest of the world, businesses that embrace beginning to embrace a more compassionate this new paradigm will not only survive but approach to leadership. This shift is not just thrive in the competitive landscape. It's time a moral imperative but a strategic necessity. to leave behind the old notions of power and As the local job market becomes more toughness and pave the way for a kinder, more

what it means to be a leader. Empathy, kindness, and support are not just nice-tohave qualities but essential components of effective leadership. They create a positive work environment, reduce turnover, and drive organisational success. In Bangladesh, as in



What you should know about TSMC, Asia's most valuable company

AFP, Taipei

With a recent market valuation of over \$1 trillion, the Taiwanese semiconductor manufacturer TSMC has cemented itself as the most valuable company in Asia. This achievement takes place after a strong second-quarter revenue from the company. Experts believe the number will rise again soon due to the ongoing boom in AI chips' market demands. Meanwhile, here are five things you should know about this Taiwanese chip manufacturer.

How it began

MIT and Stanford graduate Morris Chang founded TSMC in 1987 after an extensive tech industry career in the United States. Taiwan's government was trying to set up a semiconductor industry that would compete with the countries, such as Japan, that led the sector at the time.

TSMC has become one of the world's most important companies in the nearly four decades since -- a leader in producing the chips that help run everything from smartphones to advanced robots.

Chang, who was born in mainland China in 1931, retired from TSMC in 2018. He was revered in Taiwan by then and often described as the "godfather" of the island's chip industry. Taiwan awarded him one of its highest medals of honour in April.



IMAGE: ANN WANG/REUTERS

TSMC has become one of the world's most important companies in recent times.

AI boom

Thanks to the revolution in artificial intelligence sparked by the success of ChatGPT, TSMC has been riding a massive wave of demand for the advanced semiconductors needed to train and run AI apps. It works closely with AI leader Nvidia, which became the world's most valuable traded company in June with a market

capitalisation of around \$3.3 trillion.

TSMC also supplies Nvidia competitors Qualcomm and AMD, among others, and such is the demand for its chips that production has been reportedly booked for years in advance. Arguably its best-known client is Apple, which relies on TSMC chips for the latest iPhones and MacBooks.

devices, circuits, and systems for decades to come," TSMC says on its website.

Fears about China

Taiwan is one of the most important links in the supply chain for semiconductors, the lifeblood of the modern global economy, and TSMC is its crown jewel. However, China claims the self-ruled island as its territory and has not ruled out the use of force to bring it under its control.

Beijing has ramped up pressure on Taipei in recent years, including with large-scale military drills, sparking worries in capitals and boardrooms around the world about its chip industry.

US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo told a Congressional hearing in May that a Chinese invasion of Taiwan and seizure of TSMC would be "absolutely devastating". "Right now, the United States buys 92% of its leading-edge chips from TSMC in Taiwan," she said.

US, Japan expansion

TSMC has faced pressure to diversify away from Taiwan, where the bulk of its factories are based, to guard against any further escalation of the tussle between Washington and Beijing.

It is building two "fabs" -- manufacturing in the United States and plants announced plans for a third in April, "We have established a research pipeline bringing its total investment in the state of

for technology to enable leading-edge AI Arizona to \$65 billion. But its US projects have faced obstacles in the past year, which the company attributed to a lack of human resources because making chips requires highly specialised skills.

TSMC also launched an \$8.6 billion plant in Japan this year -- a coup for the country as it vies with the United States and Europe to woo top chip firms with huge subsidies. With "strong" Japanese government support, TSMC has announced a second factory to make more advanced chips. The firm is also planning a new factory in Germany -- its first in Europe.

Quake threat

Geopolitics is not the only worry for TSMC and Taiwan's chip industry. The island is prone to natural disasters, too. It sits on the "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity along the Pacific Rim, and -- much like neighbouring Japan -- has a long history of catastrophic quakes.

TSMC was one of the firms that halted production because of a 7.4-magnitude earthquake in April this year, the most severe to hit Taiwan in decades. It told customers the impact of the quake was minimal.

TSMC has invested in several seismic resistance features at its facilities to reduce damage and casualties, including an earthquake early warning system, according to its website.





SONY SPORTS 1 Major League Cricket New York vs Washington Live from 6:30 am

Seattle vs Los Angeles Live from 1:00 am (Thursday)

Spanish players dominate Euro team of the tournament

REUTERS

Spain midfielder Rodri and 17-year-old Lamine Yamal were among six Spain players named in UEFA's team of the tournament for Euro 2024 on Tuesday.

