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## CASES AFTER VIOLENCE

# Over 2 lakh accused in Dhaka city

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Over 2.13 lakh people, most of them unnamed, are accused in around 200 cases filed with police stations in the capital over the recent violence centring the quota reform movement.

Almost all the cases were filed by police, and in at least 16 of them, between 5,000 and 10,000 people have been accused, records show.

Law enforcers have arrested over 2,500 people, including political leaders, activists and students, in the last 12 days in different parts of the city, according to the court documents.

However, the actual numbers of cases and arrests could be much higher and are likely to rise further as law enforcers continue to raid different neighbourhoods in the capital.

The country witnessed violence on an unprecedented scale over the last week. The peaceful demonstrations turned deadly on July 15 when Chhatra League attacked the protesting students on different university campuses.

In the following days, violence escalated in Dhaka and elsewhere, leaving at least 162 dead as per The Daily Star data. However, the death toll from the violence between agitators, law enforcers, Border Guard Bangladesh members, and ruling party activists, could be much higher as this newspaper could not reach many hospitals, where dozens of critically injured patients were taken.

Also, many families reportedly took the bodies of their loved ones from the scene, and this newspaper could not contact those families.

The Daily Star's count of the victims is based solely on hospital and police sources.

According to Prothom Alo, at least 210 people were confirmed dead as of yesterday.

The government is trying to bring the situation under its control by imposing night-time curfews, deploying army across the country, and carrying out raids.

Meanwhile, rights activists, family members of those arrested or injured, and political parties are decrying law enforcers' high-handedness and misuse of power. The government maintains that the cases are based on specific evidence.

### CASES FILED IN CAPITAL

Dhaka Metropolitan Police filed 229 cases with 50 police stations as of yesterday.

This newspaper has so far been able to get documents related to 178 cases filed since July 17. The number of accused in these cases is 2,13,834. Of them, only 1,310 were named.

It is not known how many people are accused in the remaining 51 cases. The unnamed accused leaves room for the law enforcers to arrest anyone they want.

Police had not mentioned any name or number of accused in 60 cases, and in at least two, 10,000 unnamed people were accused.

One of the two cases was filed with Badda Police Station on July 18 over violence near Brac University in Merul Badda area.

The other one was filed with Lalbagh Police Station on July 21 over violence in Azimpur. The accused are unnamed BNP-Jamaat activists.

The Metro rail authorities filed a case against 9,000 unnamed people in connection with vandalism at Mirpur-10 metro station on July 19.

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## QUOTA PROTESTS

# Govt puts death toll at 147 so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 147 people have so far lost their lives in the recent violence over the quota reform protests, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

The victims include students, people from various professions, police personnel, Awami League leaders and activists, said the home minister during a press meet at the secretariat while revealing the first official death toll.

"We have a list of those who lost their lives in the violence. Our investigation is on. If we get news of one or two more, we will include them [in the list]," said Asaduzzaman Khan.

The home minister said they are putting the death toll forward to quash any confusion.

According to The Daily Star database, at least 162 lives have been lost in the violence since July 16.

However, the overall death toll from the violence between agitators, law enforcers, Border Guard Bangladesh members, and ruling party activists, could be much higher as The Daily Star could not reach many hospitals, where dozens of critically injured patients were taken.

Also, many families reportedly collected the bodies of their loved ones from the scene, and this newspaper could not contact those families.

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Jhunu Begum, 65, wailing in front of a Narayanganj court moments after her grandson, 19-year-old mason Arif Hossain, was taken away in a prison van. Jhunu was pleading to the police that her grandson was innocent and that he was not involved in politics. Arif was picked up from his Parameshwardi home in Narayanganj on July 23 following the recent violence.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

## From 'DB office', 6 organisers lift protest programme

### One more organiser 'picked up by DB'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six organisers of the quota reform protest, who are in custody of the Detective Branch of police, yesterday announced the withdrawal of their protest programmes apparently from the DB office on Minto Road in the capital.

Nahid Islam, one of the key organisers, along with five other coordinators made the announcement via video message, which was distributed to media outlets from the DB office.

Nahid was seen reading out a statement last night, minutes after a photo posted by Harun or Rashid, chief of the DMP's detective branch, on Facebook that showed them having food with Harun in a room apparently at the DB office.

The Daily Star could not reach Nahid despite repeated calls to his phone.

"Many people were unexpectedly injured and killed due to the quota

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WHO CAN PROVIDE MORE SECURITY THAN THE FAMILY? - PAGE 3

## PROTEST COORDINATORS Detention by DB unconstitutional

Say legal experts, academician

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and MD ABBAS

The Detective Branch's picking up of key coordinators of the quota reform protest "for the sake of security" is unconstitutional, said two legal experts and an academician.

They heavily criticised the move while talking to The Daily Star. However, a Supreme Court lawyer said such move could be made "considering the prevailing situation".

The DB picked up six coordinators of quota reform protest, including Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud, over the last three days.

At a press briefing at the DB headquarters yesterday, its chief Harun or Rashid said they took the coordinators into their custody "to prevent any harm to students or the protest", reports UNB.

Zi Khan Panna, a Supreme Court lawyer, said according to the Appellate Division's guidelines in detention and remand-related cases, if anybody is detained or arrested, he or she must be informed about the reason within three hours of detention.

Their nominated lawyers and parents must be allowed to meet them and be produced before the nearby magistrate's court within 24 hours after the detention, he said.

"The law enforcers kept protesting students detained in violation of the Supreme Court guidelines and the relevant provisions of the law and constitution," said Panna, also a human rights activist.

Jyotirmoy Barua, another SC lawyer, said there are no laws in the country under which anyone can be arbitrarily picked up.

"There is no terminology for picking up someone to provide security. Picking up someone is abduction, and abduction is a criminal offence. If they [police] want to arrest anyone, they have to comply with the directives of the Supreme Court."

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## Those involved in the killings will be brought to justice: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday vowed to bring those responsible for the recent violence during the quota reform protest to book.

"My effort will be to find those involved in these murders. They must be punished," she said.

The premier made the remarks while handing over financial assistance to the families of 34 victims, including Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University student Abu Sayeed, who lost their lives in the violence, at the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina, also chief of the ruling Awami League, sought help of people in identifying the perpetrators. "I need [your] help too. If you know anything, please tell us."

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## 70 pellets in 16-year-old student's body

### Father claims police unjustly killed his son

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

It was around 5:30pm on July 18. Khalid Hasan, a first-year student of Ideal College in Dhanmondi, was heading back to his Amligola home in Lalbagh after offering Asr prayers at the Azimpur Government Staff Quarter mosque.

As he took a few steps, the 16-year-old saw a group of protesters rushing inside the colony and scatter.

Puzzled, Khalid stood there for a few moments in his attempt to figure out what was going on.

But police personnel appeared out of nowhere and started firing indiscriminately.

Khalid along with three to four others was shot. Khalid died instantly. His body had at least 70 shotgun pellet wounds in the tummy and chest.

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Khalid Hasan



Makbul Hossain, father of Abu Sayed who was killed in police firing in Rangpur during the quota reform protest, meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: P10

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VIOLENCE OVER QUOTA PROTESTS

# Criminals to be tried following due process

Foreign ministry assures int'l community; says innocents won't face harassment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has assured the international community that law enforcement agencies will bring individuals responsible for the recent violence to justice using evidence, without any form of reprisal or harassment against protesting students or innocent civilians.

The law enforcement agencies have been given clear instructions to this end, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in a statement yesterday.

The government is ensuring that due process is followed in guaranteeing accountability and justice for reported terrorist acts and that law enforcement agencies avoid excessive use of force under any circumstances, it stated.

The statement comes after the United Nations (UN), western countries, and global rights bodies condemned the recent violence, encouraged a durable solution to the present crisis, and stressed due process in the justice system and upholding fundamental human rights.

As per the home ministry, the death toll in last week's violence reached 147, while according to independent media reports, it was close to 200.

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Construction workers, hit by days of unemployment amid the curfew, are whiling away the morning in the Bypass area of Khulna city in the hope of getting hired.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

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## Over 2 lakh accused

FROM PAGE 1

Another case was filed against 8,000, two cases against 7,000, seven against 6,000, and three against 5,000.

Most of the accused face charges of gathering illegally, rioting, assaulting law enforcers, and damaging properties.

### ARRESTS IN DHAKA

Police produced 2,506, including 98 yesterday, before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in at least 158 cases between July 17 and July 28.

In 15 cases filed with Jatrabari Police Station, 335 people were arrested. The area saw continuous violence for almost a week starting on July 17.

Mirpur police arrested 168 people under 10 cases while Uttara (east) arrested 164 under 10 cases, Paltan police arrested 145 under eight cases, and Badda police arrested 130 people under four cases.

Mirpur, Uttara, Badda and Paltan areas too witnessed fierce clashes.

Five cases were filed over killing policemen, a student and a police informant. One was filed under Cyber Security Act.

