



# At least 29 dead in daylong mayhem

11 of them students; over 3,000 hurt, many hit by shotgun pellets; protesters reject govt call for talks; violence rocks 19 districts; several establishments including BTV centre set afire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented scale of violence across the country, at least 29 people, including 11 students and a journalist, were killed and more than 3,000 wounded in fierce clashes between quota protesters and law enforcers joined in by ruling party activists yesterday.

The 11 students are from Dhaka, Chattogram, Savar, Madaripur, Narsingdi and Sylhet. Many of the victims are yet to be identified, so the number of students killed may rise.

The protests began from where it was left off on Wednesday night, and continued in Dhaka and other parts of the country throughout yesterday.

The violence saw at least two government

establishments, including state-run BTV Bhaban in the capital's Rampura, attacked and set alight.

In the afternoon, after many were already killed and injured, the government invited the protesting students to sit for talks, but the students rejected the call and vowed to continue their movement.

"No dialogue will take place over the blood of the martyrs. It is the government that has to find the solution," Nahid Islam, one of the key organisers of the movement, said in a Facebook post in the evening, just hours before the government shut down the internet.

The intensity of violence, and the death toll that climbed to 36 so far are unprecedented in any student movement in recent memory. By the afternoon, parts of Dhaka's skyline

turned black with thick smoke coming from burning buildings and cars.

Earlier on Tuesday, six people were killed in Dhaka, Chattogram and Rangpur. Another man who was injured in the previous day's violence died yesterday.

The death toll from yesterday's clashes may go up.

Different private hospitals, especially in Uttara where one of the fiercest clashes took place, struggled to treat the injured patients that rose by the hour.

Violence ensued when law enforcers and ruling party activists carrying firearms, rods, iron pipes, sticks and hockey sticks tried to disperse students enforcing a "complete shutdown" of transport networks, businesses and offices yesterday, demanding quota reforms.

Dhaka was cut off from the rest of the country, as rail and road communications came to a halt.

The protesters also vandalised and set fire to the disaster management office building in the capital's Mohakhali and at least three police outposts in the city.

Parts of Dhaka looked like warzones as law enforcers used shotguns, teargas shells and sound grenades against the protesters, who responded by throwing brick chunks. AL activists and police also hurled bricks at the demonstrators.

Of the dead, 23 were in Dhaka. Of them, 10 were killed in Jatrabari, Shmir Akhra and Azimpur. One of them was a journalist of Dhaka Times. Another nine in Dhaka's Uttara and nearby areas; two in Badda; one

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The country witnessed scenes of mindless bloodletting for the third day yesterday. Deadly clashes between quota protesters and law enforcers/ruling party activists took place across the capital and beyond. Violence was worst in Uttara, Dhanmondi, Rampura, Jatrabari and Mohakhali as protesters pressed on with their demonstrations for quota reforms and against the attacks on students on the previous days. Police, BGB and Rab teams were deployed in many areas, where they lobbed teargas shells and sound grenades to disperse the agitating crowds.

PHOTO: STAR

## A life we will remember



MD ABBAS

"One day, you'll leave this world behind. So live a life you will remember." - Farhan Faiyaz's Facebook profile bio.

In a chilling video footage that went viral on Facebook yesterday, a woman was seen breaking down at the sight of a body in Mohammadpur's City Hospital.

That body belongs to 17-year-old Farhan Faiyaz, a first-year HSC student at Dhaka Residential Model College (DRMC), who died during the clashes between protesters and ruling party activists in the capital's Dhanmondi area.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Rab vehicles leave in the face of fierce protests by students in the capital's Uttara, where clashes left at least nine people dead.

## Govt for 80pc jobs on merit

Says Quader after meeting PM; law enforcers to be firm against destructive activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

During a hearing before the Supreme Court on Sunday, the government will appeal to the court to keep 80 percent government jobs based on merit and rest on different quotas.

**"No dialogue when shots are being fired."**

Protest organiser Asif Mahmud

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said this at a press conference at party president's Dhanmondi office last night after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban.

The PM directed all law enforcers to control the situation with a firm hand, he said quoting Hasina.

She also asked all AL leaders and activists, its associate bodies, and public representatives to stay on the streets to

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Photos capture moments from yesterday's clashes between quota reform demonstrators and members of law enforcement across the capital yesterday. *Clockwise:* Protesters assemble for a face-off with cops in Jatrabari. Fitted with riot gear, policemen shoot rubber bullets and lob teargas shells at protesters in Rampura. A toll plaza torched at the Jatrabari end of the Mayor Hanif Flyover. Agitators set fire to a police outpost in Rampura. A Rab chopper evacuates a group of stranded policemen from the campus building of Canadian International University in Badda. Police attack protesters for blocking the Mohakhali rail crossing. Quota reform demonstrators had called a "complete shutdown" across the country yesterday to protest the attacks on their fellows over the past few days along with their demand for reform to the quota system in government jobs.

PHOTO: STAR



## Committee formed to probe Abu Sayed's killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rangpur police yesterday launched an investigation into the killing of Abu Sayed, of Begum Rokeya University, during a clash between cops and quota reform protesters on Tuesday.

In a video footage of the incident, Abu Sayed, 25, an unarmed protester and a student of the English department, was seen getting shot down by policemen in front of his university around 2:30pm.

The persons found responsible for the incident will be held accountable, said Rangpur Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Md Moniruzzaman.

The four-member probe body, led by RMP Additional Commissioner Saifuzzaman Faruki, has been asked to submit its report in two weeks, he added.

Meanwhile, a case has been filed with RMP's Tajhat Police Station over Tuesday's violence at BRUR.

Bhupati Roy, sub-inspector of Tajhat Police Station, filed the case on charges of assaulting police, obstructing them from discharging their duties, and disregarding law and order.

So far, nine people have been arrested over Tuesday's clashes.

## Ukraine attacked Russian base on Crimea: Kyiv source

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian aerial and maritime drones struck Russian military targets on the annexed Crimean peninsula, a defence source in Kyiv told AFP Thursday, after Moscow reported an overnight drone assault.

Ukrainian forces have recently escalated drone and missile attacks on Russian military installations on the peninsula that was captured by Russian forces in 2014.

The source said an operation carried out by the navy and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) had damaged or disabled a command centre and an ammo depot among other facilities at Lake Donuzlav in western Crimea.

## At least 29 dead in daylong mayhem

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each in Dhanmondi and Savar lost their lives in the violence, police and hospital sources confirmed to The Daily Star.

Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of Bangladesh-Kuwait Friendship Hospital in Uttara, told The Daily Star around 11:30pm that eight victims were brought dead at their hospital. Six bodies were handed over to relatives, and the rest two were still at the hospital.

At the Crescent Hospital, also in Uttara, our correspondent saw relatives collect a body around 10:30pm.

At least six people were killed outside the capital -- two each in Chattogram and Narsingdi and one each in Madaripur and Sylhet, police and hospital sources said.

Many of the victims were hit by shotgun pellets, as law enforcers fired indiscriminately.

Violent clashes between the demonstrators and law enforcers and AL activists took place in Dhaka's Uttara, Jatrabari, Badda, Rampura, Dhanmondi, Mirpur and Science Laboratory Intersection.

Our district correspondents reported violence in at least 19 districts.

Along with police, Rab and Ansar members, 229 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh personnel were deployed nationwide.

Many government and private offices were open yesterday in the capital. On the streets, there were very few three-wheelers, motorcycles, buses and private vehicles. The metro rail service from Uttara to Motijheel was partially halted.

Agitating students called the shutdown to protest the attacks by police, BGB, Rab and SWAI teams as well as ruling party activists, the deaths of fellow protesters, and also to demand punishment to the culprits, terror-free campuses and a logical reform to the quota system.

Violence erupted on Tuesday when at least six people, including three students, were killed and several hundred injured in clashes as the quota protests swelled after Chhatra League and AL activists attacked them at different universities on Monday.

The students continued their protest on Wednesday though it was a government holiday. They organised funeral and coffin processions and blocked roads and highways at different places. Chases and counter chases and running battles took place in different parts of the country, including the capital.

The authorities have since closed all public and private universities, colleges and primary and secondary schools. They also asked university students to leave their halls by Wednesday, and dispatched riot police and paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh members to the campuses.

In a press release last night, the home ministry issued a stern warning against violence.

"Law enforcers have been showing extreme patience so far. But if the miscreants continue to engage in destructive activities, law enforcement will be compelled to use the full force of the law to protect people's lives and public properties," said the release, signed by the senior public relations officer of

the ministry.

**UTTARA**  
In Uttara, at least nine people were killed and more than 500 injured during daylong clashes between quota protesters and police.

The dead were taken to different local hospitals. Doctors said some bodies were taken away by students and families.

The violence broke out around 10:30am as police and Rab members tried to disperse students of different private universities, colleges and schools who blocked Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway near ABC Centre.

During the clashes, which continued till evening, law enforcers fired several hundred times from shotguns, over 100 tear shells and more than 100 sound grenades. The protesters hurled brick chips, said witnesses.

Around one kilometre stretch of the highway up to Rajlakshmi turned into a battlefield.

As students took many wounded protesters to local hospitals, doctors struggled to accommodate them all.

Doctors of three hospitals said they had to treat victims on the road in front of their hospitals as a large number of injured people were rushed there.

They said many of the dead were hit by shotgun pellets fired from close range.

In the evening, protesters gathered around Uttara Purba Police Station, and police fired from shotguns, leaving several of them injured, witnesses said.

Several establishments and a BGB vehicle were torched near the police station, according to witnesses.

**JATRABARI**

A clash between police and protesters erupted at Jatrabari intersection at 9:25am as police fired teargas shells.

The protesters regrouped at Shanir Akhra intersection and marched again towards Jatrabari where another clash took place at 11:00am.

Police fired teargas, rubber bullets, and sound grenades at the protesters. Activists from Chhatra League and Jubo League joined forces with police, throwing bricks at the protesters from the Mayor Hanif Flyover.

Around 1:30pm, the agitators reorganised and moved towards Jatrabari Police Station. They set fire to an abandoned private car next to the station. Police used water cannons to extinguish the fire and also to disperse the protesters.

Police and Rab fired several hundred rounds from shotguns and lobbed teargas shells.

Rab-10 Commander Mohammad Farid Uddin said they fired teargas, shotguns, and sound grenades to disperse the demonstrators.

**DHANMONDI**

A clash between quota protesters and police, who were joined by stick-wielding Jubo League men, ensued in Dhanmondi around 11:30am as police tried to disperse the students after they blocked the roads at Dhanmondi-27, witnesses said.

Farhan Faiyaz, 17, an HSC student of Residential Model College suffered injuries and was taken to City Hospital.

Osman Gani, assistant manager of the hospital, said Farhan was dead before he

was brought there.

About 200 injured people, mostly students, took treatment at the hospital. Police fired teargas canisters to break off the agitating crowds, while Jubo League men chased the students.

The protesters later took position at different alleys, and violence spilled over to nearby areas.

Chased, students took shelters at different residential buildings where police lobbed teargas shells, creating panic, residents said.

**BADDA**

In Badda and Rampura, a man was killed and over 200 others, including students and police, were injured during a series of clashes.

Victim Dulal Matbor, a microbus driver, suffered serious wounds while crossing the area during the clashes. He was taken to a nearby hospital with a hole in his chest around 12:30pm where doctors declared him dead. Doctors could not immediately confirm whether the hole is from a bullet.

The protesters torched 12 motorcycles and the office of the assistant commissioner (traffic) of Rampura zone police box.

Police charged batons and fired teargas canisters at the students. They also lobbed teargas inside the campus of Canadian University of Bangladesh at Merul Badda, witnesses said. Both police and protesters also hurled brick chunks at each other.

Witnesses said several hundred students took to the street in front of the university campus around 10:30am. The clash began as police tried to bar them.

Later, students regrouped and chased away the police members. The clash spilled over to Rampura Bridge, where students of East West University joined the protest. The students allegedly vandalised a traffic police box and torched several motorcycles in Rampura.

At one point, policemen entered the Canadian University of Bangladesh and the demonstrators took position outside. Police fired from shotguns and lobbed teargas shells from inside the university, leaving many wounded. Several shops and establishments were vandalised by the protesters at the time.

Around 3:00pm, Rab helicopters airlifted 60 police personnel from the rooftop of a building.

The protesters also took position in Badda Link Road where some commoners also took part.

**MIRPUR 10**

Quota reform activists and police aided by Awami League men clashed at Mirpur 10 intersection. Police lobbed teargas shells and sound grenades, dispersing the protesters.

The protesters set fire to a footbridge at Mirpur 10.

Earlier, over 100 students chased AL leaders and activists who were holding a rally at the intersection. They also vandalised chairs brought for the rally and tore down banners.

Later, a chase and counter-chase between stick-wielding demonstrators and AL activists took place.

## Govt for 80pc jobs on merit

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resist the creators of chaos, Quader said.

In a statement last night, the home ministry said law enforcers would be compelled to use the highest level of force according to the law if the destructive activities continue.

Meanwhile, four organisers of the quota reform protests yesterday on their Facebook pages said that it is the government that has to devise a solution to the prevailing crisis.

They rejected the law minister's call for dialogue and vowed to continue their demonstrations.

"No dialogue will take place over the blood of martyrs. It is the government that has to devise a solution," Nahid Islam, one of the key organisers, said in a Facebook post.

He said he feared that they might be arrested and may become victims of enforced disappearances. He urged others to continue with the demonstrations.

Protest organiser Asif Mahmud on his Facebook page said there can be no dialogue when shots are being fired. "I would rather die than betray the blood of martyrs."

Sarjis Alam, another organiser, said, "How can there be dialogue over my brothers' death?"

Hasnath Abdullah said it is not true that they made proposals for talks with the government.

The Daily Star could not reach the four protest organisers over the phone.

## A life we will remember

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The woman in the video, his aunt Nazia Khan uttered, "He was more than a son to me... He is dead now...."

The video spread through the social media platform like fire, with people seeking justice for the young boy gone too soon.

His teachers lauded him as a bright and polite student.

"He was quiet and reserved. Everybody, including his classmates and teachers, used to love him... Even if we ever scolded him for anything, he never said a single word," said DRMC Assistant Prof Md Nazrul Islam.

Nazrul, also a chemistry teacher of the college, said there were never any instances of him getting involved in any altercations with his classmate.

"Though he was not a regular student in my class due to an illness he had, I always found him to be gentle and humble whenever he attended."

Faiyaz used to live with his grandmother in Mohammadpur's

Their Facebook posts came hours after Law Minister Anisul Huq told media that following the offer of the protesters, the government agreed to hold discussions with them.

He also announced taking an initiative to hold the early hearing of the quota-related case pending with the Supreme Court and forming a one-member judicial committee to investigate the killing of six people on Tuesday.

Afterwards, the Cabinet Division issued a circular forming a one-member inquiry committee led by High Court Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman to investigate killings and other incidents.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Supreme Court, following an appeal of the attorney general, fixed Sunday for a hearing on the quota-related case.

Anisul claimed that they learnt that the protesting students wanted talks. "We have welcomed their proposal. The prime minister also welcomed it."

He said the prime minister assigned him and the education minister to talk to the students. "We will sit with them... We are ready to sit with them anytime. We are ready to sit even today," he told reporters at the Jatiya Sangsad complex.

"We think there is no need to continue with the protest anymore... I am requesting them to either call off the demonstrations or suspend it."

Japan Garden City before moving in with his father in Kakrail a few months ago, he said.

Munzareen Shahid, a teacher of 10-Minute School, shared a photo of herself and Faiyaz on Facebook. Expressing disbelief at the loss of a beloved and bright student, she wrote, "He was my student... He was not even 18!... He has died!"

Mourning the loss of a bright student like Faiyaz, current and former students of Dhaka Residential Model College blackened their Facebook profile pictures, protesting his killing.

Using different hashtags, they demanded justice for the death of all the victims in the violence against quota reform protesters. They also demanded punishment to all those involved in the killings.

Some criticised the law enforcement's actions on the protesters, stating the attacks were carried out to quell the movement.





Sylhet



Chattogram



Cumilla



Dhaka

## 'Even doctors, nurses couldn't hold back tears'

MASHFIQ MIZAN

"Move aside! Get me a stretcher! He needs help!"