UEFA's technical observers chose a 4-3-3 formation, which was one of the most frequently used during the tournament, with defender Kyle Walker earning his second successive appearance in it. He was England's only player named in the team.

Spain defeated England 2-1 in the final for their fourth European Championship title.

The remainder of the team was: Mike Maignan (France); Manuel Akanji (Switzerland), William Saliba (France), Marc Cucurella (Spain); Daniel Olmo (Spain), Fabian Ruiz (Spain); Jamal Musiala (Germany), and Nico Williams (Spain).

UEFA's technical observer team was made up of 12 former players and current or former coaches.

Southgate: England's nearly man

AFP, London

Gareth Southgate leaves his job as the second most successful England manager in history but with a string of agonising near-misses to his name.

Two days after the Three Lions came up just short yet again -- losing the Euro 2024 final to Spain -- the 53-year-old has stepped down, deciding it is time for a "new chapter".

The mild-mannered Southgate transformed England into a consistent force on the international stage after decades of under-achievement.

He also reshaped the team culture, breaking down barriers that had previously existed within the camp between players from rival clubs.

But he ultimately failed to end the nation's long wait for a major trophy dating back to Alf Ramsey's 1966 World Cup victory despite having a richly talented generation of players to work with.

Southgate took over with England at a low ebb after a series of humiliations on and off the pitch.

A woeful Euro 2016 exit against Iceland brought a suitably depressing end to Roy Hodgson's reign, while his successor, Sam Allardyce, lasted only 67 days and one match before being forced out after a newspaper sting.

Southgate, short of top-level managerial experience, gained credibility among previously sceptical fans with a surprise run to the 2018 World Cup semifinals in Russia.

He followed that impressive achievement by leading England to their first major final for 55 years at Euro 2021, where they lost on penalties to Italv



Thousands of fans joined street celebrations in Madrid after Euro 2024 champions Spain returned home to a royal welcome on Monday, having beaten England 2-1 in the final in Berlin on Sunday. After receptions with King Felipe VI and prime minister Pedro Sanchez, the record four-time Euro winners paraded through the capital city on an open-top bus as supporters gathered at Cibeles Square and lined the streets in anticipation of seeing their heroes and the coveted trophy. Meanwhile, similar scenes were witnessed at the Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires on Tuesday, as thousands of people gathered around the airport to receive the Argentina team that returned home to a heroes' welcome about 24 hours after they beat Colombia to win a record 16th Copa America title. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni, winger Angel di Maria, who on Sunday played his last match with the Albiceleste, and the Argentine Football Association president Claudio Fabian Tapia posed with the trophy upon the team's arrival.

The debate over Rishad's red-ball readiness

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

In Test cricket, the importance of having a skilled leg-spinner cannot be overstated as they bring a unique variation and unpredictability that can turn the tide of a match, even when there is little assistance from the pitch.

Bangladesh, traditionally reliant on orthodox, finger spinners, saw the impact of leg-spin with Rishad Hossain's stellar T20 World Cup performance in the USA and West Indies: the 22-year-old went on to pick 14 wickets, including two matchwinning spells against Sri Lanka and the Netherlands.

However, as the team prepares for Test series against Pakistan and India Rishad's readiness for the longer format has sparked a debate. While all-format captain Najmul Hossain Shanto has reservations about his current Test credentials, chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu considers Rishad "a prospect for the longer version".



playing Tests] turns out for me," Rishad told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, the chief selector Lipu believes that Rishad can be counted on as a prospect in the Test fold, but it is dependent on many factors.

"Rishad has been in the pipeline for a long time. Regarding his inclusion in red-ball [format], we can't reach a conclusion by ourselves," said Lipu, who is in Chattogram to oversee the ongoing white-ball series between HP Unit and Bangladesh Tigers alongside one of his deputies, Abdur Razzak.

"Rishad is definitely a prospect for the longer version as well. But when we will give the exposure, only time can tell. The kind of caliber he possesses, he will definitely be in the plan.

Moreover, the player himself has expressed his willingness to get integrated into the Tigers' Test setup.

Rishad has recently returned for individual practice in Mirpur after completing a two-week vacation following Bangladesh's World Cup campaign.

On Tuesday, the player was seen honing both his batting and bowling skills at the National Cricket Academy, keeping an eye on the national team's next white-

where they will play three T20Is after a two-match Test series.

Before the T20I series, Bangladesh will feature in Tests against hosts Pakistan, between August 21 to September 3. However, it seems the 22-year-old will have to sit idle during these four Tests as he is yet to be in consideration for Bangladesh in red-ball cricket despite having made his first-class debut in 2018.

The kind of spin Rishad produces can be an asset for the Bangladesh Test team, who have often found wanting in away series due to a lack of variety.