## 70 pellets

FROM PAGE 1

"The police could have shot my son in the leg. If they did so, he would have lived, even as a cripple. My son was intentionally killed by police," Kamrul Hasan told The Daily Star as tears rolled down his cheeks.

He said as the situation, stemming from the quota protest, was deteriorating, he had asked his son not to go outside.

Khalid would only go out for prayers, he said.

"My son was a threat to no one. He was not involved in the protest. The police unjustly shot my innocent son," said Kamrul, a teacher at a madrasa in Lalbagh.

A witness, who also suffered shotgun pellet injuries close to his eye, said, "Everything happened so fast that we could not fathom what was going on. We were getting out of the colony when the protesters ran inside. Before we could understand anything, a policeman pointed his gun at us and fired."

Some people later took Khalid and him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he said, wishing anonymity fearing reprisal.

Hearing the news, Kamrul went to the DMCH. "I saw my son lying on a bed and blood oozing out of his mouth and nose. My innocent son was dead."

The family's ordeal didn't end there. He said they faced immense difficulties in getting Khalid's body from the hospital morgue.

"At 2:30am on July 20, I went to the Lalbagh Police Station for clearance, without which the hospital authorities would not release the body. The police questioned me and told me to come back at 9:00am," Kamrul told The Daily Star.

"I went again but they did not cooperate. Two days later, they finally gave the clearance, and I received my son's body. During this time, I visited the police station four to five times a day."

Around 4:30pm on July 21, Kamrul received his son's body. Khalid was buried at their family graveyard in Bhadashon village in Faridpur's Bhanga.

Kamrul said, "We had a hope that Khalid [his eldest son] would become a lawyer. Our family is poor, and he wanted to contribute to he family. Who will I ask for justice now?"

Khalid's mother gave to this correspondent just one line: "They did not let my son live."

## Those involved in the killings

FROM PAGE 1

She emphasised that the government would not allow anyone to jeopardise the future of Bangladesh and its people. "We will not allow anyone to play with the fate of Bangladesh, so I need all-out cooperation and assistance from you."

Hasina expressed her determination to prevent such criminal activities from recurring in the country. "I don't know how to console you. But I can understand your pain," she said, addressing the grieving families.

Questioning the motives of the attackers, she asked, "What was the fault of general public? Why they were killed and had to face immense suffering? Killing people to topple the government? How it is possible?"

While trying to console the victims' families, Hasina shared her own losses. "... I am like you: an orphan who has lost parents and brothers. I understand your pain. I will be by your side."

Condemning the brutality of the

attacks, she remarked, "Burning down everything is never acceptable. It is unthinkable brutal to hang a person after killing them. How can a Muslim hang the body of another Muslim? Those who are involved in these crimes will surely face trial."

She stressed the need for bringing the culprits to book to ensure the safety of the people. "People cannot be protected unless they are tried."

She urged the victims' families to remain patient. "I am with you as long as I live."

### PM VISITS BSMMU, POLICE HOSPITALS

Later in the day, Hasina visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and Central Police hospitals to see those who were injured in the violence.

She went to the Central Police Hospital around 5:00pm after visiting BSMMU. She enquired about the health of those undergoing treatment there.

in the video message.

Meanwhile, rejecting the statement of the six coordinators, Abdul Kader, another coordinator of Quota reform protest, announced protest rallies across the country today.

Kader via WhatsApp said he strongly condemns the scripted



Arif

statement of the coordinators made "at the DB office at gunpoint".

He said they were determined and will remain firm on their demands.

In the meantime, a seventh organiser was also picked up allegedly by DB officers.

Some eight to 10 men in plain clothes, identifying themselves as DB officials, picked up protest organiser Arif Soheli, a student of international relations at Jahangirnagar University, from his home near the campus around 4:00am, said Arif's younger sister Umme Khair Hridi.

"At 3:50am, the group of DB men gathered in front of the house and asked us to open the gate. When



Nusrat

The premier gave necessary instructions to the hospital authorities to ensure their proper treatment.

During her visit to BSMMU in Shahbagh, VC Prof Deen Mohd Noorul Huq and BSMMU Hospital Director Brig Gen Md Rezaur Rahman briefed the prime minister on the treatment measures taken for the injured.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun were among the officials present during her visit to the Central Police Hospital in Rajarbagh.

As many as 39 police members are now undergoing treatment at the Central Police Hospital. Three police personnel were killed, and 1,131 others injured in the mayhem.

Hasina also visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Friday and the National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation on Saturday to see the victims of the violence.

my father wanted to know their identities, they said they were DB police and showed their IDs. As we didn't want to open the gate, they threatened to break the gate down. Later we opened it, and they entered and took everyone's phones," Hridi told our Savar correspondent.

"They took some pictures from Arif's computer and then took Arif and my elder brother. They said they would take them to the Ashulia Police Station.

"Later, my elder brother was released in Genda area. But we have not been able to find Arif," she said.

Asked, Riaz Uddin Ahmed Biplab, officer-in-charge of Dhaka district North DB Police, told The Daily Star that no JU leader of quota reform protest was picked up.

Besides, men in plain clothes posing as detectives also detained Asif Mahtab, a former teacher of BRAC University, at his Uttara home early yesterday, his family said.

Shahabur Rahman, father of Asif, went to the DB office on Minto Road yesterday to know the whereabouts of his son.

He said his son was picked up from their Uttara home by a group of people identifying themselves as DB officials early yesterday.

"I want to know where he is. I want to know whether he is still alive," he said.

## Detention by DB unconstitutional

which police station they have come and ask them if they want to talk to any lawyers," Jyotirmoy said.

Plainclothes police now pick up anyone and subsequently deny family members from any contact with them, he added.

"We never heard that people were picked up to provide them with security. This is a kind of fallacy. This is a criminal offence."

Veteran SC lawyer and former law minister Shafique Ahmed said the reasons behind such confinement must be known specifically and the protesters could go to the High Court for necessary remedy if they are not satisfied with the reason.

However, senior SC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said the protesters have reportedly been taken into safe custody amid the prevailing situation, which is not illegal or unconstitutional.

"They were not detained or arrested in any case and therefore, there is no need to produce them before any magistrate," he said.

Rushad Faridi, an assistant professor of Dhaka University's economics department, found the DB's rationale for picking them up ridiculous.

"One, who needs security, and his family will decide where he or she will stay for their safety. No force can decide it. What type of security is it to pick up someone who is undergoing treatment at a hospital without the permission of the person and their family?"

"They [government] want to create a reign of terror. It indicates that the authorities will no longer tolerate any such protest in future."

## Dhaka eateries crying out for customers

FROM PAGE 1

by 90 percent since it reopened on July 24, said Mohammad Rashedul Islam, team leader of the branch, which was shut from July 18 to July 23.

"A number of our food items have expired due to the six-day closure. As a result, we incurred losses," he added.

Bipu Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Nawabi Voj, which runs four branches in the capital, said the recent unrest could not come at a worse time.

"We have just returned to business after the fire incident on Bailey Road. Business was almost back to normal. Once again, I am counting a big loss," he said.

Customer turnout at Nawabi Voj's four branches started declining on July 15, when the students' quota reform movement picked up pace. The company had to keep its restaurants shut from July 19 to July 25.

After reopening, the chain is seeing just 30 percent of its usual turnout.

"It appears that there is a kind of fear among people," Chowdhury said.

The internet blackout for five days has also robbed them of online sales as the food delivery platforms were off-grid.

Parcel delivery has started by

## 55 police officers get postings, transfers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major move, the government yesterday transferred and posted 55 police officers including two additional Inspector Generals of Police (additional IGP) and five Additional Deputy Inspector Generals (Additional DIG).

The list also includes 48 officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP).

These transfers and postings were announced through four separate circulars by the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

All of these officials got the promotion to supernumerary (officials who hold the same position and perform the same duties after their elevation) a year back. And now, they finally got the regular posting, according to officials of the Police Headquarters.

Among the two additional IGPs, Deputy Inspector General of Police Telecom (promoted to the post of Supernumerary Additional IGP) AKM Shahidur Rahman has been posted as the Additional IGP in the PHQ, and

the end of last week as broadband internet service resumed, but business has not been good, he added.

After opening the restaurant on July 25, customer turnout is gradually increasing but it was far from normal, said Sabikoon Nahar, manager of the Saudi Arabian fast food chain Herfly.

Imran Hassan, secretary general of the Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association (BROA), demanded the government ensure low-cost loans to help restaurant owners recoup losses and stay afloat.

This is the second big hit to the eateries in Dhaka in 2024 after the government agencies indiscriminately shut down establishments on health and safety grounds following a fire incident in the capital's Bailey Road in February that caused the loss of 46 lives.

The hit to the restaurant business also comes when establishments are struggling with the persistently high inflation for the best part of two years.

Hassan urged the authorities to extend the curfew relaxation period so that the eateries can remain open for longer.