The air inside Dhaka hospitals was filled with cries for help and painful screams.

One after another, injured students flooded into Uttara Adhunik Hospital, their bodies pierced by shotgun pellets. Visiting the hospital, this newspaper found emergency camps set up in front of the gate, with stretchers, trolleys, and wheelchairs. Friends carried their injured fellows into the hospital, with vans, and CNG-run auto-rickshaws.

Those with comparatively less severe injuries were treated in front of the camps, while those with serious injuries were taken inside. The hospital authorities took an "all hands on deck" approach as day-offs of all the doctors and staffers were cancelled.

The interns and medical students nearby chipped in. The scene resembled hospitals inside a war zone.

At least nine students were killed as police fired shotgun pellets and lobbed tear shells at protesting students in Uttara's Azampur area, said hospital authorities.

Over 1,000 students, mostly between 16 and 28 years old, sought treatment at Uttara Adhunik Hospital, said sources. Many are in critical conditions, they added.

However, the hospital authorities did not confirm the number of registered deaths.

Inside, this correspondent found the hospital floors filled with blood stains. There were not enough beds to treat all the patients.

Many were receiving treatment in the floor. Some parents were seen crying beside their injured sons.

Even the doctors struggled to fight back tears.

"I haven't seen such a horrific situation in 12 years of my professional life," said a nurse, requesting anonymity.

"Hundreds of protesting students with shotgun pellet wounds have streamed in since this afternoon. There aren't enough beds to accommodate them all. Even the doctors and nurses are in tears," she added.

The situation was worse in Kuwait Moitree Hospital, as seen by our reporter there. Eight bodies were kept inside the facility, all of whom had shotgun pellet wounds, said Mizanur Rahman, superintendent of the hospital.

Meanwhile, at least 100 injured students were brought to Crescent Hospital in Uttara.

According to hospital source, one body was kept there.

Similar situations persisted in hospitals near Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi.

A 17-year-old named Farhan Faiyaz died in City Hospital, Mohammadpur. At least 200-250 injured were brought to the facility, said Osman Goni, assistant manager of the hospital. He confirmed Faiyaz's demise.

Meanwhile, around 100 were admitted to Ibn Sina Hospital in Dhanmondi.

Also, two died and several hundreds were injured as police and students of BRAC University, East West University and other institutions clashed with police in the Badda and Rampura areas.

As such, the hospitals near Rampura and Banasree were also filled to the brim with wounded students. Over 300 wounded were brought to Better Life Hospital in Rampura. In Farazi Hospital, Banasree, over 450 students were admitted.

Meanwhile at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, around 275 people, most of them injured by shotgun pellets, were brought to the hospital. The situation turned dire in the evening, as hundreds of injured people started entering DMCH in one ambulance after another.

Most of the injured came from Jatrabai, Azampur and Rampura areas. At one stage, there were shortage of trolleys and stretchers. At least seven persons had to be taken to ophthalmology department with eye injuries, including shotgun pellet wounds.

Around 10 bodies were brought to the hospital. Meanwhile, one protester, who was injured on Wednesday, succumbed to his injuries yesterday, said DMCH sources.

STAR REPORT

For the third day in a row, the country witnessed widespread student protests, which erupted like wildfire in retaliation to the earlier attacks on them by law enforcers and Chhatra League men during their protests against quota system.

The protesters yesterday enforced a "complete shutdown" of transport networks, businesses, and offices as part of their movement.

Like the capital, the protests took place in many other cities and district towns, where law enforcers, alongside activists of Awami League and its associate bodies, attacked the protesters.

As a result, clashes took place among them, in which, six people, including three students, were killed outside the capital.

Also, over 500 were injured in at least 19 districts, reported our district correspondents.

Shaikh Ashabul Yamin, a student of Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), was killed in Savar when protesters clashed with police and AL activists in the Savar Bazar bus stand area.

The victim's father Mohammad Mohiuddin confirmed the death.

Yusuf Ali, duty manager of Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar, told The Daily Star that Yamin, who had several rubber bullet injuries on his body, was

brought to the hospital dead.

Five other injured were admitted to the hospital, he added.

Earlier, protesters blocked Pakiza bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha highway around 12:30pm and proceeded towards the Pakiza area, where leaders and activists of AL, its associate bodies, police, and BGB members took position.

In the port city, two people were killed and 50 others injured in clashes between protesters and police in Bahaddarhat area.

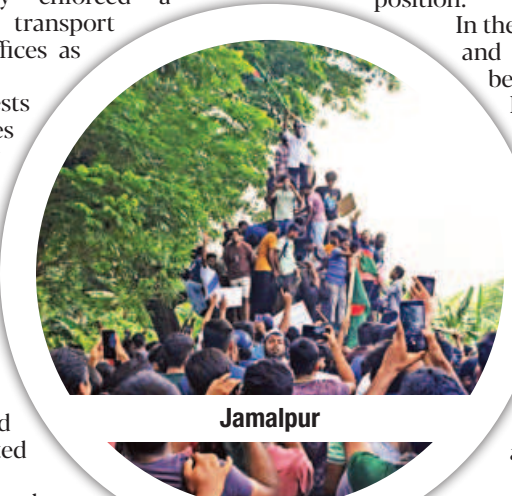
Identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

Tuhin Shubhro Das, emergency medical officer at CMCH, said two people with bullet wounds were brought to the hospital in the evening. One, aged around 21, succumbed to his injuries around 6:30pm while another, aged around 23, died at 7:00pm.

Witnesses said several thousand protesters chased the police and took control of Bahaddarhat Intersection around 2:00pm. Police charged batons and fired tear shells to disperse them.

Protesters also clashed with BCL activists in phases. Later, the protesters attacked police around 6:00pm. They also set the police box at Bahaddarhat Intersection on fire.

In Narsingdi, two students were killed during clash



Jamalpur



Barishal



Chattogram



Dinajpur



Port City

PHOTO: STAR

## Stop 'barbaric attack' on students Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday urged the government to stop "barbaric attack" on students and accept their logical demands.



GM Quader, also opposition leader of the parliament, said police and BCL have been attacking general students with arms for the last few days, which is unacceptable in a civilised society.

GM Quader made the comment in a press statement.

He decried the "excessive use of force" by law enforcement agencies, and condemned the deaths of protesters in face of police action.

He said police killed Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur student Abu Sayed in cold blood by shooting him at a close range.

## BNP's solidarity programmes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will arrange various programmes across the country today in support of the ongoing student movement for the reformation of quotas in government jobs.



The party's secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir made the announcement at an urgent press briefing at BNP Chairperson's Office in Dhaka's Gulshan last night.

As part of their programmes, it will demonstrate in front of Jatiya Press Club followed by a rally, alongside bringing out similar processions in every city and district headquarters.

Stressing that people are united against this government, Fakhru said they have extended support to the students' demands and suggested them to solve the problem through discussion.

However, the government itself has blocked the way for solution to the existing crisis, he added.

## Take to streets to save country Quader calls upon party men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday asked party leaders and activists to take to streets and face the situation to save the country from plots of the evil forces.



He made the remarks while addressing a press conference at the party president's Dhanmondi office.

He alleged that BNP-Jamaat coalition is using the ongoing quota reform movement to get political benefits, saying the movement is no longer in the hands of the general students.

The armed cadres of BNP-Jamaat are operating criminal activities across the country aiming to topple the government, Quader said, adding, "Quota reform is no longer an issue for them."

He said the government is closely watching the situation while the law enforcers are working to ensure security of general students. Action will be taken against those who have created this situation through criminal activities, he warned.





### Invest in marine resources PM urges entrepreneurs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged local and foreign entrepreneurs to invest in extracting marine resources, as Bangladesh is determined to strengthen its ocean economy amid the growing demand for seafood in the world.

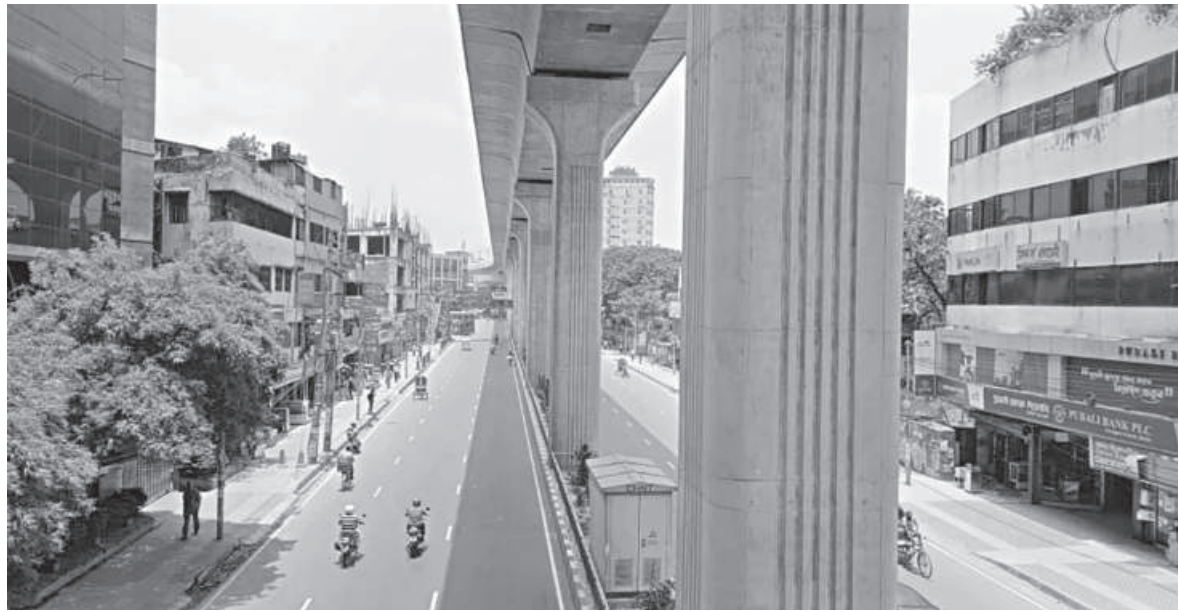
"I would like to call upon all local and foreign investors to invest in Bangladesh and use these [marine] resources in a broader way," the premier said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Bangladesh International Aquaculture and Seafood Show-2024 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital.

Bangladesh exports a wide variety of marine fish, Hasina said, adding, "I strongly feel the need to increase seawater fish production."

She said Bangladesh has a huge potential to make its blue economy more prosperous.

"I think we need to pay more attention to how we can extract and use our deep-sea resources. We want to take our country forward using marine resources because the demand for seafood is increasing all over the world," said the prime minister.

The PM said the investors will get all kinds of support from Bangladesh Investment Development Authority as Bangladesh offers many facilities for them.



Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Parts of Dhaka deserted in 'complete shutdown'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parts of Dhaka wore an almost deserted look yesterday with city streets remaining empty, as fear gripped people following students' enforcement of a "complete shutdown" across the country.

Protesting students on Wednesday night announced a "complete shutdown", in protest of the law enforcers' action against them, alongside the one-point demand of quota reform and the additional demand of "crime-free" campuses.

While visiting different areas of Dhaka, it was seen that the number of public vehicles on the roads were thin. The usual scenario of traffic jams on the city roads was not seen yesterday. The number of people using different public vehicles was low compared to other days as well.

Few private vehicles were seen on the roads. Even on the metro rail, the presence of commuters was low although it was a working day.

However, during the enforcement of the "complete shutdown", clashes broke out between protesters and police in different areas of the city, including Shanir Akhra, Jatrabari, Mirpur-10, Science Lab, and Badda.

Amid violent clashes on campuses between quota

protesters on one side and police, Chhatra League and Jubo League on the other, the University Grants Commission on July 16 declared that all public and private universities will remain closed until further notice.

At the same time, all affiliated medical, textile, engineering and other colleges will also remain

closed until further notice.

At least 35 people were killed and thousands were injured till yesterday as clashes took place during nationwide protests demanding the abolition of quotas in government jobs.

Student's protest programme gained momentum as thousands of students from private universities



A road in Moghbazar.

closed, it announced.

The commission also directed the university authorities to vacate the residential halls considering the safety of the students.

On the same day, all secondary, higher secondary, and polytechnic institutes and colleges under the National University were declared

and colleges have also joined the movement, which had previously been dominated by public university students.

The widespread demonstrations began yesterday morning following violent attacks on quota protesters at public universities across the country on July 15.

## Flood turned them into boatmen Haor residents in peril amid lack of work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Shimul Ahmed, a saw-mill worker from Hakaluki Haor area under Moulvibazar's Kulaura apazila, has been having a hard time to earn bread for his family since the flood hit the different upazilas of the district.

"As the floodwaters rose, our saw-mill became submerged and had to be shut down. I lived without work for several days. There was no money to manage food for my family of six. Our house also got submerged," he said.

Shimul did what many in his community have done -- he rented a boat and transformed himself into a boatman, ferrying people to safety from flood-affected areas.

Jasim Uddin, a mason from Bhagmatpur village in Kadipur union, has also done the same.

"Once the flood recedes, I will return to my work as a mason," he said.

Suleman Ahmed, another local resident, and a dozen others, shared the same.

"Due to flood, people have been confined to their homes for days, amid a crisis of food and drinking water, without any earnings. So many like us have started to venture out and look for alternative ways to earn some money," Suleman said.

The Nawabganj-Kulaura road in Kadipur union under Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar has been completely submerged for a month so far, and boats are now the only means of commute.

Similar situation exists across the flood-affected areas in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts.

Md Harun Mia, a former member of Kadipur Union Parishad, said this year's flood has been the worst in recent memory.

He expressed disappointment over the inadequate government response and lack of support from charitable sources.

**Save the Children** Date: July 19, 2024

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

**Invitation for Tender**

Save the Children International (SCI) is now inviting tenders from interested, experienced, and bona fide suppliers for supplying Healthcare Commodities (Pharmaceutical items) at Save the Children in Bangladesh.

For details please see the IFT schedule, which are available at <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule and Place	Last date of Tender Submission
1	Tender for Healthcare commodities (Pharmaceuticals Items)	ITTT/SC/BD/CO/FY-24/(Manual)/0002	12:00PM on 24/07/2024 Joint Team Meeting <a href="https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YmVjYmQwMzltNDcyNC00OGlWLFVFMdUzZBhNTgZmM2Y2Zk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22237e3d19-1651-4452-b761-dc2414bf0416%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22e9377c57-b005-4e84-bf32-5e74e8d61fd%22%7d">https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YmVjYmQwMzltNDcyNC00OGlWLFVFMdUzZBhNTgZmM2Y2Zk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22237e3d19-1651-4452-b761-dc2414bf0416%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22e9377c57-b005-4e84-bf32-5e74e8d61fd%22%7d</a>	By August 11, 2024, at 03.00 PM

Special Instruction:  
a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods/Services will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies.  
b) If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at the same time and same place.

Director of Supply Chain

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation**  
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

Memo No. 24.03.0000.103.06(5).110.22-201 Date: 16 July, 2024

**Invitation for Bid (IFB) Notice (Re-Tender)**  
**International Competitive Bidding (ICB)**

**For Development of Dost Textile Mills Site at Feni, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership (PPP)**

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), under the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, intends to establish textile mills and/or textile related linked industries and support facilities at Feni, Bangladesh at the existing site of Dost Textile Mills Ltd. through PPP mode.

BTMC invites interested bidders and/or bidding consortiums to participate in the selection of a Private Partner through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) process for the "Development of Dost Textile Mills Ltd. (and/or Textile Related Linked Industries and Support Facilities) at Feni, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership" as per the terms and conditions set out in the PPP Contract.

Interested bidders may submit their Bids in response to this IFB notice. Details of the Project, Bid submission process and other requirements have been delineated in the IFB document.

Interested bidders have to purchase the IFB with a non-refundable amount of Bangladeshi Taka Fifty Thousand (BDT 50,000) or equivalent amount in other currency in favour of 'Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation' through Pay Order/Bank Draft and send the scanned copy of money receipt to the designated e-mail ID: [btmc-tm4@pppo.gov.bd](mailto:btmc-tm4@pppo.gov.bd) to register online in order to access all available project related documents and to participate in the bidding process. A pre-bid meeting will be organized at the BTMC conference room, Date & Time for the said meeting will be duly notified to registered bidders through on-line process.