Although Bangladesh possess Test specialist spinners like Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, and Nayeem Hasan,

ball assignment: against India in October, alongside their superstar all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, none provide the variation of a leggie.

However, asked about his stance regarding Rishad's inclusion in the Test fold, captain Shanto was skeptical.

"I think it would be better to ask this to the selectors, but from my experience, I don't think he [Rishad] is fully ready for red-ball cricket at the moment," Shanto said during yesterday's private programme at Pragati Sarani.

When this reporter contacted Rishad for his comments on playing Tests, he said that he has "no conditions" about playing any format.

"I'm currently preparing for whiteball games... Let's see how it [prospect of

"But a Test match is a different ball game, and it's a test for every bowler; it's not like T20. He needs to be competent for it. He is working on googlies and all other variations.

"We will definitely try to give him exposure, but we need the opinions of the captain and head coach as well," the chief selector concluded.

Having received a big round of applause from the country's cricketing fraternity for Rishad's selection in the World Cup squad, now it remains to be seen whether the selectors and team management opt for a similar bold move by having Rishad on board for the upcoming Test hurdles.

England went out to eventual finalists France

in the quarterfinals in Qatar in 2022 but there were still positive signs that this was a young and exciting team heading in the right direction.

Southgate's men were among the favourites to finally get over the line at Euro 2024 but it turned into a roller coaster of emotions for the manager, who went from having beer cups thrown at him to within touching distance of winning the cup in Berlin.

Despite England's success, criticism of his perceived lack of tactical nous and inflexibility has always simmered.

At Euro 2024 he was accused of being too cautious, of an unwillingness to allow his men to express themselves.

But he leaves an important legacy and a framework in place for a tilt at future honours.

'My target is to qualify for the final round in Olympics'

Robiul Islam will become the ninth shooter from Bangladesh to compete in the Olympic Games through wild-card entries. The multiple-medal winner in junior and senior level, in both air rifle and air gun events, dreams of becoming the first shooter from the country to make it into the final round of the Olympics. The 25-year-old spoke to The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman regarding his preparation and ambition in an interview, the excerpts of which are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): There were time. I have been practising 250 to qualifying for the final with a best whispers that Shaira Arefin, who got an IOC scholarship, would receive the wild card for Paris Olympic but eventually you got it. What do you think was the reason behind this?

Robiul Islam (RI): I missed a quota by only 0.3 points in an event in Indonesia in January. I also produced good results in two other quota-place tournaments. I think the IOC considered these scores when considering awarding the wild card to Bangladesh.

DS: How has your preparation been for the Olympics?

RI: My 10m air rifle event is on 28 July and I have been preparing for a long time by setting a goal. The preparation got hampered a bit over the speculation regarding Shaira's wild card entry. But once I got the wild card, I started afresh with maximum motivation. Our never been able to convert practice coach has also intensified the training to make up for the lost

300 shots per day now, compared to 150 shots in the past.

DS: Since Barcelona Olympics in 1992, Bangladeshi rifle shooters have participated in every

edition but there has been no remarkable performance. Will that be the case for vou too?

RI: I never think that I will go there, participate and return home. I feel I am carrying Bangladesh on my shoulders; it is a matter of pride and I want to deliver for the

nation. My target is to qualify for the final round.

DS: Bangladeshi shooters have scores into competition scores. What makes you confident about

score of 627? **RI:** I recently scored 630.2 points in a competition in Dhaka. Besides, we recently visited Munch where I fine-tuned my

> rifle, tested the barrel and did some small things which help a shooter to increase his scores. I have also been doing yoga and meditation so that I can stay focused during

> > DS: Where

the event.

does Bangladesh shooting lag behind? RI: We lag behind in many

areas. If you compare, a total of 138 Indian shooters participated in a World Cup in Korea while there were only four from Bangladesh. We need to participate more in overseas tournaments to make a mark in big events.

DS: Bangladeshi shooters won many medals in SA Games and Commonwealth Games but always failed in Asian Games and Olympics. Do you believe the shooters can succeed in coming days?

RI: The shooters from our generation are scoring more than 625 and some even finished among 20 in ISSF World Cup. I believe Bangladesh will take part in 2028 Olympics with direct quota and more international medals will be earned during this time.

DS: What do you expect from the other athletes from Bangladesh? RI: I will expect that they play for the nation. When athletes play for the nation, their responsibility and focus are boosted but when they play for themselves, they only focus on improving own performance. So, I hope everyone will play for the nation.