Currently, Bangladesh has 4.81 lakh restaurants, employing 30 lakh people. Overall, two crore people are reliant on the sector, directly and indirectly, according to the BROA.

## Stars turn out in droves as Biles dazzles

FROM PAGE 12

of America and we are so proud and excited for them. Let's go USA."

And Biles did not disappoint as she made a stunning return to Olympic competition, powering through left calf pain to get her multiple-medal bid off to a rousing start.

The US superstar, aiming to add to the four gold medals she won in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, tweaked her left calf warming up for her second apparatus, the floor exercise.

It didn't stop her from soaring through her signature Yurchenko double pike vault -- now known as the Biles II -- which even with a big step back on landing earned a 9.4 for execution for a massive total of 15.800 points.

She had another step back landing her second vault, but laughed as she crawled back towards her teammates on her hands and knees.

That was all it took for Biles's

coach Cecile Landi to know that for Biles "It's on. It's OK."

Landi, who said Biles aggravated a minor injury she'd been dealing with for a couple of weeks, said there was never any question the superstar gymnast would not continue.

"Never in her mind, no, no. Just no," Landi said, adding that she was also confident Biles would be ready to go for the team final on Tuesday and the individual events to follow.

Landi said Biles was already feeling better by the time she closed out her day by sticking the landing on her uneven bars routine -- receiving another huge ovation and beaming as she shared a dance with teammate Jordan Chiles.

With two of the five qualifying sessions complete Biles topped the all-around standings with 59.566 points.

"It was pretty amazing, 59.5," Landi said. "Not perfect, so she still can improve ... just really good."

## Govt puts death toll at 147 so far

FROM PAGE 1

The Daily Star's count of the victims is based solely on hospital and police sources.

According to the Prothom Alo, at least 210 people were confirmed dead as of yesterday.

In response to a query, Asaduzzaman stated that the police exhibited maximum restraint and only resorted to using firearms when absolutely necessary.

Asked about the mass arrests over the attacks on government

establishments during the violence, he said that "no innocent person" was being arrested.

"The accused are being arrested based on video evidence. We will definitely identify those responsible and bring them to book. We will not spare anyone," he said.

Asked about arrests of children in block raids, the minister, "Did children take to the street for violence? There is information about using teen gangs in exchange for money in this work (violence)," he said.





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## Our society needs radical change: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said a radical change needs to be brought to the society as unexpected incidents are taking place.

"State properties are being damaged mindlessly. A policeman was killed and kept hanging. Can you imagine how brutal it is? On the other hand, police reportedly did not hesitate to shoot a person even when he was dying. The people of this country do not respect the police like that in the past."

"Our teachers are divided on party lines. Teachers motivate students while politicians incite... Who will they learn from? We have to make drastic changes in our society," said the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu.

The court made the comments while hearing a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer JR Khan

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Sitting on his rickshaw, a man looks at his smartphone, finally able to experience the internet again after mobile data connections were restored yesterday. While broadband was restored on July 23, a large number of internet users, who rely on mobile data service, remained disconnected until last afternoon. The photo was taken on Fuller Road.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Jamaat-Shibir intruded into quota protests

PM tells Spanish envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said "Jamaat-Shibir terrorists" initially kept a low profile within the quota reform protests and later emerged on the frontlines dangerously.

She made the remarks during a meeting with Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Gabriel Maria Sistiaga Ochoa de Chinchetru at Gono Bhaban.

PM's Press Secretary M Nayeemul Islam Khan briefed reporters after the meeting.

The prime minister accused them of attacking structures symbolising the government's achievements.

"All of our development symbols, which gave comfort and convenience to the masses, became their targets of destruction," she said.

Regarding the army's role in handling the situation, Hasina praised their patience and restraint.

She also mentioned that 21 Awami League members were killed in the unrest. Irrespective of party affiliation, the PM said she is helping all who

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



# More than just NUMBERS

**A 14-year-old boy shot and killed in Savar. A 22-year-old Chittagong University student died from bullet wounds at DMCH. A 27-year-old car driver fatally shot in Dhaka. At least 162 lives (the actual number could be much higher) were lost when law enforcers opened fire on protesters during the recent unrest. But these victims are not just statistics; they are sons, husbands, and friends. In this report, we try to know the stories of three such names among these tragic numbers.**



## How will I raise our son alone?

Asks wife of Mamun who was shot in Mohakhali

ANWARUL HAIDER and NILIMA JAHAN

The air in the home of 27-year-old private car driver Mamun Hossain is thick with grief following his tragic death on July 19.

He left behind his grieving parents, his wife Sultana Rahman, and their three-and-a-half-year-old son Musab Hasan.

Mamun, from Jalial village in Noakhali's Binodpur, was fatally shot on the Mohakhali flyover while heading back to his home from his aunt's residence in Shaheenbag, Dhaka.

The bullet hit his back and pierced through his stomach, leaving him unconscious and bleeding profusely.

Locals rushed him to a nearby hospital, which then referred him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

As DMCH was filled to the brim with other bullet-hit patients, they had to take him to another hospital in Mohakhali. He died around 3:30am the next day.

Mamun's father, Abdul Mateen, is a driver by profession, as are three of his four sons, who live in the Mohakhali area of the capital.

"My son was innocent, a hardworking man trying to support his family. He was walking home because he couldn't find any transport on the road. But he was shot down like an animal. We demand justice and support for his son's future."

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## Why did cops shoot my boy? He was only 14

Says father of Saad who was killed in Savar

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

It was around 6:30pm on July 20 when 14-year-old Saad Mahmud was fatally shot during a clash between the law enforcers and quota reform protesters.

Saad was playing with his cousin on the roof of a rented house in the Shahibagh area in Savar.

From the rooftop, he noticed smoke on nearby Chapain Road.

Driven by curiosity, he went to the New Market side of the road, where he was caught in police firing and sustained serious injuries, as per witnesses.

He succumbed to his wounds on the way to Enam Medical College Hospital.

With tears in his eyes, Saad's father, Bahadur Khan, recalled the incident at their village home in Manikganj's Singair yesterday afternoon.



"No one's son should die from police firing like mine. I will never get my child back," he said, tears streaming down his face.

Originally from Dhalla Khanpara village in Singair upazila, Manikganj, Bahadur had moved to Savar for his children's education.

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## Dreams dashed by a bullet

CU student Hridoy dies of bullet wounds at DMCH



SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Hridoy Chandra Taruya, a 22-year-old student from Chittagong University, dreamed of becoming a BCS cadre after completing his education.

He joined the recent protests with hopes of eradicating what he has perceived as the discriminatory quota

system in the civil service entrance exam.

However, Hridoy's life was tragically cut short on July 18 after a bullet pierced through his back during clashes between protesters, law enforcers, and Chhatra League.

He was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital first, then to a local private hospital and finally to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after his condition kept deteriorating.

Then, he succumbed to his injuries at DMCH on July 23, five days after being shot during the protest in Chattogram.

His untimely death has devastated his family, who had pinned their hopes on him leading the family after securing a good job.

On Tuesday night, July 26, Hridoy's body was cremated at his village in Patuakhali.

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## There was conspiracy to occupy Gono Bhaban

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants had a plan to occupy the Gono Bhaban like protesters occupied the Sri Lankan prime minister's office in 2022, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

However, the curfew announcement derailed their plan, he added.

Quader made the remarks while addressing a programme held at the Dhaka district Awami League office in Tejgaon.

He also said the government needed to verify whether certain individuals, including Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, had any connection with the quota reform protests and the recent violence.

## Who can provide more security than the family?

Questions Nahid's mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Momtaz Nahar, mother of Nahid Islam, one of the key coordinators of quota reform protests, yesterday questioned the move by authorities of picking up the organisers one by one on the grounds of "providing security".

"Who can provide more security than the family?" she said replying to a query of a journalist at Minto Road when Nahid's family went to the DB office to see him. However, they were not allowed to meet him, she said.

A day before, detectives picked up three organisers, including Nahid, from a city hospital and yesterday DB took more two organisers into their custody "to ensure their security".

"We came [here] to meet my son. But we were not allowed. DB did not allow us to enter the office. Not only us, even Nahid's teachers were not allowed to meet him. I want to see my son. He must be returned to me safely," Nahid's mother said.

"I have not been able to contact Nahid since he was picked up. He was picked up for a second time... This time from a hospital. Nahid's physical condition is not good. I want the release of all [quota protest coordinators], who have been detained, including my child," Momtaz said.

# Ensure justice for all deaths

Demands Sector Commanders Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum, Liberation War '71 yesterday demanded justice for every murder and damage to government properties through an acceptable investigation.

In a statement, they called for the reopening of all educational institutions as soon as possible.

They also urged the students to provide all-out support to the government to ensure normalcy at educational institutions, as the government has already met their original demand.

They said the damaged government properties do not belong to any party or government; rather, they are the property of the country's people.