Bids must be submitted on or before 03 September, 2024 Time - 12.00 hours BST at the following address:

**Project Director**  
Development of Dost Textile Mills Site (and/or Textile Related Linked Industries and Support Facilities) at Feni, through PPP  
Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation  
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

Authority reserves the right to accept, reject and/or re-invite the bids without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Brigadier General Md. Ziaul Hoque  
Chairman  
Tel: + 8802 55014347(Office)  
E-mail: [btmcho@gmail.com](mailto:btmcho@gmail.com)

**পুট ক্রয়**  
জলাসিডি আবাসন ও বিলম্বিত প্রকল্পে পুট কিনতে চাই।  
যোগাযোগ: ০১৫৭৭-০৩৮৭৩৮  
০১৯৪৭-১৩৩০০১

**Property for Sale @ North Gulshan**  
Duplex flat & Commercial space for sale. For more details please call me your convenient time. (Only Real Buyers call please)  
Cell: +880171129050

**RENT or SALE**  
Rent or Sale 100% export oriented ACCORD enlisted fully compliance Sweater factory. Working space 2,29,185 sft and land area is 195.55 Dcml with green area. Have Titas GAS Line and 1500 Megawatt electricity.  
Address: Maleker Bari, National University, Gajipur.  
Contact: 01726-261023

## Violence escalates

FROM PAGE 3

between protesters and police at Bhelanager area.

Deceased were Imon Ahmed, 21, who returned from Malaysia and Tahmid Tamim, 15, a class nine student. The clash left at least 100 more injured.

Mizanur Rahman, residential medical officer of Narsingdi District Hospital and Mahmudul Kabir, RMO of Narsingdi Sadar Hospital, confirmed the deaths.

In Madaripur, Dipta Dey, a student of Madaripur Government College, drowned in Shakuni Lake in the district town after being chased by police and BCL activists during a clash.

The clash left around 50 more injured. The district's Additional Superintendent of Police Md. Moniruzzaman confirmed the death.

"The protesters gathered at the Shakuni Lake area. They hurled brickbats at the police and attacked with sticks, and in response, police charged batons, fired rubber bullet, and lobbed tear shells to disperse them," he claimed. Later, police recovered a body from the lake, he said, adding, "However, we don't know how he died. We will know details of the death after investigation."

In the evening, protesters set fire to a police outpost and

attacked the offices of the superintendent of police and deputy commissioner.

In Bogura, at least 53, including 10 police men, were injured in Bogura yesterday during the clash between law enforcers and protesters at town's Satmatha and court area.

A total of 43 injured students, including 12 with rubber bullet injuries, were taking treatment at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College, according to the hospital's deputy director, Abdul Wadud.

In a separate clash with police at the Bogura District Court area around 1:45pm, at least 10 police personnel were injured. They are receiving treatment at Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogura, said the hospital's resident doctor.

At least 10 protesting students and two police personnel were injured as law enforcers fired shotguns and rubber bullets at protesters outside Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet.

Students started demonstrating from 10:00am blocking the Sylhet-Sunamganj Highway. As the police asked them to leave at around 1:15pm, the protesters started throwing stones and brick chunks at police.

Police then baton-charged the students and lobbed sound grenades, shotgun fire, and rubber bullets. Intermittent chase and counter chase between police and protesters at Madina Market, Akhalia and Kumargaon areas continued till 7:30pm.

In Natore, at least six individuals, including five police personnel, were injured when protesters clashed with police and Chhatra League activists.

In Manikganj, around 100 people were injured in sporadic clashes between the protesters and ruling AL men at Shaheed Rafiq Chatter, Seota, and Khalpar area.

In Rangpur, at least 50 people, including six police, were injured in a clash between students and police at Tajhat area near Begum Rokeya University.

The clash took place when several thousands tried to march towards Tajhat Police Station and police resisted them at around 2:30pm.

In Dinajpur, at least 50 people were injured in several clashes between protesters and AL men in the district town.

The protesters attacked two offices of AL in Dinajpur and burnt 15 motorcycles in front of it. Police charged sound grenades to disperse them.

**ইনভেস্টমেন্ট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ**  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।  
সেক্রেটারি জি ডি ডি

**শেয়ারহোল্ডারদের জন্য নোটিশ**

[অবস্থিত/অ-দাবীকৃত নগদ লভ্যাংশ/বোনাস শেয়ার বিএসইসি/সিএমআরসিডি/২০২১-০৬/০৩ এবং বাংলাদেশ সিকিউরিটিজ অ্যান্ড এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন (ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট স্ট্যাবিলাইজেশন ফান্ড) বিধি, ২০২১, অনুসারে নগদ লভ্যাংশ এবং বোনাস শেয়ার যদি লভ্যাংশ/অনুমোদনের দিন/রেকর্ড ডেট এর তারিখ থেকে ৩(তিন) বছরের অধিক সময় অবস্থিত/অ-দাবীকৃত থাকে, তাহলে উক্ত নগদ লভ্যাংশ এবং বোনাস শেয়ার ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট স্ট্যাবিলাইজেশন ফান্ড বা পুঁজিবাজার স্থিতিশীলকরণ তহবিলে স্থানান্তর করা হবে।

বিএসইসি এর নির্দেশনা পরিপালনার্থে সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণকে ১৮ আগস্ট, ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থবছরের অবস্থিত/অ-দাবীকৃত নগদ লভ্যাংশ এবং বোনাস শেয়ার গ্রহণ করার জন্য উপযুক্ত প্রমাণকসহ সরাসরি অথবা আইসিবি সেক্রেটারি জি ডি ডি অফিসে [agm\\_secretary@icb.gov.bd](mailto:agm_secretary@icb.gov.bd) ঠিকানায় আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট স্ট্যাবিলাইজেশন ফান্ডে স্থানান্তরযোগ্য নগদ ও বোনাস লভ্যাংশের তালিকা কর্পোরেশনের ওয়েবসাইট [www.icb.gov.bd](http://www.icb.gov.bd) এ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে।

এ বিষয়ে আরও জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, যদি ১৮ আগস্ট, ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে কোন বৈধ দাবি না পাওয়া যায়, তাহলে বিএসইসির নির্দেশনা ও বিধি অনুসারে, ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থবছরের অবস্থিত/অ-দাবীকৃত নগদ লভ্যাংশ এবং বোনাস শেয়ার ক্যাপিটাল মার্কেট স্ট্যাবিলাইজেশন ফান্ডে স্থানান্তর করার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা হবে।

এতদসংশ্লিষ্ট কোনো প্রয়োজনে ০১৭৯৯-৯৯৭১০৮ নম্বরে অথবা [agm\\_secretary@icb.gov.bd](mailto:agm_secretary@icb.gov.bd) ই-মেইল এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

তারিখ: ১৮ জুলাই, ২০২৪।

(কেশসানা ইয়াসমিন)  
বোর্ড সচিব/সিপি-মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
ফোন নং-০২২৩০৫৩৩১৯

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়  
জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার  
[jailsuperjamalpur@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperjamalpur@gmail.com)

পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.৩৯০০.০৯৭.০১.০০৮.২৪-১৯৯২ তারিখ ১৬ জুলাই ২০২৪

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	জেল সুপার, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
২	এজেন্সী/সংস্থা	কারা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
৩	দরপত্রের নাম	জামালপুর জেলা কারাগারের ০১-০৭-২০২৪ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৫খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের বিভিন্ন প্রকার বিনিহ দ্রব্য সরবরাহের জন্য শুধু কারা ঠিকারের নিয়োগের ১ম বাবের দরপত্র।
৪	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	Miscellaneous-2024/1
৫	দরপত্রপ্রদানের মূল্যমত যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত PG-2 এর শর্তাধীন।
৬	বাজেট ফান্ড প্রান্তির উৎস	জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
৭	দরপত্র আহ্বান	সীমিত দরপত্র (LTM) পদ্ধতি।
৮	দরপত্র দলিল প্রান্তির স্থান	১। জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার। (২) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর (৩) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর।
৯	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৩০-০৭-২০২৪খ্রিঃ বেলা ২:৩০টা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	(১) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর (২) সদর থানা, জামালপুর (৩) প্রধান ফটক, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	জেল সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
১২	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্রতিসেট ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র।
১৩	দরপত্র জামানার পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত।
১৪	কার্যাবসানের সময়সীমা	০১-০৭-২০২৪খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৫খ্রিঃ।
১৫	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে	ক) দরপত্র বায়নার মূলকপি ও ফটোকপি, খ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদের কপি, গ) অনলাইন জাতীয় নিবন্ধনের (১৩ ডিজিট) কপি, ঘ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (সরবরাহকারী) এর কপি, ঙ) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা (লিকুইড এ্যাসেট) সনদের কপি ও স্বচ্ছতার স্বপক্ষে হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্টের কপি/ব্যাংক লেটার অথবা কমিটমেন্টের কপি, চ) কারা বিভাগে/অন্য কোন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে ০৩ বছরের মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের কপি, ছ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি, জ) কারা বিভাগে হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত তালিকাভুক্তি বহিঃ কপি। (সকল ফটোকপি ১ম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক নামমুদ্র সীলবন্ধে দ্বারা সত্যায়িত)
১৬	ক্রি-টেন্ডার সাক্ষর তারিখ ও সময়	২৫-০৭-২০২৪খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়	৩১-০৭-২০২৪খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯:০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৮	দরপত্র বাস্তব উন্মুক্তকরণের সময়	৩১-০৭-২০২৪খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৯	মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভা অনুষ্ঠানের সময়	০৫-০৮-২০২৪খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা।
২০	দরপত্র সিডিউলের অন্যান্য তথ্যবলী জানার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	
২১	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আবেদন বা সকল দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল/গ্রহণের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
২২	কোন দরদাতা ছুয়া কাগজপত্র দাখিল করলে তার জামানত বাতিলকরে তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।	

মাহাবুক ইয়াসমিন  
জেল সুপার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)  
জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার

GD-61





Every morning, Balai Barui of Khulna's Dumuria upazila sets out with his bicycle to sell fish fries to owners of nearby fish enclosures. He collects fries of various varieties, including rui and katla, and sells those for Tk 80 to Tk 250 per kg. He sells around 30 to 40 kg per day. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## CHANDURA-AKHAURA ROAD

# Pothole woes worsen in Bijaynagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

The 22km-long Chandura-Akhaura regional road in Brahmanbaria's Bijaynagar upazila is in a dire condition, riddled with hundreds of water-filled potholes.

This hazardous state has made the road a hotspot for frequent accidents.

Locals rely on this road to access key institutions, including the Bijaynagar Police Station, Upazila Parishad Complex, Akhaura Land Port, Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, Amtoli Bazar, Daudpur Government High School, Bijaynagar Upazila Health Complex, Awlia Bazar, Champaknagar, and Singerbil Bazar.

The road serves as the primary communication route for over 300,000 people from 10 unions of the upazila, according to LGED sources.

The road is essential not only for Bijaynagar and Akhaura residents but also for people from Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj, who use it for export-import activities via the land port.

Additionally, trucks carrying stones from Sylhet division's districts frequently use this route.

Shahjahan Miah, a resident of



Champaknagar village, said, "During the monsoon, almost the entire road is filled with stagnant water. Easy bikes, CNG-run auto-rickshaws, and motorcycles often get stuck in these potholes."

Commuters say a ten-minute journey can take over half an hour due to the road's condition.

Rimon Bhuiyan, a shopkeeper at Singerbil Bazar, often has to walk part of the way as potholes impede vehicular movement.

CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver

Shohag Mia said, "Our vehicles are often damaged, and there is always risk of accidents."

LGED's Bijaynagar upazila engineer, Mohammad Ashiqur Rahman Bhuiyan, said, "This road has a carrying capacity of 10 tonnes, but trucks carrying 20-30 tonnes of goods ply it daily. As a result, even after repeated renovations, the pitch casting of the road is easily removed."

He said the damaged parts of the road will be repaired soon.



## Man to die for killing nephew, niece in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his nephew and niece in Banchharampur upazila in 2020.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Abdul Hannan also fined Badol Miah, 34, from Khudadaudpur in Homna upazila of Cumilla, Tk 50,000, court sources said.

The victims — Shifa Akhter, 14, and her younger brother Mehedi Hasan Kamrul, 10 — were children of Kamal Hossain from Sahebarnagar in Banchharampur.

Badol is Kamal's brother-in-law, and the incident happened when Badol stayed at Kamal's house for two months during the pandemic.

According to the case filed by Kamal, Badol borrowed Tk 13 lakh from him to open a shop. Later, they locked into argument as Badol did not pay him back. At one point, Kamal slapped Badol, which made him furious.

On August 24, 2020, he knifed Shifa and Mehedi to death in the house to take revenge on Kamal, added the case statement.

PRAYER TIMING					
JULY 19					
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
4:10	12:30	5:00	6:55	8:17	
AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-55 8-17					
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45					
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

## Flood damages crops worth Tk 106cr

Say officials, local markets hit by vegetable supply crisis



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The ongoing flood in Kurigram has so far damaged crops worth Tk 105 crore across 7,960 hectares of land in the district.

Crops worth Tk 1 crore have also been damaged by flood across 40 hectares of land in Lalmonirhat.

Officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension in the districts confirmed the matter.

Different vegetables and leafy greens including spinach were damaged on 2,700 hectares while Aman paddy seedbeds and jute were damaged on 5,300 hectares of agricultural lands in the shoal areas of the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar and Dharla rivers in the districts.

Khandkar Abu Bakkar Siddique, a farmer of Sardob village of Holokhona union in Kurigram Sadar, said he had planted chili on 50 decimals of the land at a cost of Tk 1 lakh.

"The chili field was completely damaged due to flood water. I could not harvest even 5kg of chili," he said.

Nabir Hossain, a farmer of Hatia village in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram, said his eight bighas of jute and three bighas of various vegetables were submerged for about two weeks.

"The flood water receded but my around 5 bighas of jute and three bighas of vegetables were damaged," he lamented.

Due to the damages, local markets in the two districts are going through a supply crisis of vegetables, said traders.

Confirming the matter, Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy director of DAE in Kurigram, said hundreds of affected famers are working on re-cultivating vegetables on their croplands as floodwaters receded.

"Huge damage to the crops has been sustained in the flood. We are preparing a list of affected farmers for government's incentives," he added.

## GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CRLIWM-CHT) Sector Project Rangamati.

### Invitation for Expression of Interest-Firm (International)

Memo No Four-7/CRLIWM-CHT/2024-119

Date: 15/07/2024

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
2. Agency	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Project Director, Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CRLIWM-CHT) Sector Project
4. Title of Service	Recruitment of Project Implementation Support Consultants
5. Procuring Entity District	Rangamati
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm
7. EOI Ref. No.	Package No. CRLIWM/SD-03 (ADB Package No. CHT/Firm/PISC/SD-01)
8. Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	18 July 2024

#### KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement Sub-Method Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS), International

#### FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of funds Development Budget

11. Development Partner (if applicable) GoB+ADB (LOAN-4333 BAN)

#### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/Programme Code (if applicable) N/A  
13. Project/Programme Name (if applicable) N/A  
14. EOI Closing Date and time 29 August 2024, 22:00 Hours (BST)

#### INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

16. Brief Description of the Assignment Consulting services will provide technical advice and supervision for project implementation in accordance with the project administration manual (PAM). For details visit <https://cms.adb.org/>

17. Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required:  
The consulting services to be provided by the Project Implementation Support Consultant (PISC) firm will support CHTRC and LGED to deliver the intended project outcomes. The purpose of the consulting services is to provide full support to: (i) Project PMO and DPMO on all aspects of project implementation including the design of subprojects; (ii) LGED-PMU and LGED-PIU with implementation of Output 5 of the project; (iii) capacity building and strengthening of concerned institutions; (iv) monitoring and quality control of project implementation including institutional aspects and civil works; (v) support the PMO and LGED-PMU with routine reporting on project progress.