'A dream come true'

AFP, Madrid

French superstar Kylian Mbappe was officially unveiled as a Real Madrid player on Tuesday, telling 80,000 fans "my dream has come true".

The striker, who had completed his medical on Tuesday earlier morning, signed a fiveyear contract and was handed a No. 9 shirt by club president Florentino Perez.

"Wow," Mbappe said in Spanish to roars from a packed Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"For years, I've dreamed of playing for Real Madrid and today my dream has come true," said the 25-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain player.

Even though the crowd was expected to be bigger than that 15 years ago when Cristiano Ronaldo was unveiled, the attendance remained somewhat similar.



The Baily Star



City

AL, BCL men to take position at unit offices To 'help' cops keep law and order

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League and its associate bodies will take positions at their respective unit offices across the country from early morning today and remain vigilant against blocking of roads and highways.

Sources say AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday gave the instruction as the quota reform movement turned violent yesterday, killing at least six people in Dhaka, Chattogram and Rangpur.

They say the party wants to face the student movement politically.

The ruling party's student wing Chhatra League has also been asked to take position at their respective units. BCL leaders were also instructed not to initiate any attacks, but resist if they come under attacks, according to the sources.

AL's Dhaka city's north and south units will take position at their ward offices from early morning. A section of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



A dockyard has been built occupying a part of the Buriganga in Keraniganj's Telghat area inside the demarcation pillar. The grabbers construct bulk carriers and repair launches at the dockyard. BIWTA often evicts the grabbers, but they soon return. The photo was taken yesterday.

Punctuality of Biman found wanting

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman is lagging far behind the international standard for on-time performance for its flights, an indication of the continued operational inefficiency of the national flag carrier.

The on-time performance of airlines is the percentage of flights that arrive or depart within 15 minutes of the scheduled time. Globally, airlines target 80 percent and above.

Some 69.37 percent of Biman's flights between July last year and June this year departed on time, according to the flag carrier's own data. During that period, 66 percent of the flights arrived on time.

Biman's poorest on-time performance for international departures from Dhaka was recorded in December last year, 47.25 percent. Its best was in March,

In 2023, Biman failed to make it to the list of the top 20 most punctual airlines in the Asia-Pacific region.

Biman has identified at least 20 reasons for the flight delays, including the non-availability of adequate number of check-in counters, delays in allocating gates, and assiging a gate to multiple flights.

Many airlines have embedded on-time performance as a key performance indicator as delays affect productivity and cost airlines thousands of

Mobile internet sluggish at campuses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students on many university campuses experienced issues accessing mobile internet last night.

The issue was first reported in the evening, hours after the day's violence surrounding the quota reform protests.

Meanwhile, BTRC officials could not be reached over the phone for comments in this regard.

Ashrefa, a student at Dhaka University and a resident of Shamsun Nahar Hall, said, "We started

with the internet speed

slowing down in the

couldn't reach me after

repeated attempts, causing

them to worry about my

as

Rajshahi University and

Jahangirnagar University,

Several more Dhaka

students,

those at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

"As a result, my parents

coverage

getting

network

evening.

safety."

University

as well

Israeli forces battle Hamas across Gaza

57 Palestinians killed in bombardments in southern, central areas of enclave

AGENCIES

Israeli forces battled Hamas-led fighters in several areas across Gaza yesterday, while Palestinian health officials said at least 57 people were killed in Israeli bombardments in southern and central areas of the enclave.

In Rafah, a southern border city where Israeli forces have been operating since May, five Palestinians were killed in an air strike on a house, while in

a school in the Nuseirat camp killed 16 people and wounded many others, health officials said.

The Israeli military said troops continued"intelligence-based" activities in Rafah, killing many Palestinian gunmen over the past 24 hours. It said air strikes had targeted Hamas fighters, tunnels, and other military

targets across the enclave. The armed wings

Editors' Council calls for ensuring safety of journos STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over the attacks on journalists covering the quota protests, the Editors' Council yesterday called upon the government, student organisations, and law enforcers to ensure the safety of journalists.

Mentioning that at least 25 journalists were wounded in the attacks in different parts of the capital over the last two days, the council condemned such assaults on journalists on duty.

Several of them were undergoing treatment at hospitals.

Citing media reports, the statement, signed by the council's President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud, said eight journalists were injured at Jahangirnagar University on the night of July 15, six at Dhaka University, and nine others in Chattogram, Dinajpur, and Bogura during clashes yesterday. The injured include Mehdi Mamun

of Daily Bonik Barta, Abdur Rahman Sarjil of Dainik Bangla, Jobaver Ahmed of Bangladesh Today, Mushfiqur Rizwan of Somoyer Alo, Hasibur Rahman of bdnews24.com, Wajhhetul Islam of Daily Janakantha, Arifuzzaman Ujjal of Daily SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

> Govt cancels Tk 5cr fund for 10 Minute School **CEO's Facebook** post backing quota reform appears to be the reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Startup Bangladesh, the government's venture capital fund, vesterday pulled back its proposed investment of Tk 5 crore in 10 Minute School (10MS). Bangladesh's largest edtech platform.