Students' protest for quota reform has caused major changes in the country, which was spontaneous and, at the same time, a wake-up call for the future, the statement says.

"A huge number of people, including freedom fighters, realised the fairness of the movement. But the most unfortunate thing is that the movement turned violent due to the involvement of anti-government groups, especially anti-Liberation War people," said

the statement.

"This is why the movement moved away from its real character and resorted to serious violence, which was very unfortunate," it added.

On one side, a large number of people died and got injured, and on the other side, huge government properties have been damaged, it said.

"It should be remembered that the freedom fighters did not sacrifice their lives for any quota or their own interests. The freedom fighters are the architects of the national flags that protesters carried," the statement added.

"Freedom fighters fought against Pakistani soldiers and their collaborators. So, the situation became complicated when religious fundamentalist groups got involved in the movement," it also said.

The statement was signed by Sector Commanders Forum's Executive President Md Nurul Alam, Vice Presidents M Hamid and AKM Sahidul Haq, Secretary General Harun Habib, Joint Secretary General Abdul Mabud, Organising Secretary Ansar Ali Khan, alongside freedom fighters Shahjahan Mridha Benu, Dr Amzad Hossain, and Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Ali Shikdar.



## Jamaat-Shibir

FROM PAGE 3

were affected. Addressing the demands of the quota reform protesters, she pointed out that the quota system was not in effect at the height of the protests due to a Supreme Court status quo. "What would be the logical basis of their demand at that time?" she questioned.

The prime minister assured that the government is taking effective steps to support the families of those killed and injured, including financial assistance and free medical treatment.

Ambassador Chinchetru appreciated the military deployment and curfew imposed to maintain peace and prosperity. "Everything is gradually improving now," he noted, according to PM's press secretary.



Boatmen in Barishal are counting losses as their engine-driven trawlers remain anchored on the bank of the Kirtankhola river amid the ongoing curfew. However, with the curfew being relaxed for longer hours, things are slowly returning to normal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Bamboo fish traps in high demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Nearly 50 families at Bokali village in Faridpur Sadar upazila have been earning their livelihood by making "polo", a bamboo-made traditional fishing traps, for years.

Usually, the demand for bamboo-made traps peaks during monsoon.

During a recent visit to Bokali, a village locally known as Pologram, which is located 6 kilometres from Faridpur town, this correspondent saw people from different age groups, including children, were busy making polos with slits on their courtyards.

Of them, some were seen slicing bamboo, some were peeling those while others were engaged in making polos of different sizes.

Crafted with locally sourced bamboo, this trap is an ingenious and sustainable tool used in traditional fishing practice.

Unlike fishing nets which catch fish indiscriminately, the "polo" allows small and juvenile fish to escape its perforations, while leaving only larger, matured fish to be caught inside the trap. As such, it does not adversely affect fish populations in the waterbodies.

One of the elderly residents of the village Sheikh Asgor said, "My father Seikh Lalu was one of the pioneers in the village, who took polo making as profession."



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Idris makes fishing tools with bamboo strips at his Bokali village home in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

"Earlier, I used to pull rickshaw-van. But I started making polo nearly 25 years ago for a better living as I was struggling to maintain my family with the poor income," he added.

Homemaker Rabeya Khatun said, "I came to this village about 45 years ago and since then I have been witnessing that most of the villagers are involved in polo making."

"Gradually, I learnt the method from my mother-in-law and now I am earning Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000 by selling polo each month," Rabeya said.

Another polo artisan, Sheikh Habi of the village said, "You will hardly find anyone at the village who is not involved in this job."

Jaasim Sheikh, a polo vendor at Faridpur town, said he has been buying polos from Bokali village for the last five years as the quality of the item is very good.

"I buy at least 800 to 1,000 pieces of the traditional fishing tool from the village every month," Jaasim said.

Garda Union Parishad Chairman MR Haque said polo making has become a heritage of Bokali village and locals feel proud as people from different areas visit the village to buy polos.

## Dreams

FROM PAGE 3

The family's only son, Hridoy, leaves behind his father Ratan Chandra Tarua, mother Archana Rani, and elder sister Mitu Rani.

"My son was studying very hard. I had many dreams about him. After completing his education, he was supposed to get a good job and take care of our family. But that dream ended with one shot. All hope was burned to ashes in the cremation fire," said his father Ratan.

Hridoy's mother, Archana Rani, devastated by the news, demanded justice and capital punishment for her son's killers.

"Why and who killed my son? I want proper justice for this killing."

Friends described Hridoy as a talented student, having achieved GPA-5 in both secondary and higher secondary examinations. He was a third-year student of History at Chittagong University.

His sister, Mitu Rani, recalled Hridoy's last visit home before Pahela Baishakh.

"He asked our parents to trust him and promised to support us with a good job. We had many dreams about my only brother, but he is gone," said Mitu.

## How will I raise

FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, Sultana, his wife, said, "Mamun called to check on us that afternoon and said he would call back again. I never imagined those would be his last words. How will I raise our son alone?" she asked, recalling the last conversation with her husband.

Fatema Begum, Mamun's mother, is equally grief-stricken. "Why was my innocent son killed? Who will take responsibility of my grandson?" she cried.

"Looking at this little boy breaks my heart. Who will he call father now?"

# Soaring veggie prices leave people in a pickle

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Prices of vegetables have surged sharply over the past one week in markets across Moulvibazar due to a shortage of vehicles for transporting the produce amid the ongoing nationwide curfew, as well as potential price manipulation by traders.

For instance, price of potato has gone up by Tk 60-65 per kilogramme from around Tk 50 per kg last week.

Visiting the Moulvibazar TCB market and Paschimbar kitchen market yesterday, this correspondent observed that even though different vegetables are in adequate supply, the prices are significantly higher compared to the previous week.

At the markets, the prices per kg for vegetables were as follows: green chilli Tk 400-450, carrot Tk 150-180, tomato Tk 180-200,



brinjal Tk 80-100, potato Tk 100-120, coriander Tk 200-300, bitter gourd Tk 100-150, cucumber Tk 100-120, taro roots Tk 100-120, and yard bean Tk 120-140.

Also, gourds were being sold at Tk 100-120 each, and pumpkin at Tk 80-100 per kg.

"After eight days of unrest

and curfew, I returned to work yesterday and earned Tk 700. Earlier, I had to borrow money to put food on the plate for my family. Now with this meager Tk 700, do I pay back the loan or buy vegetables? How are we, marginalised people, going to survive if the scenario continues

like this?" said Kutub Uddin, 45, a mason from Chandni-Ghat area.

Sohodeb Biswas, a shopper, alleged that traders are hiking prices to take advantage of the ongoing situation in the country, and called for intervention from the authorities concerned.

"We are being compelled to either purchase vegetables at the inflated prices, or return home empty handed," said Shamsul Haque, another shopper.

Traders like Sajjadul Hasan and Anwar Hossain cited logistical issues, such as a lack of vehicles, and prevailing market conditions as reasons for the high prices.

Contacted, Md Abdul Haque, additional deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar, said the administration will launch market monitoring drives to ensure price stability and prevent unjustified hike.

## Why did cops shoot

FROM PAGE 3

An expatriate in South Africa, he rented a house in Shahibagh.

Saad was the only son among three children. His eldest daughter, Taslima Khanam Nazneen, 20, is a second-year honors student in the Pharmacy Department at Savar's Gonoshasthaya University.

His youngest daughter, Afroza Khanam Nusrat, 8, and Saad were both students at Jabale Noor Dakhil Madrasa in Shahibagh.

When entering their village home around 1:00pm yesterday, Saad's father was seen sitting on a chair in the yard. Saad's grandfather, Amjad Hossain Khan, 85, a former president of the upazila Krishak League, sat next to him.

Bahadur recounted the tragic events, saying, "I went to the road without seeing my son on the rooftop. I

saw his favourite shoes on the road and rushed to the hospital, where I found him dead. There was a large bullet hole in his left thigh. My son had committed no crime. Why did the police shoot my child, he was only 14?"

Saad's mother, Halima Akhter, fell ill from grief and could not speak. She remained silent and bedridden.