The firm will provide inputs of international consultants (36 person-months), national key experts (337 person-months), non-key staff (675 person-months) and support staff (828 person-months).

The consulting team will be led by an international firm and comprised of international and national experts. The PISC will be engaged in accordance with ADB's Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers: Goods, Works, Non-consulting and Consulting Services (2017, as amended from time to time).

18. Other Details (if applicable) Only online submission through <https://cms.adb.org/> is allowed.


19. Association with foreign firms is Yes

Ref. No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)	Indicative Completion Date (Month/Year)
CRLIWM/SD-03	Single	Rangamati	March/2025	June/2030

#### PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

21. Name of the Official Inviting EOI	Paban Kumar Chakma
22. Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Project Director, CRLIWM-CHT Sector Project
23. Address of the Official Inviting EOI	CHT Regional Council, Rangamati, Bangladesh
24. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	+8801556511231 <a href="mailto:pd.crlwimcht@gmail.com">pd.crlwimcht@gmail.com</a>

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all EOIs

  
(Paban Kumar Chakma)  
Project Director  
Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Sector Project, Rangamati.  
Phone: 01556511231  
Email: [pd.crlwimcht@gmail.com](mailto:pd.crlwimcht@gmail.com)

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Rangpur

### Invitation for e-Tender (IFT) (OTM)

Tender Notice No. e-GP-01/XEN/EED/Rang/VE-3250-Fur/2024-25/672

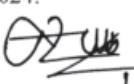
Date: 16 July 2024

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. The tenderer who have registered in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is eligible to participate in this Tender.

SL. No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Tender closing & opening date and time
1.	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Annonolock Biddapith High School, Sadar, Rangpur.	1000429	30-Jul-2024 16:00	31-Jul-2024 14:00
2.	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture at Badarganj Model B.L High School, Badarganj, Rangpur.	1000430	30-Jul-2024 16:00	31-Jul-2024 14:00

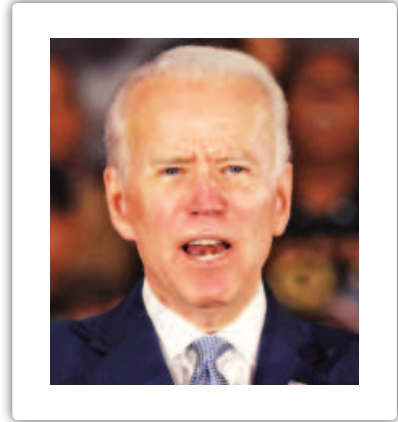
a) Tender publication date on live: 16.07.2024

b) 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. Deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 17:00 on 30.07.2024.

  
16-07-24  
Abul Kalam Md. Akhtaruzzaman  
Executive Engineer



## Biden tests positive for Covid, fueling health worries



AFP, Las Vegas

US President Joe Biden tested positive for Covid with mild symptoms Wednesday, shortly after conceding he would consider dropping his reelection bid if doctors diagnosed him with a serious medical condition.

The 81-year-old Democrat gave reporters the thumbs up and said "I feel good" as he cut short a trip to Las Vegas and flew to his beach home in Delaware to go into isolation, which will take him off the campaign trail for days.

Biden thanked well-wishers on X, adding that "I will be isolating as I recover, and during this time I will continue to work to get the job done for the American people."

The infection comes at a critical moment for Biden's campaign, with the president seeking to show he is up to the job after a disastrous debate performance against rival Donald Trump sparked concerns about his health and calls from some Democrats for him to step aside.

It is also the latest development in a tumultuous few days in an already frenetic White House race that saw Trump survive an assassination attempt at a campaign rally.

Biden was forced to cancel a speech to a union representing Latino workers who will be crucial for his election bid, having attended a campaign event earlier in the day and given a radio interview.

His spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden was vaccinated and boosted, was now taking the Covid medication Paxlovid and "continues to carry out the full duties of the office while in isolation."



Farmers in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila are seen producing red sugar, locally known as Lal Chini, using year-old traditional method.

PHOTO: STAR

### TRADITIONAL LAL CHINI

# Fair price delights Mymensingh farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Farmers involved in producing red sugar, locally known as Lal Chini, in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila are delighted due to a good production and fair price of the item this year.

Lal Chini is a cash crop for hundreds of farmers, mostly small and marginal, in different areas of Phulbaria including Radhakana, Polashtali, Bidhyananda, Koerchala, Bakta, Kushmail, Kaladah, Enayetpur, Rangamatia, Sontoshpur and Chowdhur village.

Production of Lal Chini is a 200-year-old tradition in Phulbaria and the area is famous for the item, said locals.

Many farmers, who once diverted to other crops cultivation like pineapple, banana, lemon and turmeric due to low price of Lal Chini in the previous years, are now gradually returning to sugarcane

cultivation as they are getting a good price of their produce, said 90-year-old Muntaz Ali Fakir of Polashtali Chalapara village.

Muntaz's grandson Enamul Haque, an expatriate in Maldives, recently returned home and started expanding the cultivation area.

Enamul said he made a profit of around Tk 20,000 from his 20 decimals of land this year and he would go for as expanded cultivation next year.

As both the production and prices are quite good this year, each maund of Lal Chini is selling for Tk 6,000 to Tk 8,000 according to its quality, he said.

Farmer Dulal Mia of the locality, who had a reasonable profit from Lal Chini this year, said he will go for more sugarcane cultivation next year as the profit is much inspiring this year.

Cultivation of Lal Chini is comparatively cheap than the other crops as it requires

little watering, less quality of fertilizers and insecticides, the farmer said.

Another farmer Adam Ali said they would get more profit if farmers could sell their products directly to the government agencies.

Farmers said sugarcane leaves and bagasse are also sold locally, which adds additional financial support to the farmers family.

Phulbaria Sub-Assistant Plant Protection Officer Md Abu Raihan said sugarcane was cultivated on a total of 650 hectares of land in the upazila this year and they have a target to produce around 5,200 tonnes of Lal Chini worth around Tk 100 crore.

Mymensingh Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director Dr Nasrin Akhter Banu said Lal Chini is produced only in Phulbaria and it has good potential to grow as an industry.

## Internet service blocked across the country

FROM PAGE 12  
Telecommunication Regulatory Commission said internet communication is disrupted throughout the country due to fire in a Mohakhali building that houses data centres supplying a large volume of internet traffic.

According to the ISPAB, no fire was set in any building with the data centres. There was a fire in an adjacent building and some overhead cables of data centres located in the vicinity were damaged.

The damage would affect at best 20 percent of internet supply, according to industry insiders who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Meanwhile, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for telecom and ICT, said mobile internet services will be resumed as soon as the environment and the law-and-order situation stabilise.

"A vested quarter is trying to derail the law-and-order situation by spreading rumours on social media — that is why we have disconnected the mobile internet services without any prior declaration," he said at the inauguration of 20 e-learning courses of an ICT Division project in the capital yesterday.

Contacted, Grameenphone, the country's leading mobile operator, said in a statement: "Considering the ongoing situation in the country, the government has temporarily stopped mobile internet services. The honourable state minister has already given his statement in the media. We are dependent on the authorities to restart the mobile internet services. We are in constant communication with the authorities in this regard."

Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi, said the carrier has received threatening messages from its subscribers to resume mobile internet services or else its headquarters would be attacked.

## New Gaza strikes after Netanyahu warning

AFP, Gaza Strip

Palestinians yesterday mourned relatives killed in overnight Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip, where Israel's prime minister has vowed to intensify the pressure on militants even as demands grow for him to reach a deal that would free hostages.

AFPTV images showed mourners at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah city, where several white-shrouded corpses lay on the ground. One man cradled the covered body of a child.

Rescuers confirmed several people had been killed in separate Israeli strikes in central Gaza.

At the hospital, Ahmed Abu Muheisen said one strike had targeted his cousin's family in the Al Zuwaida area.

"His children and his wife were

martyred and so was he," Muheisen said.

"Enough, enough already" said another mourner, Eid Abu Rakab.

In Israel too, there are similar calls. Anti-government demonstrators, sometimes marching by the tens of thousands, and separate rallies by families and other supporters of hostages held by Hamas, have stepped up their actions demanding the government reach a deal to free the captives.

"We feel this is a critical moment," Osnat Sharabi Matalon, two of whose brothers were taken hostage, said at a protest on Wednesday in Tel Aviv.

She said they demand a deal before Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travels to the United States, where he is scheduled to address Congress on July 24.

During the more than nine months



of war, Netanyahu has consistently vowed to eradicate Hamas and bring home all the hostages.

On Tuesday he said "we are hurting" Hamas and this is "exactly the time to increase the pressure even more."

He told parliament: "We have got them by the throat."

Far-right members of his governing coalition, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, oppose a truce deal. On Thursday Ben Gvir

said Netanyahu must not make a "surrender" accord with Hamas.

Israel's military offensive has killed at least 38,848 people, mostly civilians, according to data from the health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

The latest toll issued Thursday included 54 deaths in the past 24 hours, it said.

All health facilities in southern Gaza have been pushed to "breaking point" due to an influx of people wounded by Israeli bombardments, the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday.

### Journo killed

FROM PAGE 12

Alauddin Arif, special correspondent of Bangla daily Pratidin Bangladesh, also suffered injuries from shotgun pellets while MM Sikandar, senior reporter of Green TV, was wounded in the capital's Rampura, Mohiuddin said.

Jannatur Mohona, staff reporter of Desh TV, and its cameraperson Abdul Khaleq were injured near Karnaphuli Garden City in the capital's Shantinagar, he added.

Senior Reporter of DBC News Farhana Yasmin Juthi, Special Correspondent of The Business Standard Qutubuddin Muhammad Jashim, and Staff Reporter of Banglavisión Forrukh Babu were also injured, according to a press release of the DRU.

### HSC, equivalent

FROM PAGE 12

Earlier, all public and private universities had already been declared closed due to the situation surrounding the quota movement.

Additionally, all secondary and higher secondary level educational institutions (schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions) under the Ministry of Education, polytechnic institutes, and all primary schools in city corporation areas have been declared closed until further notice.

Clashes have been taking place in different parts of the country for several days regarding the protests demanding reform of the quota system in government jobs.

## China for peace

FROM PAGE 12

foreign ministry.

He told reporters that they do not comment on the internal affairs of any country.

"It is unfortunate that there is violence and loss of life. However, we believe that the government of Bangladesh and people have the capacity and wisdom to solve their own problems," Wen said.

On the recent visit of the prime minister to China, he said, "After internal coordination, we discussed and are going to provide a package of grants, interest free-loan, preferential loan, and commercial loan. In total, it is \$2 billion."

The details of the package need to be finalised at the working level, he said, adding, "This demonstrates our support to Bangladesh. I believe this package will boost our bilateral cooperation and development."

He told Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud that Chinese special envoy on Asian affairs Wang Yingfan will be visiting Bangladesh soon and discuss the Rohingya crisis and the ways of solving it.

The ambassador said China agrees that there was no other solution except safe repatriation of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

"It is a big problem for Bangladesh," he said, noting that conflict broke out in Myanmar, and it is intensifying in Rakhine too.

Bangladesh is hosting nearly 1.3 million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

Wen shed light on Hasina's recent visit to China and discussed bilateral issues, including determining the focal point of Bangladesh in terms of comprehensive economic cooperation with China, celebrating 50 years of China's diplomatic relations with Bangladesh, and advancing comprehensive strategic cooperation.

Foreign Minister Hasan through the ambassador invited his Chinese counterpart to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time and urged China to build another road-tunnel in Chattogram.

## 30 establishments torched

FROM PAGE 12

The agitating students also set fire to a police outpost near the Madaripur launch terminal and the district Awami League office, according to police sources.

In Dhaka, protesters torched at least three police outposts in Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi 27 and Mirpur.

Towhidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Uttara division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said demonstrators set fire to two vans, including one of the police, in Uttara.

A vehicle of Border Guard Bangladesh was set on fire in Hatijheel around 6:00pm.

The Banani toll plaza of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway was set on fire around 9:00pm.

On Wednesday evening, demonstrators torched the toll plaza of the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in Jatrabari.

Sources in the Fire Service and Civil Defence yesterday said they received information of at least 33 violence-related fire incidents across the country from July 17 to midnight last night. Twenty-three of those took place in the Dhaka city corporation area.

Over the last two days, one fire was reported in Narayanganj, two fire incidents were reported in Gaibandha, two in Rangpur city, and one each in Kushtia, Sirajganj, Barishal, Natore and Madaripur districts, the release said.

It added that six buses, two minibuses, 20 motorcycles, two offices of political parties, a toll plaza, a police station, a police box, a police car, and two government offices were damaged.

In another release, the fire service said that at least five vehicles of their department were damaged and four staffers were hurt till 8:30pm yesterday.

Talha Bin Zaim, media officer of the fire service, said the four came under an attack by a group of people when they were going to discharge their duties.

## Australia, India

FROM PAGE 12

statement yesterday.

The Indian High Commission also advised its citizens in Bangladesh to avoid travel and minimise their movement outside their living premises.

An advisory issued by the mission asked Indian nationals to reach out to the High Commission and Assistant High Commissions in Chattogram, Sylhet, Rajshahi, and Khulna in case of any urgency or need for assistance.

The US embassy said reports indicate several deaths and hundreds injured across Bangladesh. The situation is extremely volatile. Protests are likely to affect local transportation services and make getting in and out of Dhaka difficult.

"US citizens should practice vigilance and reconsider their travel plans, especially to areas around public universities. You should avoid demonstrations and exercise caution in the vicinity of any large gatherings. "Review personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates," it said.

The US embassy in Dhaka was also closed to the general public yesterday. Mission personnel have been advised to limit their movements to the diplomatic enclave.

## Eerie silence reigns

FROM PAGE 12

visited the vice chancellor's residence separately.

In the afternoon, police and students from different schools and colleges chased and counter-chased each other in Azimpur and Nilkhet areas.

At Jahangirnagar University, the situation was calm all day long. A large number of law enforcers were deployed on the campus, reports our Savar correspondent.

Around 6:00pm, some 300 students, mostly from areas close to the campus, gathered in front of the main entrance to the university. They chanted slogans protesting police action on protesters across the country.

Students of Rajshahi University blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for about two hours from 2:30pm yesterday. Several hundred students from the Binodpur area staged the demonstration near the main entrance to RU.



## 'US ARMS IN GERMANY' Russia threatens to deploy nuke missiles

REUTERS

Russia does not rule out new deployments of nuclear missiles in response to the planned US stationing of long range conventional weapons in Germany, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying yesterday.

Interfax news agency cited Ryabkov as saying that the defence of Russia's Kaliningrad region, which is wedged between Nato members Poland and Lithuania, was a particular focus.

"I am not ruling out any options," he told reporters in Moscow when asked about US weapons deployment plan.

The United States said last week it would start deployment in Germany from 2026 of weapons that will include SM-6, Tomahawk and new hypersonic missiles in order to demonstrate its commitment to Nato and European defence.



## Mahathir, 99, in hospital

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's nearly 100-year-old former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has been hospitalised for "continuous coughing", his aide told AFP yesterday.

"Mahathir is expected to be treated for the next few days," Sufi Yusoff said, adding he had been admitted on Monday.

A two-time former PM Mahathir turned 99 last week. He has suffered several heart problems in recent years and underwent bypass surgeries.

## Biden working towards what's best for US

Says key senator amid speculations that he may step aside from the presidential race



REUTERS, Delaware

US President Joe Biden is working towards a decision on whether to stay in the presidential race that is good for the country, Senator John Hickenlooper told Reuters, noting sadness among Democrats about the president while stopping short of saying he should step aside.

Hickenlooper, who ran for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination that Biden won, declined to add his voice to the growing number of lawmakers explicitly calling on Biden to leave the race. But he said there was mounting evidence it would be good for the country if that were the decision Biden made.

"Joe Biden has always put the country first. He's done what's best for America...I think he'll keep doing so," Hickenlooper said in a telephone interview late Wednesday. "He's working towards that."

Asked about Biden potentially stepping aside, Hickenlooper said: "That's his decision to make, but certainly there's more and more indications that that would be in the best interests of the country, I think."