No official explanation was given by Startup Bangladesh for withdrawing its planned

be making progress:

Gaza death toll rises to 38,713

negotiators

Israeli air force strikes 40 targets across enclave Truce talks appear to

infrastructure. It added that the Israeli air force had struck around 40

72.24 percent.

Many airlines have embedded ontime performance as a key performance indicator as delays affect productivity and cost airlines thousands of dollars every year.

"It means flights spend longer on taxiways burning fuel unnecessarily -- it means passengers miss connections and get upset," said ATM Nazrul Islam, an aviation expert.

The knock-on effects of the disruptions to onward travel are far-reaching, he said.

In Europe, where passengers are entitled to compensation for late flights. there is a direct cost associated with poor on-time performance.

dollars every year.

Space constraints at airports also make it difficult to load baggage containers onto aircraft.

The other reasons include the breakdown of carousels, bad weather, and delays in cabin cleaning.

Biman admitted that passengers become displeased due to flight delays, documents show.

The newly-appointed Biman Managing Director and CEO Zahidul Islam Bhuiyan said maintaining on-time performance is one of his main challenges.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

a man, his wife and poor mobile two children were on killed, they said. campus in the afternoon,

An Israeli airstrike on a car killed at least 17 Palestinians and

nearby Khan Younis,

wounded 26 others

in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, the mortar fire. officials said.

>>

>>

In the historic Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, at least four Palestinians were killed in separate shelling and aerial strikes in central Gaza, medics said. An Israeli airstrike killed four in Sheikh Zayed in northern Gaza, they said.

Hours later, an Israeli air strike on

of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad said in separate statements their fighters attacked Israeli forces in several locations with antitank rockets and

38,713 Palestinians More than have been killed and 89,166have been injured in the Israeli military offensive in Gaza since October 7, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday. Efforts mediated by Egypt and Qatar to end the conflict and release the hostages, as well as Palestinians in SEE PAGE 6 COL 4 investment in the edtech start-up announced in October last year.

However, the move comes after Ayman Sadiq, the co-founder and chief executive officer of 10MS, made a Facebook post supporting the ongoing student movement for reforming the quota system for government jobs.

"We want quota reform. Merit should be the biggest guota. #OuotaMovement." also a media Sadiq, personality, posted on his SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Ashura today

BSS, Dhaka

Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hossain Ibn Ali (RA), the grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), will be observed in the country today with due religious solemnity.

Today is the 10th day of the month of Muharram in Hijri calendar-1446. This day is well-known as Ashura.

It is regarded as the day of Karbala, a "mourning and heartbreaking event", which has a special religious significance for the Muslim community across the globe.

Muslims across the world recall the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA) along with his family members and 72 followers, who embraced martyrdom in 680 AD in the desert of Karbala on the banks of the Euphrates river in Iraq while fighting for truth and justice against the Yazid forces.

Their self-sacrifice at Karbala Maidan to uphold the great ideals of Islam, SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



A portion of Jurain road near the Dhaka-Mawa expressway is occupied by makeshift shops, parked vehicles and discarded equipment, obstructing pedestrians. But the authorities seem to have turned a blind eye. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Biden defends 'mental acuity' Says 'bullseye' remark about Trump a mistake

AFP, Washington

US President Joe Biden defended both his "mental acuity" and his rhetoric about Donald Trump Monday, in a second TV interview aimed at ending calls for him to quit his reelection bid following a disastrous debate.

The 81-year-old delivered an often combative defence of his mental and physical fitness for office during the one-on-one with broadcaster NBC, which nevertheless featured some of the word salads that have worried Democrats.

"I'm old," Biden told host Lester Holt in the interview at the White House. "But I'm only three years older than Trump, number one. And number two, my mental acuity has been pretty damn good."



He added: "I understand why people say, 'God, he's 81 years old. Whoa. What's he gonna be when

he's 83 years old, 84 years?' It's a legitimate question to

Biden's interview was the latest attempt by the White House to assuage growing fears over the Democrat's age and mental state following the dismal debate performance on June 27.

The sit-down was announced last week, before the assassination attempt on Republican candidate Donald Trump on Saturday -- which inevitably became a key subject of the interview.