Relatives reported that Saad's body was brought to their village home that day. He was buried in the central cemetery in Dhalla village the following morning.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
**JULY 29**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-20	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-55	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**কমার্শিয়াল স্পেস বিক্রয়**

ধানমন্ডি তনং মিরপুর রোডে কর্নার প্লট ৫টি পার্কিং ও লিফট সুবিধাসহ ৫ম তলায় ব্যবহার্যধীন ১৫,৫০০ বর্গফুট কমার্শিয়াল স্পেস বিক্রয় হইবে। শুধু প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগন সকাল ১০টা হইতে বিকাল ৬টার মধ্যে যোগাযোগ করুন।

মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১৫-০১২৬০২, ০১৮১৯-২১৫৯৩৩

**Consultancy Opportunities**

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites applications from interested CONSULTANT TO REVIEWING THE EXPATRIATES' WELFARE AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT POLICY 2016 AND DRAFTING RECOMMENDATIONS. The Terms of Reference (ToR) can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGMP)** at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/241845>

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Monday, August 19, 2024, by 04:30 PM (BST time)**.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Dhaka South City Corporation  
Office of the Project Director  
**Dhaka City Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DCNUP)**  
Level 10, West Block, Room -919  
Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000

**"e-Tender Notice" (Corrigendum-01)**

e-tender are invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Project Director, DCNUP, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of:

SI	Tender ID, Ref No	Description of items	Start Date & Time	Last Selling Date and Time		Tender Closing Date & Time	
				Previous	Amended	Previous	Amended
01	<b>Tender ID: 1001645</b> Ref. No. 46.207.014.09.10.301.2024, Date: 27.06.2024	<b>Works:</b> Improvement and Construction works of Shahjahanpur Jheel and drainage & streets around Shahjahanpur Jheel (Contract Package: DCNUP/W-13/KB)	03-July-2024 16:00 BST	31-July-2024 16:00 BST	11-Aug-2024 16:00 BST	01-Aug-2024 12:00 BST	12-Aug-2024 12:00 BST

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and offline/hard copy(s) will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

*Rajib Khadem*  
26.7.2024  
(Rajib Khadem)  
Project Director, PIU,  
Dhaka City Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DCNUP)  
Dhaka South City Corporation  
Tel. 880-2223350461  
e-mail: pddcnupdsc24@gmail.com

ডিএসসিপি/পিআরডি/৩৮/২০২৪-২০২৫

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Mymensingh.  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No: 46.02.6100.000.07.002.24-3924

**e-Tender Notice: 01/2024-25**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal(<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of

So. No	Package No & Scheme Name	Tender ID	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time	Tendering Method
1	<b>LGED/W-3C/Mymensingh-3</b> Road Rehabilitation Works in Mymensingh District Area R-3 A) Rehabilitation of Fulbaria Mymensingh RHD (Dashmail)-Buraka via Mohammed Nagar GC Road at ch. 00-3965m under Fulbaria Upazila, Dist.- Mymensingh. ID No- 361202002 (Salvage Material Cost: BDT 9,03,313.00) B) Rehabilitation of Durer Khal- Kadomtoli Road at ch. 1120-5300m under Fulbaria Upazila, Dist.- Mymensingh. ID No- 361203005 (Salvage Material Cost: BDT 5,22,917.00) C) Rehabilitation of Assim GC- Boradhaba Ghatial RHD (Uthara UP) Road at ch. 00-7000m under Fulbaria Upazila, Dist.- Mymensingh ID No- 361202016 (Salvage Material Cost: BDT 19,28,715.00)	1002655	Date-28-Aug-2024 Time: 13:00	Date-28-Aug-2024 Time: 14:00	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The e-Tender Security Submitted last Date & Time from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocurement.gov.bd)) also from E-mail: [xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd) or Cell to 02-99664365.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

(Mohammad Masud Kabir)  
Executive Engineer  
Phone: 02-99664365  
[xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.mymensingh@lged.gov.bd)

GD- 78



## Benazir, family amassed illegal assets worth Tk 43.46cr

Says ACC report to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday submitted a preliminary inquiry report to the High Court, saying former IGP Benazir Ahmed, his wife, and two daughters amassed properties worth Tk 43.46 crore beyond known sources of income and had unusual and suspicious bank transactions.

"From records and information received so far, Benazir Ahmed has movable and immovable assets worth Tk 9.25 crore, his wife Jissan Mirza Tk 21.34 crore, their eldest daughter Farheen Rishita Binte Benazir Tk 8.11 crore, and their second daughter Tahseen Raisa Binte Tk 4.76 crore worth of assets," the report said.

The value of land, houses, flats registered, and other assets have been determined by the government.

Apart from the information on the assets obtained in the initial probe, there is a possibility of having more movable and immovable assets in their names at home and abroad, the ACC report said.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan placed the preliminary report before the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth Hossain during the hearing of a writ petition.

The bench may pass an order on this matter today, Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Salahuddin Reagan, the HC bench on April 23 directed the ACC to submit a progress report on the inquiry into reported allegations of corruption against Benazir Ahmed.

## 3 workers missing after boat capsizes

UNB, Gaibandha

Three workers -- who went missing in the Teesta river after a boat capsized in Gaibandha's Sundarganj on Saturday afternoon -- were not found as of yesterday morning.

Workers Atwar, Raju and Rashid went missing while dumping cement blocks to prevent river bank erosion on Saturday afternoon.

They remained traceless despite the divers' efforts, said Sundarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Tariqul Islam.

Eleven other workers, who suffered injuries in the boat capsize incident, were admitted to Gaibandha General Hospital. District Water Development Board Executive Engineer Md Hafizur Haq said at least 30 workers were engaged in dumping blocks to prevent river erosion in the Sreepur area on Saturday afternoon, when the boat capsized.



It's almost impossible to realise this vast field is actually Kharia river. Over the past 20 years, Kharia has become a victim of encroachment and pollution. Due to indifference of the authorities concerned, the river also lost its navigability and remains filled with water hyacinths.

PHOTO: STAR

### KHARIA RIVER IN MYMENSINGH

# No let-up in grabbing, pollution in 20yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

There has been no step taken to save Mymensingh's Kharia river from unabated pollution and encroachment even in 20 years due to indifference of the authorities concerned.

The 25km river is a tributary of Old Brahmaputra, flowing through Phulpur upazila of the district to join Kongsho river in Netrakona, while also connecting to several large local waterbodies including Chitolia Beel, Buiddyar Beel and Kurhar Doba.

"It is frustrating to see the river, once a great source of fish as well as water for irrigation, in such a sorry state. Over the past 20 years, Kharia has become narrow due to illegal grabbing, overgrown with water hyacinths, and filled up with garbage," said ATM Robiul Karim, a local journalist.

Visiting the river recently, this correspondent observed a huge amount

of garbage being dumped on the river bank adjacent to Dak Banaglow area near Amuakanda Bazar.

Locals alleged people have been dumping their household garbage, as well as waste from kitchen market on the river bank for past two decades while the municipal

authorities turned a blind eye to this menace.

Butchers from Amuakanda Bazar have also been slaughtering animals on the river bank and throwing the animal waste into the river, they also alleged.



Shamu Mia, a butcher at

established in 2001.

Only a few waste bins were seen across the municipality area including one adjacent to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex, where medical wastes are being dumped daily and left in the open.

Contacted, Shashadar

Sen, mayor of Phulpur municipality, said they are working to contain dumping of wastes on the river bank and into its water.

Regarding allegations of encroachment, the mayor claimed many have taken lease of the river's land from the government.

Dr Md Nazrul Islam, civil surgeon in Mymensingh, said dumping wastes into a river can have serious impact on the environment as well as public health.

Md Habibur Rahman, chairman of Phulpur upazila parishad, said the menace must be stopped immediately to save the river's ecosystem.

Contacted, ABM Ariful Islam, UNO of Phulpur upazila, said several structures from the riverbanks have been removed recently while steps are on to restore the river's natural flow.

Necessary steps would be taken soon against polluters and grabbers, he added.

### MORRELGANJ TERMINAL

# People suffer as tidal water inundates road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Even though the situation seems normal most of the time at Morrelganj Ferry Terminal in Bagerhat, during the hours of high tide, the connecting road to the pontoon on its eastern side gets submerged by the rising water of Panguchi river.

As such, passengers and transport workers have been facing difficulties in reaching the ferry to cross the river.

Residents and vehicle drivers have called for immediate steps to elevate the connecting road to alleviate their distress.

"For two-three hours during high tide over the last four days, the connecting road to the terminal's pontoon has been getting inundated, making it difficult for vehicles to board the ferry," said Bhola Das, a pick-up driver.

Kalu Sheikh, a local, said, "Crossing the ferry has become very distressing for us. This needs to be fixed immediately."

According to Abdur Rasid, a local businessman, this is a recurring issue every monsoon but the authorities are yet to address it.

Contacted, Mohammad Farid Uddin, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Bagerhat, said elevating the road will not be an effective solution as the water level of the river fluctuates across the year.

"If the connecting road is raised too high, it will create problems for vehicles and pedestrians to board the ferry during low tide. We have to consider both high and low tide scenarios to construct the connecting road and pontoon," he also said.

"However, we will take the necessary steps to alleviate people's sufferings, keeping the technical aspects into consideration," he added.



## Our society needs

FROM PAGE 3

Robin, seeking its order on the government to appoint sufficient doctors in prisons.

The HC bench said, "They [doctors] are apparently getting lessons from an ancient period. As a result, they are prescribing antibiotics whenever patients go to them."

The HC directed the DGHs director general to appoint doctors to 20

vacant posts in jails out of 141 within the next one month.