Biden, 81, is facing calls from influential members of his party to leave the Democratic ticket after his shaky debate performance against former President Donald Trump, now the Republican nominee, raised concerns about his age and ability to prevail in the November election.

Hickenlooper said there is a sense of anguish among Democrats who hold Biden, who

served in the Senate for 36 years, in high esteem, even if they believe he should not be running for re-election.

"I don't think a lot of people realize how beloved Joe Biden is and what sorrow and anguish people feel that he might not be the candidate. Even people who feel that he should not be the candidate feel a great sense of loss," Hickenlooper said.

"He's been one of the greatest presidents, perhaps the greatest president of my lifetime."

But Hickenlooper said feedback from his constituents in Colorado - not donors, he said, and not insiders - showed overwhelmingly that average Democratic voters wanted Biden to step aside.

Biden is convalescing from Covid 19 at his house in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. On Saturday he met one-one-one with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who reportedly urged him to exit the race.

Biden has been largely defiant in the face of such calls. The White House said late Wednesday the president told Schumer he was the party's nominee and he planned to win the election.

Hickenlooper said if Biden had wavered in his determination to stay in the race, that would have opened the floodgates for more calls to step aside.

"That doesn't mean he couldn't still in the end decide to stay in," said Hickenlooper, who was a brewpub owner in Denver before launching a career in politics, adding Biden would not waste time in making his decision.

"Everyone's got their own rate of fermentation."

## Trump to rally unified Republicans in convention finale

AFP, Milwaukee

Donald Trump was set to get the red carpet treatment yesterday as he accepts the Republican nomination to run for US president in a hotly-anticipated speech capping a historic party convention dominated by the weekend attempt on his life.

The 78-year-old ex-president can expect a hero's welcome on the final day of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, as he addresses a nation still reeling from the assassination bid by a lone gunman at a rally in Pennsylvania.

Saturday's attack - which killed one bystander and left Trump with a bloodied ear - has loomed large at the convention, with Republicans lining up to applaud the former president for his bravery.

As some Republicans sought to blame Democrats' anti-Trump rhetoric for the attack, the billionaire said he had torn up a more aggressive version of his keynote address in favor of one he hopes will "unite our country."

Trump's keynote address will be followed on television by millions, closing the convention by ushering in "a new golden age for America," according to the campaign.

It brings down the curtain on four days of speeches from elected officials, entertainers, industry figures and everyday Americans who mixed with some 50,000 Republicans who had traveled from all corners of the nation.

## Two dead as passenger train derails in India

REUTERS, Lucknow

At least two people were killed and 20 injured after several coaches of a passenger train jumped the tracks in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh yesterday, authorities said.

TV visuals showed coaches of the Chandigarh-Dibrugarh Express, which connects India's northern states to the eastern state of Assam, on their sides along the tracks, with passengers sitting outside with their luggage.

The derailment occurred in Gonda district, more than 100 km from state capital Lucknow.

A team of doctors was at the site treating the injured before they were moved to a hospital, the state's relief commissioner said in a statement.

The incident occurred around 2:30pm and initial reports said around five coaches had derailed, railways spokesman Pankaj Singh told the ANI news agency. "Our first priority is to complete relief and rescue work there as quickly as possible."

At least 15 people died and dozens were injured last month when a freight train smashed into the rear of a stationary passenger train in the eastern state of West Bengal.

## China shopping mall fire kills 16

AFP, Beijing

A fire that tore through a shopping centre in southwestern China has killed 16 people, state media reported Thursday.

Rescue operations concluded at around 3:00 am on Thursday (1900 GMT Wednesday), according to the local fire and rescue services cited by state news agency Xinhua.

Video broadcast by state media CCTV and shared on social media Wednesday night showed thick black smoke billowing out of the 14-storey tower in Zigong, Sichuan province.

The blaze started in the early evening in a shopping centre at the foot of the building, the channel said. Around 30 people were rescued from the complex, with the fire extinguished by rescuers around 8:20 pm on Wednesday, CCTV said.

Later footage provided by a drone operator to AFP showed firetrucks and other first responders blocking off the road late at night, continuing to spray down the charred building.

As of 3:00am, the death toll stood at 16 with no individuals left trapped inside, said Xinhua.



People cool off in a water fountain during hot weather in New York City. New York City is in the middle of the third heat wave of the season, with temperatures that could feel like up to or over 100 degrees. PHOTO: AFP

## Russia gives cautious reaction to Zelensky's summit offer

AFP, Moscow

The Kremlin has given a cautious reaction to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's apparent invitation to a future peace summit, saying that Russia first needs to understand what Kyiv means before attending talks.

Zelensky said on Monday that Russia "should" be represented at a second summit on the Ukraine conflict, a change of tone from last month when Kyiv excluded Moscow from a high-level peace conference in Switzerland.

"The first peace summit was not a peace summit at all. So perhaps it is necessary to first understand what he means," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Zvezda television channel, responding to Zelensky's comments.

Leaders and top officials from more than 90 countries gathered at the Swiss mountainside resort of Burgenstock in June for the first summit, which Russia derided as a waste of time.

Both Russia and Ukraine are

worlds apart on the terms of a possible peace settlement to end the more than two year conflict.

Moscow insists it must keep all the territory it now occupies - some 20 percent of the country - while Kyiv demands all Russian soldiers retreat from Ukraine's internationally recognised borders, including the Crimean peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014.

"/- 'Not worried' -/Washington said Monday that it backed Ukraine's decision to invite Russia to a second summit, but expressed doubt about whether Moscow was ready for talks.

"When they want to invite Russia to that summit, of course, that is something we support," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told journalists.

"We've always supported diplomacy when Ukraine is ready, but it has never been clear that the Kremlin is ready for actual diplomacy," he said.

Ahead of last month's summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was open for negotiations

and would announce a ceasefire immediately if Kyiv effectively surrendered territory that Moscow claims as its own.

Zelensky slammed Putin's demands as a territorial "ultimatum" reminiscent of those issued by Adolf Hitler, and Ukraine's Western backers including the United States reacted with scorn.

But there is growing apprehension in Kyiv about the long-term trajectory of the conflict, given Russia's recent battlefield gains and the potential for a Donald Trump victory in November's US elections.

Zelensky said on Monday he was "not worried" about the prospect of Trump winning and that he was still counting on support from the United States, Ukraine's biggest financial and military backer.

But the Republican Party candidate has suggested he would end the conflict very quickly if he won back the presidency, a promise Kyiv fears would mean being forced to negotiate with Moscow from a weakened position.

## Rwanda's Kagame re-elected with 99.18 percent of votes

AFP, Kigali

Rwanda's all-powerful President Paul Kagame has been re-elected to a fourth term in office with 99.18 percent of the vote, according to full provisional results published Thursday.

The outcome of Monday's poll was never in doubt, with Kagame ruling the small African nation with an iron fist as de facto leader then president for three decades.

Garnering 8.82 million votes, the 66-year-old - who will extend his rule by another five years - won by an even greater margin than in the last presidential poll seven years ago, when he secured 98.79 percent.

Democratic Green Party leader Frank Habineza won just 0.5 percent

in Monday's vote while independent candidate Philippe Mpayimana received 0.32 percent, according to figures from the National Electoral Commission.

The two men, who had also challenged Kagame in 2017, were the only two candidates approved to run this year after several opposition figures were barred.

Kagame is credited with rebuilding a shattered nation after the 1994 genocide, but is also accused of ruling in a climate of fear at home, and fomenting instability in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

He has won every presidential election he has contested with more than 93 percent of the ballot.

In 2015, Kagame oversaw controversial constitutional amendments that shortened presidential terms from seven to five years but reset the clock for the Rwandan leader, allowing him to potentially rule until 2034.

With 65 percent of the population aged under 30, Kagame is the only leader most Rwandans have ever known.

Over nine million Rwandans - including two million first-time voters - were registered to cast their ballot, with the presidential race being held simultaneously as legislative elections for the first time.

Definitive results are due to be released by July 27.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Education Engineering Department**  
**Jamalpur**

Memo No. 37.07.3900.003.63.030.24-5948 Date: 18/07/2024

**e-Tender Notice No: 2024-2025/11**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Jamalpur as mentioned below:

Tender ID	Name of works	Publication Date/time	Closing date & Opening Date
993325	Construction of 02 Storied Auditorium Building with 02 Storied Foundation In/c. Sanitary, Water Supply, Electrification, Sound System, Stage Lighting, Multimedia Projector, Generator, Air Conditioning, Acoustic work & Deep Tube Well works at Govt. Jaheda Safir Mohila College, Sadar, Jamalpur.	18.07.2024 at 15.00	20.08.2024 at 12.00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP system 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.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.

(Md. Anwer Hossain)  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Jamalpur.

GD-63



## A sad day for the nation

### What took the government so long to see reason in quota reforms?

No words are enough to adequately describe our shock and pain at the heavy casualties that occurred on Thursday, as a "complete shutdown" announced by the anti-quota protesters degenerated into a complete breakdown of law and order across the country. As of writing this editorial, at least 19 people, mostly students, were killed while many hundreds were injured during violent clashes between the protesters and members of security forces and Awami League-affiliated groups. The overall death toll in the ongoing quota movement, counting the six that died on Tuesday, now stands at 25. The severity of the protests—which continued well into Thursday night—can be understood from the fact that more than 2,500 were injured nationwide, a number of them suffering from shotgun wounds.

So much loss and suffering for a cause that any other country with a reasonable socio-economic ambition would have addressed proactively for its own benefit. This shows the growing disconnect between the students' aspirations and that of the ruling establishment. Could Thursday's tragedy have been avoided? The way protesting students were treated until then—frequently disregarded, disparaged, and finally driven off their campuses and dormitories—did indeed create the chance for any face-to-face confrontation with the security forces to turn violent. And it did. But the authorities must bear the responsibility for the escalation as it seems to have lost any ability to engage with protesters on the streets without resorting to force. Video footages from various thoroughfares and intersections showed scenes for which an apt description ethereal. There were indiscriminate beatings and shootings. Many public properties, offices, and vehicles were vandalised or set on fire. It was like a nightmare through and through.

This is why the government's offer on Thursday afternoon to sit with the students to discuss quota reforms was seen by many as more of an olive branch offering rather than a substantive approach. And they have their reasons. For instance, what took the government so long to make this approach? Why did it use so much force if it was "principally" in favour of quota reforms? Why did it continue to do so even after making the offer? Most importantly, who will take responsibility for all the deaths and sufferings that has ensued over the past four days? Clearly, the government could have avoided all the bloodbath and resultant crisis of faith by handling the situation a lot better, and more peacefully.

Right now, the priority is to raise confidence among the students about the government's sincerity. And words alone will not do that. To really build their confidence, the students will need concrete assurances that there will be no legal persecutions against them, that those responsible for the violence and instigation of violence will be brought to book, and that there will be proper reforms in the government job quota system. The students are right to worry, seeing how past attempts have failed to resolve the quota issue, particularly during the 2018 movement. Without a genuine effort on the government's part—but also on the part of the students to reciprocate, considering public interest—there is no guarantee that this issue will be resolved for good. We do not want to see any more violence and loss of lives.

## Courts cannot be absent of witnesses

### Authorities must address the fear to testify

It's concerning that our authorities are struggling to bring witnesses to court, calling into question the entire legal system. According to a police report, witnesses are unwilling to testify in criminal cases, due to fear of violence, lack of trust in the legal system, and absence of state protection among other issues. As a result, credibility of cases is being challenged, which often leads to them getting dismissed. This leaves perpetrators unpunished, and in turn, encourages them to carry out more crimes. Suffice to say, the state must address this dysfunction if it's concerned about the lack of law and order.

As per the report, 43 percent of witnesses surveyed don't want to testify in cases centring crimes like robbery and rape, while 24 percent are scared to do so. Furthermore, 28 percent said they were threatened by the accused's side. If this is the scenario, we cannot expect individuals to put their lives on the line to testify. Ensuring this safety falls on the shoulders of law enforcers and the legal system. But when 79 percent of witnesses have no faith in the criminal justice system and 51 percent complain about the lack of state protection, it's clear that the authorities concerned are failing to perform their duties.

The consequences of this failure are far-reaching. As reported, 50 percent of robbery cases have failed to ensure justice as witnesses refused to testify, while lack of proper testimonies has led to 46 percent of cases filed by the narcotics department getting dismissed. Negligence is pervasive as well, as officers reportedly make individuals witnesses without their consent. This is unacceptable and points to a sheer lack of accountability.

There are a host of options for authorities to improve this situation, as stated in the police report itself. Enacting and implementing witness protection laws is of paramount importance, as it's the first measure to ensure their safety. Taking testimonies virtually, providing transport costs, and ensuring swift trial proceedings are some of the other recommendations, which need to be implemented on an urgent basis. Above everything, the state must remember just how important it is to ensure a functioning justice system so that law and order prevails.

# Govt has completely failed to understand the youth



Anu Muhammad is a former professor of economics of Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

What is happening in Bangladesh right now is truly unfathomable. Anger, passion and sadness, mixed up with other emotions among the youth of the country, have led to a kind of movement the likes of which we haven't seen in decades. But what are the reasons behind their grievances? The present government has completely failed to understand them. And that failure is leading the government to make one mistake after another.

The anger that has taken hold among the youth, I believe, has been born of three main reasons. The first is the way the economy is operating and the developmental model that this government has adopted and is widely publicising—the youth cannot see any future for themselves in these models. Young people do not see any hope of getting (respectable) jobs that they deserve, according to their abilities. We are seeing jobless growth happen.

The second problem is that whatever employment opportunities exist are mostly in the public sector—be it at government schools, colleges, universities, hospitals or other essential institutions. Thousands of positions in these institutions are left vacant, but the government is not filling them up. Why? Because privatisation is central to its development model. The state of other important government offices is also critical because of the government's neoliberal economic policies.

The third issue is that young people don't believe they will get access to whatever little employment opportunities do exist. That's because all opportunities nowadays have to be bought; they are not granted according to merit. In order to get a job anywhere, you either have to spend money or have connections with the ruling party—in other words, "ruling-party-affiliated quota" has turned into the most dangerous quota. And even outside of that, there are a whole host of other corrupt practices that are taking place.

So, all our young people, whether they are in university, college or even in school, can see a dark future for themselves. Many young people are desperately trying to leave the country. And in the process, sometimes they are betrayed by fraudsters; that is how some end up dying at sea, while others are exploited by criminal brokers and syndicates.

They see the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) as the promise of a decent and secure job. But even there, they face 56 percent of quotas, which are limiting their chances, along with question leaks and other forms of corruption.