Advocate Tirtha Salil Pal, a lawyer for the DG of the DGHs, told the court that doctors in prisons do not get proper training opportunities. Meanwhile, advocate Shafiqul Islam, who appeared for the inspector general of prisons, said prison doctors face problems in promotion and higher education.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Shariatpur  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.8600.000.07.001.23-1849

Date: 25-07-24

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

**Corrigendum**

The Submission and Opening date of Tender Notice No. 63/2023-2024/Tender(OTM) has been re-scheduled as follows:

SL No.	Tender/ Proposal ID	Name of Scheme with Package No.	Old Value	New Value
1	999489	Last Date and Time for Submission Tender Security	29-Jul-2024 16:00	07-Aug-2024 16:00
		Opening Date & Time	30-Jul-2024 12:00	08-Aug-2024 12:00

*S.M. Rafeul Islam*  
15-07-24  
**S. M. Rafeul Islam**  
Executive Engineer  
Tel: 02478815310  
E-mail: [xen.shariatpur@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.shariatpur@lged.gov.bd)

GD-77

**জেলা পরিষদ, কার্যালয়**  
**সিরাজগঞ্জ**  
[www.zpsirajganj.gov.bd](http://www.zpsirajganj.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং জেপসি/ 202

তারিখঃ ২৮/০৭/২৪ খ্রিঃ

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০১/২০২৪-২০২৫**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal ([http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the Tender IDNO 1005057, 1005058

This is an online Tender, Where only- Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required is required

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches according to e-GP tender Notice of these tender up 16.00 PM on 28/07/2024

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)).

*S. M. Rafeul Islam*  
28-07-24  
**Assistant Engineer**  
Zila parishad, Sirajganj  
Tel: 0751-62421

GD- 79

"সুস্থ পরিবেশ  
স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ"

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়  
কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগ  
<http://forestnorth.coxsbazar.gov.bd>

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর-০১/(রাজস্ব) অব ২০২৪-২০২৫

তারিখঃ ২৮/০৭/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

**বনজন্ম বিক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগের বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জ, বিট ও চেক স্টেশন কর্তৃক জন্মকৃত/বাড়ে পড়া/খিনিংকৃত/জিম্মায় রক্ষিত/অপ্রধান বিক্রয়যোগ্য বনজন্ম, অংশীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সৃজিত মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ মার্কাকৃত খাঁড়া গাছের লটের বনজন্ম এবং অন্যান্যভাবে আহরিত সকল প্রকার বনজন্ম দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত কাঠ ব্যবসায়ী/সওদাগরের নিকট হতে লটসমূহের নিম্নে বর্ণিত তারিখ সমূহ ও শর্তাবলি নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে সীল্ড টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এতদসংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয়াদি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র দপ্তর হতে দেখতে ও সংগ্রহ করতে পারবে। সীল্ড টেন্ডারের বনজন্ম প্রকল্পের পূর্বে অবশ্যই তা সরেজমিনে দেখে নিতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের পর বনজন্ম না দেখার অজুহাতে কোন প্রকার ওজর আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে না। পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থার প্রেক্ষিতে যে কোন সময় বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা দরপত্রের স্থান, সময় ও তারিখ পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন।

ক্রঃ নং	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র যে সকল স্থানে গ্রহণ করা হবে	বনজন্মবোঝাব অন্তর	মন্তব্য
১	২	৩	৪	৫
১	আগামী ১৪/০৮/২০২৪খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯.০ হতে দুপুর ১.০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় ঐদিন বিকাল ২.৩০ ঘটিকায়	ক) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়। খ) পুলিশ সুপার, কক্সবাজার। গ) বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগ।	কক্সবাজার উত্তর বন বিভাগীয় বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জ, বিট ও স্টেশনের ডিপো সমূহে।	সীল্ড টেন্ডার জন্মকৃত/বাড়েপড়া খিনিং হতে প্রাপ্ত অংশীদারিত্বের ভিত্তিতে সৃজিত মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ মার্কাকৃত খাঁড়া গাছের লট এবং অন্যান্যভাবে আহরিত সকল প্রকার বনজন্ম সমূহ।

*S. M. Rafeul Islam*  
28-07-24  
**মোঃ আলোয়ার হোসেন সরকার**  
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GD- 80



# Keya climbs the ranks on television



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Within just six years of her career, small screen actress Keya Payel has become a household name. To date, she has appeared in over a hundred tele-fictions. Her on-screen chemistry with actors like Apurba, Farhan Ahmed Jovan, and Mushiq Farhan is liked by the audience.

Due to the ongoing violence created during the quota protests, many television and film shootings were halted. Three projects featuring Keya Payel were also postponed. In a conversation with The Daily

Star, she shared when she will join the shoots, upcoming ventures, and more.

**Due to the ongoing turmoil, shoots were halted. When are you planning to rejoin the shoots?**

Three of my projects were disrupted due to the ongoing turmoil in the country. I will join the shoots from July 31, starting with Vicky Zahed's projects and another will be directed by Mohon Ahmed. Both of the shoots will take place outside Dhaka.

**In your entire career, you were not seen in more than one television series, why is that?**

I was featured in only one television series, *Joint Family*. Although I got offers for serials, I wanted to focus more on tele-fictions and telefilms only. Working in both serial and one-hour fiction gets tough, thus I prefer to choose one-hour fiction over serials.

**You did not appear in OTTs either.**

Not that I didn't get offers, however, till now I haven't got a role that has intrigued me. I am waiting for such a story and character – since it really matters how

you present yourself on your first outing in a platform. Thus, I am waiting for the perfect opportunity for an OTT debut.

**Do you wish to work on the silver screens?**

Which actress doesn't? Just a few days ago, I was offered a government-funded film, but the script wasn't up to par. For now, I will keep doing what's going well for me, and look to transition when I have the chance.

**You've acted opposite the best that the television industry has to offer. Do you have a favourite co-star?**

Funny you should ask, I recently calculated that since I debuted in 2018, I participated in more than 50 tele-fictions with Jovan. I was also in dozens of projects with Apurba *bhai*, Mushiq Farhan, Yash Rohan and Khairul Basar. To be honest, I enjoyed working with all of them, so I don't have a preference!

**Do you watch your own tele-fictions?**

I do. I try to watch them whenever I have free time. However, I am very critical of my own self, to a fault! I often feel like I can do better, and I try to do that in my projects thereafter.

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

I love travelling! Whenever I get the opportunity, I pack my bags and go on a trip with the family. Going around the world and meeting new people really opens your eyes to a lot of things, and also tends to give inspiration for new portrayals or characters.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



## Shafin Ahmed's burial scheduled for July 30

Shafin Ahmed's first janaza (funeral prayer) was held at Dar al Noor Islamic Community Mosque in Virginia, on Saturday at 1:00pm (local time).

According to family sources, his body will arrive in Bangladesh today afternoon. His second janaza will be held tomorrow after Zuhr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque. He will then be buried at Banani Graveyard.

The musician passed away due to a massive heart attack in a hospital in Virginia, United States, shortly after 6:00am last Thursday (July 25).

Earlier, on July 20, Shafin Ahmed was set to perform at a concert in Virginia, but the event was canceled due to his sudden illness. Later, he was placed on life support and passed away while receiving treatment.

## Totini to make web-series debut



Tanjim Saiyara Totini is set to make her web-series debut with the OTT platform Binge.

Confirmed by the actress to Daily Prothom Alo last Friday afternoon, the series is yet to receive a title. However, it will be directed by Sunny Sanwar.

The actress previously ventured into the OTT platform with *Kolpona*, an episode in the Chorki anthology

film *Ei Muhurte*, which comprises three short films.

The shooting for the series is scheduled to begin on August 5. However, due to ongoing political unrest across the country, this might be postponed.

# NEWS

## Nationwide crackdown, arrests go on

FROM PAGE 12

18 in Mymensingh, 13 in Savar, 12 in Satkhira, 11 in Bogura, 10 in Kishoreganj, nine each in Cumilla and Natore, eight each in Madaripur and Chandpur, seven in Joypurhat, six each in Feni, Netrokona, and Cox's Bazar, five in Dinajpur, four each in Tangail, Khulna, and Naogaon, three each in Sylhet, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Manikganj, and Barishal, two each in Kustia, Lalmonirhat and Bhola, one each in Barguna, Magura, and Jhenaidah.

Rab yesterday morning said they have so far arrested 305 people across the country, including 78 in Dhaka, since July 18 in connection with the violence.

**MORE ON REMAND**

Eight more people, including former Ducus vice-president Nurul Haque Nur and BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, were placed on a five-day remand each after in a case filed over the vandalism of the Kazipara Metro Station in the city's Mirpur on July 19.

The other accused are Jamaat Secretary General Miah Golam

Parwar, BNP Organising Secretary Qazi Sayedul Alam Babul, its Dhaka North City unit Member Secretary Aminul Haque, Publicity Secretary Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Bagerhat district BNP Convener MA Salam and its activist Mahmudus Salehin.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mainul Islam passed the order after investigating officer Asaduzzaman Munshi, an inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, produced them before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

In the forwarding report, the IO said the accused planned and committed such offences as per the direction of Nur and others with an intention to topple the government. So, they need to be interrogated to find out vital clues about the incident, it added.

The court granted the accused 5-day remand each after cancelling their bail petitions along with the petitions to cancel the remand prayer on grounds they were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them over political rivalry.

Claiming innocence, Nur told the court that he had earlier been tortured mentally and physically while he was

on a five-day remand in Setu Bhaban arson attack case.

He told the court that he had a blood clot on his right hand and that he was placed on remand again, his life would be at risk.

BNP leader Tuku told the court that he was also tortured earlier and that if he was to be on remand again, he wanted to receive treatment first.

Jamaat leader Golam Parwar demanded justice from the court, while his lawyer applied to grant him first-class status in jail. The court registered the application.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court yesterday placed three people, including the former president of Islami Chhatra Shibir Rashedul Islam Rashed on a seven-day remand in an Explosives Act case.

The two others are – Jamaat-e-Islami Treasurer Khandaker Mizanur Rahman and Executive Committee Member Mohammad Abdur Rashid.

On July 27, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime claimed to have arrested them from an office in Dhanmondi along with cocktails and other explosive substances.

## Criminals to be tried

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Mentioning the formation of an inquiry commission, the MoFA said a number of departmental investigations were being conducted to find the reasons behind the killings and the violence, and whether there were any cases of negligence.

The statement went on to say that there has been no single case of "shoot-on-sight" by security forces deployed in the aftermath of terrorist acts, as well as no firing from helicopters during law

enforcement operations.

"There was no ulterior motive behind the inadvertent deployment of a white armoured personnel carrier (APC) that still had the UN insignia visible through the colour coating used to cover it.

"While the APC in question was quickly pulled out of service, the other images of law enforcement transports using UN insignia were false."

MoFA said broadband and mobile internet connectivity have been restored with full functionality by now.

## Hasnatul's remand order

FROM PAGE 12

remand order and sent the accused to the Children's Court, which sent him to a juvenile correction centre.

Earlier in the day, the HC asked the authorities to strictly follow the provisions of the Children Act in dealing with Hasnatul.

In response to a writ petition, the bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar and Justice SM Maniruzzaman asked Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed to instruct the authorities, including the Jatrabari Police Station OC, to talk to the parents of Hasnatul in this regard.

Hasnatul's parents can submit an application with an undertaking and surrender his passport to the authorities so that he can be kept in their custody, said the HC judges.

Additional Attorney General Morshed told the court that Hasnatul will not be placed on remand and will be properly dealt with as a minor. The lower court placed him on remand as the documents in support of his being a minor were not produced before that court at that time, he said.

The HC judges said the arresting authority had to assess the age of Hasnatul during his arrest under the law.

The bench asked Additional Attorney General Morshed what he would do if his minor child had been arrested and placed on remand.

Morshed said relevant provisions of the Children Act will be strictly followed in treating Hasnatul and if his parents submit any application, it will be considered in accordance with the law.

The HC bench cited a photo of Hasnatul published on The Daily Star yesterday.

The photo captioned that "Hasnatul Islam Faiyaz, a first-year HSC student of Dhaka College, is tied with ropes as cops take him back to jail on a seven day

remand after he was produced before the CMM Court in the capital. Hasnatul was picked up from his Jatrabari home on Wednesday night in connection with a case filed over recent violence."

Yesterday, the HC bench also fixed today for further hearing of the petition filed as a public interest litigation by Supreme Court lawyer Shahdeen Malik challenging the legality of the lower court order that placed Hasnatul on remand.

Petitioner's lawyer Md Monjur Alam told this newspaper that under the Children Act, 2013, no child can be tied with rope, put on handcuffs and placed on remand.

The children cannot be sent to jail and kept with adult prisoners, he said, adding that the accused children have to be sent to juvenile correction centres.

Meanwhile, a law ministry press release yesterday said the Children's Court in Dhaka cancelled the remand of Hasnatul as a child and ordered the authorities to send him to a juvenile correction centre.

On July 27, Hasnatul was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Court of Dhaka, and the court placed him on a seven-day remand as the investigating officer of the case had sought.

Though the accused claimed that he is a child, the court granted the remand prayer as he failed to produce proof of his age.

Yesterday, accused Hasnatul submitted the relevant documents (SSC and birth certificates) in support of his age before the CMM court.

The court suspended his remand and sent the accused to the Children's Court for hearing and passing order determining his age.

After yesterday's hearing, the Children's Court ordered the authorities to send Hasnatul to a juvenile correction centre.

## PM to attend

FROM PAGE 12

maritime connectivity among the BIMSTEC member countries. The details of the agreement will be shared once the member states sign the document, said Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General of the BIMSTEC, at a recent briefing in Dhaka.

"I believe BIMSTEC has a bright future. All members are committed to make BIMSTEC a success story," he added.

BIMSTEC adapted its charter on May 20 this year, 27 years after the founding of the regional body. It has institutional mechanisms and policies but is lacking practical cooperation.

Indra Mani Pandey said the upcoming summit would add new vigour to regional cooperation within BIMSTEC. It will adopt Bangkok Vision 2030, which would give direction to the organisation, he hoped.

BIMSTEC wants to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development through identification and implementation of specific cooperation projects in the agreed areas of cooperation.

It also wants to accelerate economic growth and social progress through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnership, Indra Mani said.

## 55 police officers

FROM PAGE 2

additional IGP (supernumerary) Krishna Pada Roy also posted in the PHQ.

Among the five additional DIGs, who were transferred to different posts, Sakhawat Hossain, who was attached to the PHQ transferred to the Tourist Police, Akkas Uddin Bhuyan of the Sarda Police Academy transferred to the Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) of Dhaka, Asad Ullah Chowdhury of ATU has been transferred to the River Police, Enamul Kabir of the Sylhet Range Office has been transferred to the Armed Police Battalion and Specialized Training Center, Khagrachari, and Mir Modasser Hossain of the Armed Police Battalion and Specialized Training Center, Khagrachari has been transferred to the Highway Police.

Finally, in two other separate circulars, the ministry posted and transferred 48 SP rank officers to different police units in different districts of the country, most of whom had also got their promotions earlier.





A vehicle drives along Highway 36 while flames tear through the area as the Park fire continues to burn near Paynes Creek in unincorporated Tehama County, California. The so-called Park Fire burned more than 350,000 acres as of Saturday evening, making it the seventh-largest ever recorded in California history, the Cal Fire said.

PHOTO: AFP

### 15 killed, 6 hurt in China landslide

AFP, Shanghai

A landslide caused by flooding in central China's Hunan province destroyed a guesthouse and killed 15 people yesterday, state media reported.

Officials initially believed that 18 people had been buried by the landslide but rescuers have since found fifteen bodies and six injured survivors, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday night.

The landslide was caused by flash flooding on a mountain, which destroyed the guesthouse, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

More than 300 emergency personnel were sent to the scene, according to Xinhua.

A video published by the state-run Beijing Youth Daily showed a swath of mud and debris cutting through a green hillside and an uprooted tree lying in front of a three-storey building.

An aerial video on Xinhua showed what appeared to be the ruined bottom half of a building at the top of the debris trail, as well as damaged buildings at the foot of the hill.

China has suffered a summer of extreme weather, with flash floods in the north and southwest killing at least 20 people this month.

A highway in southern China collapsed in May after days of rain, killing 48 people.

## Extraordinary US election enters the homestretch

AFP, Washington

The 100-day sprint to the US election began yesterday, the final act in a campaign transformed by an assassination attempt and the stunning exit of President Joe Biden.

After weeks of infighting and despondency over Biden's candidacy, Democrats have largely consolidated behind Vice President Kamala Harris, radically reshaping a race that was fast becoming Republican nominee Donald Trump's to lose.

Republican strategist Matt Terrill said Harris's uniting of the Democrats had ensured a photo finish on November 5 -- a ballot that will largely be decided by around 100,000 swing voters in a handful of battleground states.

"It comes down to those independent, undecided voters. Inflation, immigration, the economy and crime -- those are the issues they care about," he told BBC News.

While American election campaigns typically last almost two years, the 2024 edition has effectively been reset, making it unofficially the shortest in modern history.

The Democratic convention in mid-August is expected to be a jubilant celebration of the party's new standard-bearer Harris, who is enjoying record fundraising, growing grassroots support and an early boost in polling.

It all looked so different just a month ago.

Dogged by voters' concerns about his age and mental

acuity, the 81-year-old Biden was an outside bet at best, trailing his predecessor in the first presidential rematch since Dwight Eisenhower trounced Adlai Stevenson in 1956.