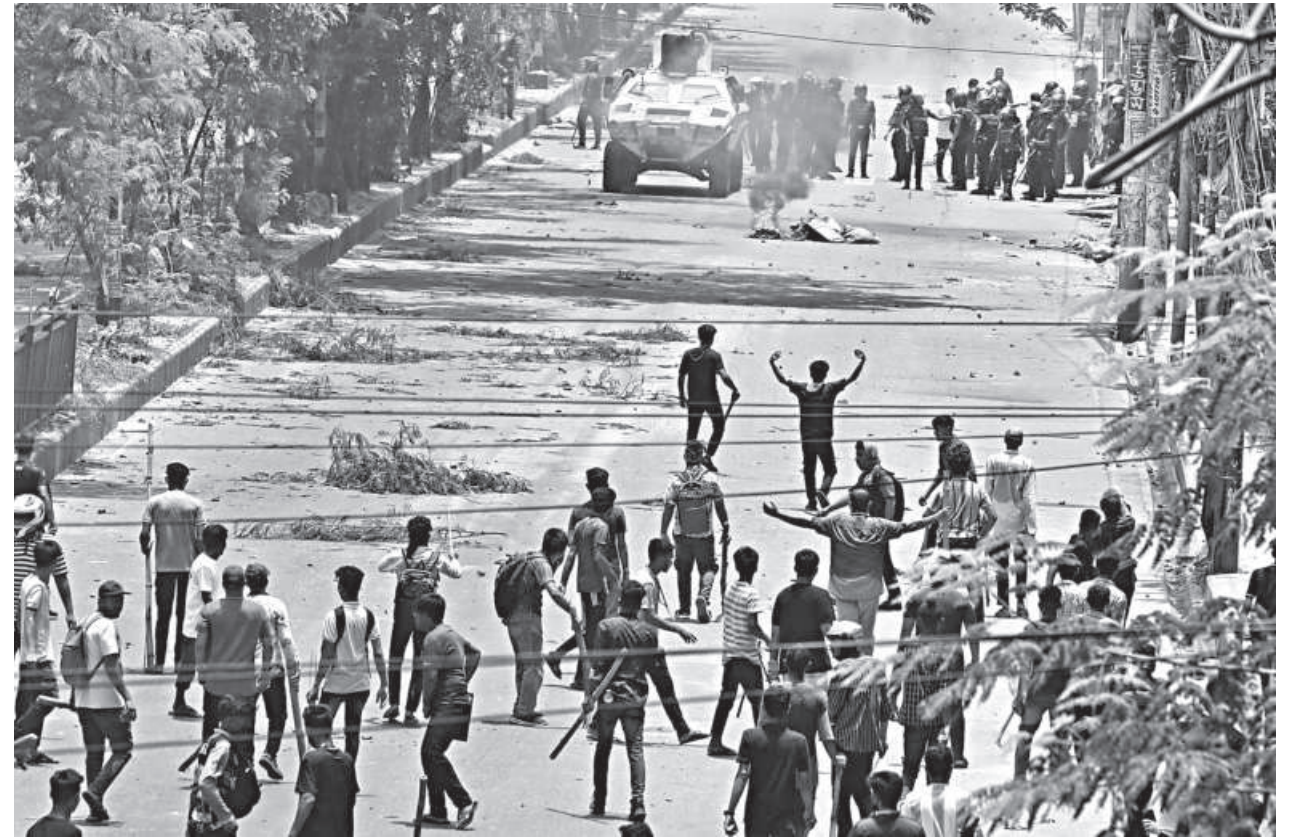


PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Young people aren't seeing any way for them to fix the larger economic problems. The only possibility they see is if they can get some reforms made to the quota system. That is what led to the 2018 quota reform movement.

The prime minister's role following the movement then was short-sighted. After getting angry at the protesters, she decided to completely abolish all quotas. That was not the demand of the protesters—they had wanted the system to be reformed. It is only natural that the complete abolishment of quotas wouldn't stand a chance legally, because there are disadvantaged groups in the country who need the quota, and who have a right to it—even the constitution says that.

The government has been saying it can't do anything since it is a matter of the court. But even the court has said that the government can change, reduce or increase the ratio or percentage of the quotas in public jobs if it feels it is necessary. These factors have also influenced the young people and their movement.

Another aspect contributing to the young people's anger is the government's autocratic behaviour—that it can do whatever it wants. That is why young people across the country are in an agitated state right now. If you look at their lives closely, you will see most of them and their families are somehow struggling financially or

looking up to the prime minister to take some steps to reform the quota system. Unfortunately, she decided to take the matter completely in another direction. A demeaning comment aimed at them is what triggered them and made them feel even more hopeless. After that, instead of talking to the protesters, the ruling party unleashed its student wing on them. The Awami League general secretary himself was straightforward in saying that BCL would see to the protesters. That is when we saw BCL members—many of whom look older than 30 or even 40 years old—launch a vicious attack on students with rods, sticks and even guns. In places where the BCL couldn't completely run over the students, they hired people and brought them in on trucks and buses to attack the students.

To find some relief, they were

further, using his abilities, which is what he was protesting for.

All the protesters are asking for is a chance to participate in a fair competition. They are not asking for any handouts or any unwarranted favours. For the police to open fire at them for that, and for the ministers to verbally attack them, are unacceptable.

The government refused to understand the anger and feelings that all this incited among the student protesters. And so, they decided to close all the schools and universities. But without addressing their main demand, is it possible for the government to simply shut down all educational institutions and use violence to stop the movement? What does Bangladesh's history tell us? Bangladesh's history tells us that people in this country have endured a lot of oppression, but they also put up resistance despite all of that. Even BCL leaders were thrown out of campuses by the protesters after the latter were attacked by the ruling party's student wing.

By unleashing such terror upon the students, all the government is doing is displaying its weakness. Even the prime minister has now said that the court will hopefully give a ruling that is satisfying to the protesters. But what about all the unnecessary deaths? Who will take responsibility for them? Hundreds of students have been injured, their families have been hurt, and their education has been hampered. Who will take responsibility for that?

Instead of causing more injury using repressive means, the government needs to listen to the main concerns of the protesters, and take action against those who have attacked and injured them.

## Dying for a systemic change



Saad Hammadi is the policy and advocacy manager at the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Follow him on X: @saadhammadi

SAAD HAMMADI

There is a serious governance failure in dealing with the student demands for merit-based recruitment system in Bangladesh's government jobs. Those of us following South Asia know how quickly public protests get hijacked by political quarters and flare into violence and vandalism. The state has a responsibility to handle the situation with calm and composure, by engaging with the students and not turning against them with political rhetoric that could amount to advocacy of hatred and subsequent hate crime.

Unfortunately, that is exactly what we have seen happening this week. Many parts of the country have been burning and at least 13 people were killed in the clashes. Abu Sayeed, a 25-year-old student at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, stretched his

arms wide open, standing alone facing the police a few steps away, a gesture that I interpret as nothing but his bravery to confront unlawful actions. Instead of showing restraint, the police fired rubber pellets at him. He fell on the ground shortly and succumbed to death. This incident is shocking and painful. The deaths and violence against students demanding merit-based recruitment in Bangladesh's public service cast a lawless response to peaceful protests.

This could all have been avoided. The existing quota-based recruitment system favouring descendants of freedom fighters has long faced criticism from students. Quotas in job recruitments elsewhere in the world are designed to uphold equity for the marginalised communities.

Currently, a whopping 56 percent of the government jobs are reserved for various quotas. The reserved seats in the government jobs include 30 percent for descendants of freedom fighters, 10 percent for women, 10 percent for people in underdeveloped districts, 5 percent for indigenous communities and one percent for persons with disabilities.

Bangladesh has a bloodied past and a hard-fought freedom struggle behind its independence and sovereignty. It's a pride that every Bangladeshi celebrates. The love for a country cannot be proven by a piece of paper. It is an experience that must be cherished by the people.

The recruitment system in Bangladesh's government services stands as a golden opportunity for many meritorious graduates of the country. It is a matter of job security, a prestige and identity. The government needs to instill the value proposition in these jobs to make them demanding and lucrative. These value propositions must ensure that not only are these jobs hard earned, but they are also a space where the best of the best graduates stand a chance based on their merit, not by some gift

of ancestral struggle for liberation of Bangladesh. It is one of those opportunities that the government can use to prevent hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis from moving to other countries for better opportunities.

An urgent resolution is required in the recruitment process to make the quality of jobs rewarding and accountable, one that is rooted in the principles of equity and equality. This is a policy-oriented issue and must be dealt with full transparency and accountability to meet public interest.

Abu Sayeed's death cannot be the price students must pay to ask for a systemic change in the recruitment process. There must be independent, thorough and impartial investigation into his killing.

The state must do better to act responsibly than letting a situation get carried away into violence and then responding to it with brute force in the pretext of containing that violence. This is a tactic of the authorities that wish to escape from their responsibility to address a situation with rigour. Calling student protesters "razakars"—traitors of the country—will do anything but instill love for the country under the given circumstances.



# Why was Abu Sayed shot dead in cold blood?



Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

Why was Abu Sayed of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University shot down by police? He was standing alone, totally unarmed with arms stretched out, holding no weapons but a stick. Nor was he engaged in any violent activities. When he was shot, he posed no threat to police and was standing quite a distance away, which an eye-estimate suggests could be about 50-60 feet. Yet police shot him in cold blood.

Earlier, we saw the home minister, an otherwise soft-spoken person, explain several times how the police were exercising restraint. He claimed repeatedly that police had been instructed not to indulge in any violence and also not to engage the demonstrators in a way that may lead to violence. Yet police shot an unarmed student who stood all by himself showing that he posed no danger.

Sayed was one of the nine children of very poor parents. He was the youngest and the brightest of nine brothers and sisters. When he got admitted to Begum Rokeya University, the first one ever from his family, his siblings were so elated that they all contributed to his studies, even by saving from their own educational expenses. His very old and ill father said they all hoped that Abu Sayed would change the fate of the family after joining the government service, which was his life's sole aim. This made him interested in the quota reforms, and hence he joined the protests. His story clearly shows that his desire was only to reform the quota system so that his chances of success would increase. There was no other agenda as is now being alleged.

As reported in this paper, at 12:37pm



on Monday, the day before his murder, Sayed shared a photo card of martyred Professor Shamsuzzoha, a young Rajshahi University teacher who was shot dead while trying to protect student protesters in 1969. He wrote, "Sir, we desperately need you right now ... Your legacy is our inspiration. We are enlightened by your ideals". Prof

Shamsuzzoha became one of the heroes of student movement inspiring us in the lead-up to our Liberation War. As someone dedicated to our freedom and progress, he also served as a source of inspiration in the following five decades of our independence.

Sayed was riddled with shotgun pellets causing his death. A post-mortem has been done but result has not yet been made public. Meanwhile, he has been buried.

We are heartened by the PM's promise of a judicial probe. But that will likely take time. We request a separate and immediate enquiry into Sayed's killing and exemplary actions against the guilty. We are no stranger to killings in demonstrations. But such a singular killing that looked very much like a targeted one is something completely new. That is why it needs immediate investigation.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, can justify this action except the arrogance and assured impunity that police have known to be enjoying over the years. Meanwhile, an apology from the police and the home ministry to the family may go a long way to assuage the feeling of outrage that presently exists.

## Universities and the govt have failed the students



Dr Samina Luthfa is associate professor at the Department of Sociology in Dhaka University.

SAMINA LUTHEFA

The violence occurring in various campuses in and outside of Dhaka over the last few days is making us anxious and worried about the safety of our students and that of regular citizens. If the universities had fulfilled their responsibility of ensuring safety of their own students, the situation would not have become so concerning. The government's liability is also not to be ignored. We can guess that it is due to the government's direction that the UGC shut down the university campuses.

The campus shutdown was enacted the day after the student body of the ruling party was removed from the residential halls. At the very least, the university authorities had the responsibility of ensuring passage of students following the shutdown of campuses. Not only did they fail to ensure this, but they also enabled the BGB, police, and different ruling party bodies such as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League to violently attack the students. This has resulted in at least 13 deaths—and we are afraid the count will only go up. The responsibility for this bloodshed cannot be avoided by either the government or the university authorities.

On Wednesday, some of us from the University Teachers Network Against Repression tried to rescue the persecuted students. We attempted to organise a rally. There, we witnessed a large deployment of BGB and RAB members on Dhaka University (DU) campus. Instead of ensuring a safe passage for the students to leave Dhaka University, Rokeya University, Jahangirnagar University, Shahjalal Science and Technology University and so on, the students were attacked and forced out of their own campuses. The university authorities and teachers had no consideration of how these students would suddenly return home at the middle of the night or what their mode of transport would be.

Today, we have seen students from schools, colleges, and universities come under atrocious attacks by the police and BCL in many places in Dhaka, including Badda, Dhanmondi, and Mirpur. Brac University attempted to protect its students on its campus, but when injured students tried to seek medical help, they were stopped by law enforcement agencies.

The government needs to move away from this aggressive approach. They need to understand that fulfilling the students' demands was not impossible. The students made logical demands that did not deserve this violent retribution. The universities must be reopened so the students can safely return. Those responsible for the killings and attacks need to be tracked down and brought to justice. None of these deaths can go unanswered. University authorities who have failed their students should resign. These are our demands as conscientious teachers.



Students hold a symbolic gayebi janaza on July 17, 2024, in the Dhaka University campus.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

### WHAT HAPPENED ON WEDNESDAY

## An account from JU

A FEMALE STUDENT OF DU

We started the quota reform protest long before the attacks. On July 15, the students who had gone out at 3pm to attend a rally were attacked with sticks by BCL. It also included attackers from outside, i.e. non-JU students led by the JU Chhatra League. As a result, many students were in the hospital. Another portion who were still protesting remained near the VC's residence seeking safety. Cocktails were used and the recordings of the attacks are still available on the Facebook feeds of several students.

The students had felt the VC's residence may have been a safe space, yet they were attacked. When the police arrived, there was some relief, but they soon realised that the police had come to protect the VC, not the general students. At that point, the police used tear shells and other weapons in their arsenal. The attack lasted till 4am, all the way till dawn. Many students had to be admitted to Enam Medical College Hospital, with one student in critical condition.

On the morning of the 16th, when the news spread, thousands of students arrived at campus during the day, and I was one of them. All day, we kept up a blockade and adjourned it at the end. We held a syndicate meeting and made a decision that we will not vacate the halls upon hearing the statement from UGC. After all, the UGC cannot make a decision about an autonomous institute.

On July 17, our demands were two-fold: quota reform and the refusal to vacate halls. On that day, around 200-300 police officers entered the campus. The teachers told us that we ought to return to the halls for our safety. Still, we did not wish to leave, because it was unacceptable for the police to be present on our campus as the police cannot enter an autonomous institution in the manner that they did. The situation became dire, and it was worsened by us not being able to receive any news.

Throughout the country, rumours were spread and there were attempts at fear-mongering. Many students were having lunch at the time when, around 5:15pm, the police attacked us.

During the attack, our group had to disperse. We had to flee to whichever road was empty. Many of us were stuck for hours while tear shells were being thrown. It remains a question: for whose protection did the police fire shots? If we assume it was to protect the students, why were the shots fired in their direction? This shooting went on till evening. When our proctor was called by the department teachers, he claimed that he himself was struck. The police can never enter a campus without the permission of the proctor.

The proctor's statement that we should run to whichever place is safe was not sensible because there was no safe passage for us. The police saw us running to the girl's halls. In the main gate of JU, about a 100 police officers had arrived. Many journalists showed

them their press cards so as not to be shot at by the police. The footage of police coming toward us, however, is yet to be broadcast.

After evening, we returned to our halls only for us to hear that we would be forcefully removed from our halls. Around 10pm, we started receiving all kinds of news. I believe it was a BCL tactic to make us leave. Many female students in particular felt unsafe at this time. Yet, many of them were adamant about not leaving the halls. We received frantic calls from our families to leave urgently as they had heard horrifying reports, but we had to assure them those were rumours. Soon, electricity was gone and mobile data ceased to work. I was unable to make a single phone call. We remained awake throughout the night as we had lost faith in the idea that we would not be attacked. I wonder if this is how the nights must have felt during those nine months of the Liberation War.

In the morning, the halls had become empty. Under severe stress, we had to leave the campus in the morning, despite our unwillingness. Right after, the police raided each room, with the proctor and hall provost accompanying them. Why did the administration allow the police to inspect halls in this manner? These were clear attempts to break the student's will, and they succeeded.

Though some students are still in campuses, the numbers have reduced to such a great extent that it is not possible to carry out a procession.

## An account from DU

Mustahid Riad is student of the University of Dhaka.

MUSTAHAID RIAD

On Wednesday, police were checking everyone's IDs before letting them inside the campus. They had created a human barricade near the metro station at TSC and were not allowing anyone to pass through. Everyone was asked to take a detour and enter the area through Payra Chatter. I did so and reached Bacchu Bhai's tea shop, when I saw the car of a police official enter the area. All the journalists rushed to the car that stopped near the Raju Memorial Sculpture. When the police official got out, the journalists harangued him about the presence of police and BGB on campus. He did not answer them; instead, he pushed them and continued walking towards the police barricade near the TSC station. At that moment, a sound grenade went off. There was smoke everywhere. I felt very afraid.

Inside the campus, too, police members created human barricades—one right in front of the Raju Sculpture and the other at the three-way intersection in front of Ruqayyah Hall. At the VC Chatter, we saw many protesters. Some of them had sticks with them and some came from the halls. When the gathering reached around 1,000, we prepared for the symbolic *gayebi janaza* (funeral prayers in absentia). At that time, there were many members

of police standing in front of the vice chancellor's house, Ruqayyah Hall and Fuller Road, and a police water tank was positioned a few metres away from the Arts Building gate. After the prayer, we decided to bring out a procession from the VC Chatter to Raju Memorial Sculpture with the symbolic coffins, voicing our quota reform demands, questioning the presence of police and BGB on campus and demanding

There was smoke everywhere, and I heard gunshots. The police standing near the VC gate were firing rubber bullets and throwing sound grenades and tear gas shells towards us. The procession got dispersed and there was a lot of chaos. I felt a burning sensation in my eyes from the impact of the tear shells. I could not see properly but managed to climb the wall in Hakim Chatter and enter the Central Mosque; I started

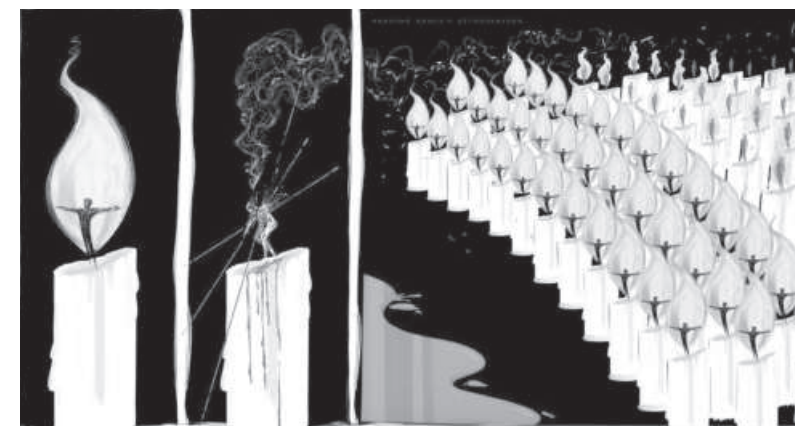


ILLUSTRATION: MORSHED MISHU

punishment for the students' killings. We pushed through the police barricade and reached the water tank. Some students shouted at the police angrily and provoked them to shoot, questioning their presence on campus. As we continued the procession, the water tank suddenly moved back and we heard a sound grenade go off. Right then, the clash started.

running through the mausoleum of Kazi Nazrul Islam to reach the National Museum. I was able to leave the campus with a few others by showing our IDs to the police. But a friend, who called me when I reached the TSC metro station, said he had to take shelter inside a hall. He said the police had launched an attack on students who fled towards the Mall Chatter.



LAW AND SOCIETY

# On quota reform movement and judicial decision-making



SHARMISTA BANIK

Whether pressure of any social movement can influence judicial decision making is a complex question and touches on fundamental aspects of

**While public protests do not have the constitutional authority to directly overturn judicial decisions, they reflect a shift in public opinion that the court cannot entirely ignore. The Supreme Court, while not directly accountable to public opinion, does not operate in a vacuum but within a broader societal context.**

constitutional law, judicial independence, and separation of power. The question becomes all the more complicated when the decision-making lies with the highest judicial authority of the

state (i.e., the Supreme Court).

While the Constitution does not provide a direct mechanism for public protests to overturn court verdicts, it does recognise fundamental rights such as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. These rights allow citizens to voice their opinions and potentially influence the broader legal, judicial, and political landscape.

In the landmark case of *Brown v Board of Education* (1954), the US Supreme Court declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. While the decision was based on constitutional interpretation, it was influenced by the broader civil rights movement and changing social attitudes towards racial equality. Even conservative courts can be influenced by advocacy and public conscience. During Nixon's Presidency, despite conservative

appointments, the court made several progressive decisions. This included ruling against sex discrimination and deciding *Roe v Wade* (1973), which legalised abortion. These decisions were influenced by growing public support for gender equality and reproductive rights.

The South African Constitutional Court's decision in *Minister of Health v Treatment Action Campaign* (2002) demonstrates how a combination of litigation and public mobilisation can influence judicial outcomes. The court's ruling, while based on constitutional interpretation, was undoubtedly informed by the broader social movement advocating for HIV/AIDS treatment access. In India, the Indian Supreme Court's decision in the *Vishaka and others v State of Rajasthan* (1997),

was influenced by women's rights movements and led to guidelines on sexual harassment in the workplace. This judgment was an outcome of both street protests outraged by the decision of the previous *Bhanwari Devi* case and sustained public advocacy.

The concept of 'popular constitutionalism' argues that the people, and not just the courts, play a role in constitutional interpretation. While this does not suggest that court decisions can be overturned by public opinion, it acknowledges that sustained public engagement with constitutional issues can shape the context in which future cases are decided.

The current debate in Bangladesh over the reformation of quota system brings these issues into sharp focus. The staying of the 2018 government circular and lack of adequate initiatives by government to reform the quota system has sparked widespread protests from general students. It has brought into focus the tension among judicial independence and public sentiment and freedom of expression.

While public protests do not have the constitutional authority to directly overturn judicial decisions, they reflect a shift in public opinion that the court cannot entirely ignore. The Supreme Court, while not directly accountable to public opinion, does not operate in a vacuum but within a broader societal context. The effectiveness of the judiciary in a democratic system is partially derived from public trust and acceptance of its decisions. While Supreme Court judgments are designed to be final and independent of public pressure, among others, the ongoing quota debate in Bangladesh illustrates the complex interplay between judicial decisions, constitutional interpretation, and evolving societal values, highlighting the need for a delicate balance to be struck between upholding legal principles and responding to legitimate public concerns within a dynamic democracy.

*The writer is student of law, University of Dhaka.*

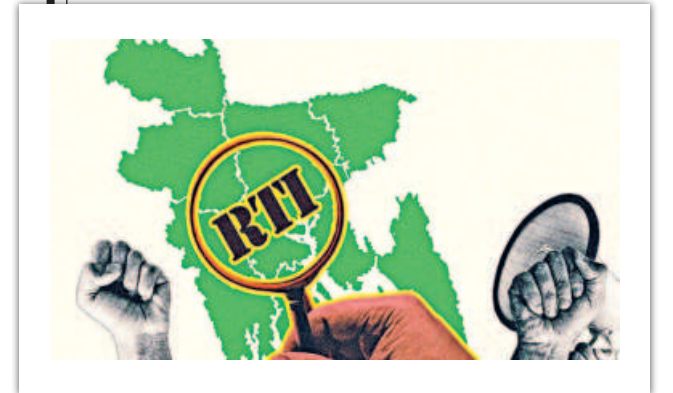
RIGHTS WATCH

# Right to information and Bangladesh

TAWSIF MOTTAKI CHOWDHURY

Bangladesh experienced a wave of enthusiasm in the wake of the enactment of the Right to Information Act in 2009. Initially, public perceived the law to be a potent instrument that would enable them to keep an eye on government activities, reveal wrongdoings, and hold public officials accountable. However, as time went on, the initial zeal faded, and the Act came to use for only a handful of people.

In theory, the 2009 Act empowers citizens to scrutinise government work, question decisions, and demand transparency. The preamble to the Act holds the right to information to be an inalienable part of Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Speech under Article 39 of the Constitution of Bangladesh. Section 4 of the Act states that every citizen has a right to information from the authority, and the authority must provide so upon demand. Section 8 allows citizens to request information from responsible officers in writing, electronically, or via email. As per section 9, the responsible officer must provide the requested information within 20 working days and if multiple information provider units or authorities are involved, within 30 working days. Section 9(3) further provides that if the officer is unable to provide the information, they



must inform the requester of the reason of such inability within 10 working days of receiving the application.

Ideally, informed citizens should utilise this opportunity to its maximum potential. However, the reality is far from ideal in Bangladesh. Fear of retaliation, lack of awareness about the law's intricacies, and lack of trust hinder citizens from exercising their rights under the Act. This underutilisation reflects a broader trend of information apathy, where the power to challenge corruption and promote good governance through the RTI is acknowledged in theory but overlooked in practice.

Neighboring countries are experiencing a rise in the enforcement of this right in favor of the mass people. The Indian Supreme Court unanimously ruled on 15 February 2024 to overturn the now-infamous Electoral Bonds Scheme of 2018 and ordered the disclosure of a vast amount of sensitive information that had been withheld from the citizens. Bangladesh can gain valuable insights from India's experience with the RTI Act on its immense potential.

**In theory, the 2009 Act empowers citizens to scrutinise government work, question decisions, and demand transparency. The preamble to the Act holds the right to information to be an inalienable part of Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Speech under Article 39 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.**

Sri Lanka has also witnessed how successful the law can be in holding the government accountable and battling corruption. Sri Lanka's efforts to combat corruption have benefited immensely from their RTI legislation. The International Monetary Fund's Governance Diagnostic Assessment (GDA) recognised the RTI as having a significant impact on improving governance. Special attention was given to the RTI Commission of Sri Lanka for their uncompromising compliance with the law.

However, the same success has not been mirrored in Bangladesh due to several factors. Firstly, the nature of RTI requests in Bangladesh is predominantly personal, lacking the public interest-driven inquiries. Secondly, there is a notable absence of collective civil society action to challenge and safeguard the RTI law's implementation. And lastly, there is an immense lack of cooperation on part of the officials in providing information in our country.

The way forward is evident as Bangladesh grapples with the underutilisation of the RTI. NGOs and our civil society must lead the change in advancing RTI into the forefront of governance. Bangladesh stands at a pivotal moment, where RTI's potential as a weapon against corruption and good governance must be fully realised through collective effort and commitment.

*The writer is student of law, University of Chittagong.*

GENDER AND LAW

# Obstetric violence and women's human rights in Bangladesh

ARIFUR RAHMAN

Safe motherhood entails a serious consideration of ensuring safe maternal and reproductive healthcare services. Yet, women in our country often face the challenge of trading off their health safety for childbirth. Last year a case was filed against a private hospital and its concerned doctor on the grounds of alleged botched Cesarean sections (C-sections) and fraud following the death of 25-year-old Mahbuba Akter Akhi. C-sections which practitioners are advised to follow in exceptional childbirth scenarios have become a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. Such procedures have become so pervasive over the years that normal delivery procedures are nowadays almost an exception—practitioners follow C-sections even when such procedures are not required. The rate of unnecessary C-sections in Bangladesh rose to 51% between 2016 and 2018 as reported by Save the Children. When we perceive these unnecessary C-sections simply as a medical procedure, we ignore the abuse, coercion, and trauma women experience during childbirth. In fact, women often lose any sense of control over their body and reproductive health when seeking healthcare support during childbirth. Although any birthing body including trans and non-binary persons could be subject to obstetric violence, this essay focuses only on (cis) women. Obstetric violence is an ever-evolving concept but generally refers to the mistreatment of women including but not limited to negligence, abuse, or coercion in obstetric and gynecological care. An example of obstetric violence includes the performance of C-sections without the voluntary and informed consent of the patient. However,

obstetric violence is not merely another case of medical negligence and abuse, rather an example of gender-based violence, exemplifying its dynamic nature and the various forms it takes. It is part of the broader structural violence that women face in everyday life.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) in its statement 'The prevention and elimination of disrespect and abuse during facility-based childbirth' provides an array of examples of obstetric violence such as 'outright physical abuse, profound humiliation and verbal abuse, coercive or unconsented medical procedures (including sterilisation),



lack of confidentiality, failure to get fully informed consent, refusal to give pain medication, gross violations of privacy, refusal of admission to health facilities', among others. While women in Bangladesh often go through various forms of obstetric violence, it has yet to be recognised as a form of human rights concern. In fact, Bangladesh has not even recognised obstetric violence as a legal issue.

In *N.A.E v Spain* (2022), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee, while

dealing with obstetric violence experienced by a Spanish woman (the author) found that subjecting the author to unnecessary vaginal examinations, use of oxytocin without adequate justification, and performing episiotomy without consent resulted in the violation of human rights of the author under the CEDAW such as equality and non-discrimination in healthcare under Article 12, and right not to be subject to gender stereotypes under Article 5, among others. The committee further highlighted how gender stereotypes and prejudices lead to gender-based violence if medical

treatment of women supported by harmful gender stereotypes and cultural norms about their reproductive choices and health. Such stereotypes typically include regarding women's primary role in the society as a mother or a caregiver and, hence, the expectation that 'women should continue their pregnancies regardless of the circumstances, their needs and wishes' (*Mellet v Ireland*). To undermine the opinion of a patient in obstetric care and avoid the need to help her make an informed decision also reflects the long-held discriminatory notion that women lack any agency when it comes to making any decision about their reproductive health and choices. It only reproduces stereotypes and prejudices by reinforcing the traditional gendered notion that women should be submissive and obedient and that they are without any capacity of forming opinion. While gender stereotypes and prejudices contribute to the normalisation and validation of gender-based violence during childbirth, such stereotypes about women's sexual and reproductive health eventually allow healthcare providers to take full control of women's bodies.

Obstetric violence has serious consequences for women's human rights. Therefore, instead of sweeping it under the carpet, Bangladesh needs to take obstetric violence seriously because doing so supports its commitment to international human rights treaties and its Constitutional goal of securing (gender) equality and non-discrimination.

*The writer is fellow at the United Nations Development Headquarters, New York and a graduate of NYU Law.*



## Women's Asia Cup begins today

- This will be the ninth edition of the Women's Asia Cup. The first four editions were played in the 50-over format, while the next four were T20 tournaments. The ongoing edition will also be played in the 20-over format.
- India won seven out of the eight editions of the tournament so far. Bangladesh won the title in the only edition in which India failed to secure it. The women in red and green beat India in a last-ball thriller in the final of the 2018 edition in Malaysia.
- Sri Lanka is set to host the tournament for a third time. They played hosts in 2004 and 2008. All 15 matches of this edition, including the two semis and the final, will be held in one venue - Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla.
- No team has featured more times in Women's Asia than India and Sri Lanka, appearing in all eight previous editions. Meanwhile, the UAE is set to feature in only their second Asia Cup.
- No batter has scored more runs than India's Mithali Raj in the 20-over editions of the tournament (402 runs in 10 matches). With the ball, Pakistan's Nida Dar leads with 26 scalps in 18 matches. Bangladesh's Rumana Ahmed is close to Dar with 23 wickets in 16 matches.



**SPORTS REPORTER**

Seven-time winners India will once again be the favourites to lift the Women's Asia Cup as the tournament's ninth edition gets underway today, with a marquee fixture between India and Pakistan following the tournament opener in Dambulla, Sri Lanka.

India, the most dominant side in the tournament's history, won seven out of the eight previous editions, only losing out to Bangladesh in the 2018 final in Malaysia.

This edition will be played in the 20-over format, for a fifth time in the tournament's history. The defending champions India come into the tournament on the back of a series cleansweep against Bangladesh in a

five-match T20I series followed by a 1-1 draw against South Africa in the same format.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh will be looking to take inspiration from their triumphant campaign in 2018 as the Tigresses have not had the confidence of positive results in the build-up to the tournament.

The Nigar Sultana Joty-led side suffered back-to-back series defeats against Australia and India at home and their last win in this format came in December 2023 when they beat South Africa by 13 runs in Benoni.

Since that victory, Bangladesh lost nine consecutive T20Is and will have to produce their best once again to qualify for a top four spot.

Joty's troops failed to progress

beyond the group-stage in the last edition of the tournament in 2022 when Bangladesh hosted the event which is why the skipper has made progression to the final four her initial target.

Bangladesh, who were pitted in Group B along with Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand, will begin their campaign against the hosts on Saturday.

**BANGLADESH FIXTURES**

Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka July 20, 07:30 pm	Bangladesh vs Malaysia July 24, 02:30 pm
Bangladesh vs Thailand July 22, 07:30 pm	*All timings are as per Bangladesh time.
<b>GROUP A</b> India, Pakistan, UAE, Nepal	<b>GROUP B</b> Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand

**WOMEN'S ASIA CUP: ROLL OF HONOUR**

2004 India (ODI)
2005-06 India (ODI)
2006 India (ODI)
2008 India (ODI)
2012 India (T20I)
2016 India (T20I)
2018 Bangladesh (T20I)
2022 India (T20I)



England's Ollie Pope raises his bat after hitting his sixth Test century, putting the hosts in a commanding position -- 259-4 at tea -- in the second Test against the West Indies at the Trent Bridge yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sabina and Co to play Bhutan on July 24, 27

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Bangladesh women's football team are set to depart for Bhutan on July 22 to play two FIFA friendlies against the hosts.

Coach Peter Butler announced a 22 member squad for the matches on July 24 and 27. While experienced players like Tahura Khatun, Surma Jannat, Shaheda Akter Ripa, and Shamsunnahar Ripa were excluded, new players like Halima Akhter, Bonna Akhter, Mst Sagorika, and Mst Sultana made the cut.

Captain Sabina Khutun emphasised that these matches will be beneficial for the SAFF Championship.

Coach Butler believes this will be a good opportunity for the new players.

## This will be my last term: Kazi Salahuddin

Kazi Salahuddin, who has been at the helm of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for 16 years, is planning to contest for a fifth consecutive term as president in the next BFF elections, set to take place on October 26. The 70-year-old footballer-turned-organiser spoke with *The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman* about his thoughts on running for president once again. Here are the excerpts:

**DS:** Are you going to contest in the next BFF elections for the president's post?  
**Kazi Salahuddin (KS):** I think so.

**DS:** You have been at the helm for four successive terms. Why are you thinking of contesting again?  
**KS:** This will be my last election. I want to finish the work on the vision I had for the national team, then someone else will take over.

**DS:** You underwent an open-heart surgery last year and there are concerns whether your health will allow you to continue as BFF president for another term...  
**KS:** I was also concerned about my health, but that's not the real obstacle right now. Actually, the problem is that my family don't want me to continue in BFF. But I think my job here is not yet done, no matter who says what. Everyone has no choice but to accept that the national team has been playing well and the league [Bangladesh Premier League] has

been taking place regularly. No one can deny that whether they like me or not. Our women's team is the best in the sub-continent. I think one more term should be enough, then someone else can take over.

**DS:** You had told the media before the previous election that it would be your last term...  
**KS:** But this time it really will be my last term, considering my health, family and everything.

**DS:** The national football team has been playing well in the recent past but are still languishing in the bottom half in the world rankings. How do you see it?  
**KS:** If you play 10 matches against similarly ranked sides, you will win more games and your ranking will gradually improve. But we usually play against teams which are ranked 30 to 50 places higher than us. Money is another factor. I need Tk 70 lakh to play one international match. We can't manage the money every time, so, we play fewer matches. Once India used to be close to us in the rankings but they are now a higher-ranked side because they play many international



matches.

**DS:** What did you do to strengthen the financial condition of the BFF in your four terms?  
**KS:** When I first came in power, I used to bring Tk 7 to 8 crore from sponsors for every tournament. But different groups went against me during my second and third terms and the media too was not friendly towards me. There were many rumours including corruption which were not true. This had a bad impact on the BFF's image, thus I lost interest and felt embarrassed to approach the sponsors and kept myself away from the private sponsors.

**DS:** But FIFA suspended BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, CFO Abu Hasan, and general manager Minzanur Rahman on financial grounds. What do you have to say about that?  
**KS:** No one read the FIFA report thoroughly, they just read the part that said that financial reasons were behind the suspensions. That has made the situation really difficult for us. The report stated none of the goods were purchased at a higher cost and they were bought

at market price. But there were some flaws in the system. It has become really challenging to recover the BFF's image in this ground. There has been a complete overhaul of the BFF finance division. We have a new general secretary, new CFO and new procurement officers. It's a sad thing for us but now everything is being checked and rechecked multiple times.

**DS:** How do you evaluate your four consecutive terms as the BFF president?  
**KS:** The first thing I had said in 2008, at a time when the football league was not taking place regularly, is that under me there will always be football on the ground. And in the last 16 years, I have kept my word. No one had to think whether or not the league would be held. That was the first thing I accomplished as the BFF president. Then I made sure that Bangladesh takes part in maximum number of tournaments. I also ensured good training grounds, proper jerseys, equipments, match condition for the national football team, which was not there during my playing career. I have ensured providing the best training facilities in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Korea and Japan and kept the team in five-star hotels. But during our playing careers, we used to be accommodated at the Physical Education College in Mohammadpur and then stayed in BKSP. But the players are now training in Dhaka, availing five-star hotel facilities. These are the things I ensured.

**SHORT CORNER**

**Shoriful cuts LPL stint short due to sickness**

Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam returned home from Sri Lanka on Thursday due to illness and won't be taking part in the knockout phase of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL). "I've been sick for a few days. That's why I decided to return home," Shoriful told *The Daily Star* over the phone after returning to Bangladesh.

**FIFA says opening probe into Argentina players' racist chants**

FIFA said on Wednesday it was opening an investigation into racist chants by Argentina players after they won the Copa America. "FIFA is aware of a video circulating on social media and the incident is being looked into," a spokesperson for world football's governing body said.

**Gibraltar fury at Spain team's 'offensive' Euro victory chants**

During Spain's celebrations, which saw the Madrid turned into a sea of red and yellow, several players grabbed the microphone to sing, with captain Alvaro Morata belting out "Gibraltar es espanol" -- "Gibraltar is Spanish" -- in a chant also picked up by Rodri, who plays for English club Manchester City.

\*Read full stories on *The Daily Star* website

## Sagor chosen as Bangladesh's flagbearer

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Archer Sagor Islam will proudly carry the Bangladesh flag during the march past at the 33rd Olympic Games, set to be held in the French capital from July 26 to August 11.

A 13-member contingent from Bangladesh will participate in the world's largest sports event. Among the five athletes, only archer Sagor qualified for the Olympics directly, making him the third Bangladeshi to do so after golfer Siddiqui Rahman and archer Ruman Sana.

Naturally, the spotlight is on the 18-year-old archer, who will kick off his campaign with the ranking round on July 25.

"I want to thank the Bangladesh Olympic Association [BOA] for giving me the opportunity to carry the national flag, which is a great honor for me," said Sagor at the official press conference at the BOA yesterday.

"I have been training at Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi, where the competition stage has been designed to replicate that of the Paris Olympics. The environment, complete with background noise, has been simulated to give me the feel of competing in Paris," Sagor added.

"I will be giving my best rather than focusing on advancing to the quarterfinals or winning medals. I believe that if I can control myself, I can achieve something better."

In addition to Sagor, sprinter Imranur Rahman, shooter Robiul Islam, and swimmers Samiul Islam Rafi and Sonia Khatun will be making their Olympic debut.

"It is a matter of great pride for us to participate in the Olympics with a direct entry from archery, and we hope Sagor Islam will perform well," said chef de mission Entekhabul Hamid Apu.

"The shooter has also prepared well, but there is always a significant difference in preparation between athletes who qualify directly and those who enter with a wild card."

Since the 1986 edition, Bangladesh has participated in every Olympic event with a small contingent. However, their results have often



failed to impress despite being the ninth most populated country, leading to negative reviews from the global media.

"Bangladesh needs a six-to-eight-year long-term plan if we want to achieve good results in the Olympics. The BOA cannot do it alone. We also need support from the Bangladesh Youth and Sports Ministry, and the sports minister is considering prioritizing disciplines with good prospects. We aim to set targets for the 2028 Olympic Games," Mamun stated.

BOA Secretary General Syed Shahed Reza was also present at the event.

## Paris Olympics to set sail with unique ceremony

- The ceremony is due to start at 11:30 pm on July 26 (Bangladesh time) and last about four hours, reaching a climax when the sun sets on the Seine.
- The show will be attended by over 100 heads of state and government, and over 300,000 spectators will watch from the river's banks. Organizers said there will be some 80 giant screens along the way.
- The Paris 2024 committee stated there would be about 10,500 athletes, and some 222,000 people will receive free invites, while 104,000 will have to buy tickets.
- Approximately 45,000 police officers will be dispatched to ensure the ceremony's security, including special intervention forces. Snipers will be deployed on top of buildings along the route, and an anti-drone system will be in place.

**REUTERS, Paris**

Paris will begin its Olympics extravaganza with an unprecedented opening ceremony on the river Seine on July 26th.

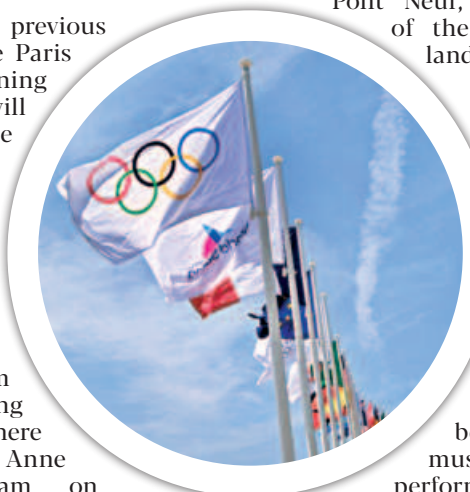
Unlike previous Olympics, the Paris 2024 opening ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Instead, dozens of boats will carry thousands of athletes and performers on a 6km route along the Seine, where Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo swam on Wednesday to convince doubters that its waters will be clean enough to hold Olympic swimming events.

Departing from the Austerlitz

Bridge, the parade will sail by Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral and arrive near the Eiffel Tower, after passing under bridges and gateways, including the Pont des Arts and Pont Neuf, and near many of the French capital's landmarks.

Organizers have said they will take advantage of the historic monuments, the riverbanks, the sky, and the water, stating that "there won't be a single riverbank or bridge that won't be filled with music, dance, or performance."

The show will have twelve parts, some of which will play on clichés about France. Athletes and artists will take part in the parade together.





# Journo killed while covering quota protests

2 from Star among 11 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A journalist was killed and at least 11 others were injured yesterday while covering the students' "complete shutdown" programme demanding reforms to quotas in government jobs.

Mehedi Hasan, staff reporter of Dhaka Times, an online news portal, was injured during a clash between police and protesters in the capital's Jatrabari. The 28-year-old was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.



Mehedi Hasan

Among the injured are Abir Shafiq Shameen of The Daily Star's multimedia department and Dwoha Chowdhury, Sylhet correspondent of the newspaper.

Abir, a senior assistant producer, was hit by shotgun pellets in the capital's Mirpur-10 while Dwoha was hit by brick chunks at the main entrance to Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, said Mohiuddin, general secretary of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

Nadira Sharmeen, senior reporter of Ekattar TV, and its cameraperson Syed Rashidul Hasan were hit by shotgun pellets in the capital's Jatrabari.

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Illegal structures have been set up encroaching on the Buriganga at Jhauchar Ghat of Keraniganj. The authorities had installed boundary pillars along the river to save it from encroachment, but that has proved futile. The photo was taken recently.

## QUOTA IN GOVT JOBS SC to hear pleas against HC verdict on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will Sunday hear two leave to appeal petitions that challenged the High Court decision to reinstate quotas in government jobs.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, yesterday evening fixed the date for the full bench, led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, to hear the matter first that day.

The chamber judge passed the order after Attorney General AM Amin Uddin appealed for an early hearing of the petitions considering those as an important and urgent matter.

Justice Enayetur conducted the judicial functions and passed the order at his official residence

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## HSC, equivalent exams for July 21, 23, 25 postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The HSC and equivalent examinations of all education boards scheduled for July 21, 23, and 25 have been postponed.

The schedule for the postponed examinations will be notified later.

The development was communicated through a notification signed by Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, chairman of the Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee and chairman of the Dhaka Education Board.

Other examinations will be held as per the previously announced schedule from July 28, the notification said.

The HSC and equivalent examinations scheduled for yesterday were also postponed earlier.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

# 30 establishments torched in 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesters have set fire to at least 30 establishments, including the main building of Bangladesh Television, along with police and BGB vehicles over the last two days.

Arson attacks were also carried out on government and political party offices, police stations and outposts, and toll plazas.

Witnesses said a large number of students broke open the main gate of the BTV station in the capital's Rampura around 2:45pm yesterday and set ablaze a part of the building.

The fire later spread to the main building, leading to suspension of BTV transmission, Mahafuza Aktar, general manager of BTV, told The Daily Star.

"We had to leave the building around 7:30pm."

Khaleda Yeasmin, duty officer of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said two fire engines went to the BTV station but were barred by the protesters from entering.

Demonstrators set fire to the office of the Department of Disaster Management in the capital's Mohakhali around 3:30pm. The blaze damaged the cables of some data centres housed in an adjacent building.

Emdadul Haque, president of the Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh, said the centres lost at least 30 percent of their total bandwidth because of the damaged cables.

In the evening, the Setu Bhaban was set on fire, damaging at least 10 vehicles parked in front of the building, said an official of the Bridges Division. Demonstrators also vandalised the ground floor of the building.

In Madaripur, protesters set ablaze a police outpost and vandalised the offices of the superintendent of police and deputy commissioner.

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### LATEST FROM RANGPUR

The DB office and Tajhat Police Station in Rangpur city were set on fire around 1:45am. Firefighters, with the BGB providing security, doused the blaze, said police and fire service sources.

## Internet service blocked across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is under complete internet blackout after the transfer of bandwidth was suspended to internet service providers (ISPs) and carriers were ordered to shut down mobile data service.

The government had this done yesterday through the international terrestrial cable (ITC) companies, which import bandwidth from India across the border, The Daily Star has learnt with people involved with the proceedings.

ITCs provide over half (3,500gbps) of the total bandwidth import around 5,800gbps.

From 9:00pm, internet supply from the two submarine cables was mostly down, leaving the country with virtually no internet.

"We aren't getting any bandwidth from the ITCs and only a little from the submarine cables," said Emdadul Haque, president of the Internet Service Providers' Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB).

It's not enough to ensure internet for the users, he added.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# Exports dropped in last three years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's exports have been declining over the past three years, according to the central bank data.

The disclosure was made in the monetary policy statement for the first half of fiscal 2024-25, which was unveiled yesterday.

For instance, in fiscal 2023-24, exports are likely to be around \$42 billion, which is \$10 billion less than the figure reported by the Export Promotion Bureau, as the receipts, according to the BB, were down 4.28 percent year-on-year in the first 11 months of the year.

As per EPB statistics, exports stood at \$51.54 billion during that period, up 2.01 percent from a year earlier.

Similarly, the EPB has shown an export growth of 6.67 percent for fiscal 2022-23 and 34.38 percent for fiscal 2021-22.

The BB receipts indicate otherwise.

The central bank data shows receipts from garment shipments dropped 5.2 percent between July last year and May this year.

Following the export data mismatch, the EPB has decided not to publish the monthly export data until further instructions from the commerce ministry, said a senior official of the commerce ministry wing.

If the EPB can set up its own data centre, it will release the data monthly, he said.

The EPB will assess the export dynamics based on the data from the customs department of the National Board of Revenue and the BB, the official added.

"The export data which the BB has been publishing is correct as the EPB data was inflated," said Mohammad Hatem, executive president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

Over the last few years, Hatem has been saying that the export data was inflated as the real data of issuance of Utilisation Declaration (UD) certification does not match with the EPB export data.

The BKMEA and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association issue the UD certification to its members.

**The central bank data shows receipts from garment shipments dropped 5.2 percent between July last year and May this year.**

# Eerie silence reigns over campuses

Hotbeds of quota demo shift elsewhere after students vacate halls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the public universities across the country were calm yesterday after the authorities vacated the halls following clashes between law enforcers, Chhatra League men, and students over the quota reform protests.

Dhaka University was almost empty yesterday. Police and BGB personnel took control of the campus on Tuesday evening after sporadic clashes between law enforcers, Chhatra League men, and demonstrators for over two hours from 4:00pm.

At least 15 students were injured during the clashes as police fired rubber bullets, tear gas and sound grenades at the protesters.

Since early yesterday, law enforcers were seen patrolling campus streets and guarding the entries to the campus. Some teachers and officials

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



The mother of a 20-year-old Palestinian of Gazan origin is being comforted by others as she mourns her son after he was killed during an Israeli army raid in al-Bireh north of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Australia, India, US missions issue travel alerts

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

Foreign missions of Australia, India, and the US have asked their nationals in Bangladesh to remain on alert while travelling amid the ongoing student demonstrations.

They issued travel alerts as the demonstrations have spread across Dhaka and elsewhere in the country over the last few days.

"Traffic delays and public transport disruptions are likely. Avoid large gatherings, including protests, demonstrations, and rallies. These can turn violent without warning. Be aware of your surroundings, monitor local media, and follow the advice of local authorities," said the Australian High Commission in a

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