Biden's dismal June 27 debate showing ignited a five-alarm fire within his party.

The flames were fanned by a flawless show of unity behind 78-year-old Trump at the Republican national convention

in Wisconsin and has raised more than \$120 million in recent days, with disenchanted donors returning to the fold.

Trump's previous three-point nationwide lead in polling averages has been practically halved in a week, and the contest has become a margin-of-error tussle in most of the crucial swing states that decide elections.

But Democrats enjoying the sugar high of the last week have



-- an event galvanized by the failed bid, just days earlier, to assassinate the former president at a rally in Pennsylvania.

After an initial show of defiance, Biden bowed to the inevitable and dropped out last weekend.

Harris, a generation younger at 59, threw her hat in the ring -- turning what had been a stale contest between two unpopular, aging, white male candidates into a dynamic and unpredictable showdown.

The former Biden-Harris ticket -- now just the Harris campaign -- held its biggest-ever rally Tuesday

been cautioned by party elders to sober up, with Harris still facing an uphill battle to beat the oldest major party nominee in history.

Trump, who has seen his favorability ratings tick upward since the July 13 attempt on his life and the successful Republican convention, will rally this weekend in the traditionally Democratic state of Minnesota.

Harris, meanwhile, heads to Massachusetts for a fundraising event and will send her surrogates -- including some favorites in the contest to be her running mate -- out across battleground states.

### America going bankrupt: Musk

AGENCIES

Rising national debt has long been a pressing issue in America, and it has caught the attention of Tesla CEO Elon Musk.

"America is going bankrupt btw," Musk wrote in a recent post on the social media platform X. He was responding to a post by Billy Markus, the creator of Dogecoin.

Markus' post included a screenshot of a headline reading, "Interest Payments on US National Debt Will Shatter \$1,400,000,000,000 This Year -- Eating 76% of All Income Taxes Collected: Report."

The headline originated from an article on The Daily Hodl, which featured an analysis by economist EJ Antoni. Antoni delved into the latest Monthly Treasury Statement from the Bureau of the Fiscal Service.

He pointed out a striking detail: in June 2024, the US government spent \$140.238 billion on interest for Treasury debt securities. For context, the government collected \$184.910 billion in individual income taxes that same month.

This means that an amount equivalent to 76 percent of June's individual income tax revenue was used solely for interest payments on the national debt, not including principal repayment.

## 35 killed in Pak sectarian clashes

AFP, Peshawar

A land feud between tribes in northwestern Pakistan has spilled over into days of sectarian fighting with machine guns and mortars, killing 35 people so far, officials said yesterday.

The Sunni Muslim Madagi and Shiite Mali Khel tribes have been fighting since Wednesday, when a gunman opened fire at a council negotiating a decades-long dispute over farmland, local police official Murtaza Hussain said.

While no one was wounded in that attack, Hussain said it reignited longstanding religious tensions between the clans who live side-by-side in the Kurram district on Afghanistan border.

"Initially a land dispute, the issue has now escalated into sectarian violence," Hussain told AFP.

Inter-family feuds are common in Pakistan. However, they can be particularly protracted and violent in the mountainous northwestern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where communities abide by traditional tribal honour codes.

A senior government official from Kurram district, who asked to remain anonymous, also gave a death toll of 35 but said 151 more people had been wounded.

"The conflict, now in its fifth day, has escalated into a Shia-Sunni dispute," he said. "All attempts to resolve the conflict have failed."

A police source, who asked not to be identified, said both sides were using automatic weapons and mortars in fighting focused around the town of Parachinar, which had been blockaded by law enforcement.

## Khamenei grants Masoud Pezeshkian presidential powers

AFP, Tehran



Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday gave his official endorsement of Masoud Pezeshkian as the Islamic Republic's ninth president, following snap elections won by the reformist camp's candidate.

In a message read by the director of Khamenei's office, he said: "I endorse the vote (for) the wise, honest, popular and scholarly Mr Pezeshkian, and I am appointing him as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran".

The new reformist president is due to be sworn in before parliament on Tuesday.

The endorsement ceremony was held in the capital Tehran in the presence of senior Iranian officials and foreign diplomats.

It took place as banks and most government offices were ordered shut nationwide on Sunday to tackle an extreme heatwave.

Following the event, acting president Mohammad Mokhber handed over official responsibilities to 69-year-old Pezeshkian.

Later Sunday, Pezeshkian appointed reformist Mohammad Reza Aref, 72, as his first vice president, according to an announcement carried by state TV.

Aref has represented Tehran in parliament and served as first vice president and communications minister under Iran's last reformist president Mohammad Khatami, who held office from 1997 to 2005.

Pezeshkian, a heart surgeon and parliament member for the northwestern city of Tabriz since 2008, was Khatami's health minister.

On July 5 the reformist candidate won a runoff race against the ultraconservative Saeed Jalili to replace Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

## US, Japan deepen ties, take swipe at China

AFP, Tokyo

The United States and Japan issued scathing verbal attacks on China and Russia yesterday after high-level discussions on enhancing already close defence collaboration between Tokyo and Washington in an increasingly unstable region.

A joint statement issued after "2+2" talks in Tokyo between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and their Japanese counterparts said China's "foreign policy seeks to reshape the international order for its own benefit at the expense of others".

They also reiterated their "strong objections" to China's "unlawful maritime claims, militarization of reclaimed features, and threatening and provocative activities in the South China Sea".

The communique also criticised Russia's "growing and provocative strategic military cooperation" with China, as well as Moscow's procurement of ballistic missiles and other equipment from North Korea "for use against Ukraine". It also expressed alarm at China's "ongoing and rapid expansion of its nuclear weapons arsenal".

Blinken said US alliances were all "defensive in nature".

"They have no ambitions toward anyone else, and never have been or ever will

be offensive in nature," he told a news conference.

"But at a time when unfortunately these threats are increasing, our alliances, our partnerships, they're getting deeper, they're getting stronger, they're getting more effective," he said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said: "We are at a historic turning point."

"Developments that shake the very foundation of a free and open international order based on the rule of law are continuing."

"We must deepen and develop the US-Japan alliance to safeguard the international order and enhance deterrence," she said.

China claims the South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars of trade passes annually, almost in its entirety, while Tokyo and Beijing are also at loggerheads over disputed Japan-controlled islands in the East China Sea.

The statement also confirmed US plans to establish in Japan a new Joint Force Headquarters, headed by a three-star US commander, for the 54,000 US military personnel stationed there.

It will serve as a counterpart to Japan's planned Joint Operations Command for all its armed forces, making the two militaries more nimble in the case of a crisis over Taiwan or the Korean peninsula.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defense Minister Minoru Kihara at their Foreign and Defense Ministerial (2+2) Meeting at Iikura Guest House in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Restore normal business conditions

### Address the plight of low-income workers, entrepreneurs

A falling tide lowers all ships, so it is natural that the recent disruptions in the country would hit every economic sector, but there are some that have been hit harder than others. These units or groups, comprising low-income workers and entrepreneurs, belong to the lower strata of our economy and, as such, rarely feature in policy decisions even during critical times such as now. According to various reports, the nationwide curfew and internet shutdown, while aimed at restoring order after the unprecedented violence that erupted since July 18, have exacerbated the hardships faced by daily wage earners and small business owners, pushing many to the brink of financial ruin.

A report from our Khulna correspondent highlights the sufferings of low-income workers including hawkers, porters, cobblers, transport and construction workers whose earnings have plummeted. This is not just in one city, but across urban centres in the country. Day labourers, who typically find work at busy intersections, are having to wait for hours with little success. Homeowners are hesitant to resume construction works leading to a slump in employment. Many, as a result, are being forced to borrow to survive. Many are turning to alternative means of livelihood, earning a fraction of their usual daily income. Even the relaxation of curfew hours hasn't helped much, thanks to the climate of fear created by the block raids and mass arrests conducted by security forces which is causing further economic distress.

This dire situation in informal economy is being mirrored in the entrepreneurial sector as well. According to the 2013 economic census by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), there are over 78 lakh entrepreneurs in the cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), a number that must have multiplied by now. The recent disruptions and disturbances have severely impacted production, sales, and marketing activities for most SMEs. Add to that preexisting challenges such as high inflation, rising interest rates, and increased costs for services like gas and electricity. Online-based entrepreneurs and workers have been hit particularly hard, thanks to the internet restrictions, which nearly halted their operations. The e-commerce and f-commerce sectors, including over four lakh businesses, rely heavily on internet to deliver over seven lakh products daily. Against this backdrop, the restoration of mobile internet yesterday, without granting access to key digital mediums like Facebook, TikTok, and WhatsApp, is unlikely to bring much relief.

All this paints a disturbing picture of the struggles of low-income workers, employees and entrepreneurs who are passing their days in hardship and uncertainty. They were already in trouble before the dual assaults of curfew and internet blackout, owing to the impacts of Covid and other external and internal problems, and the government's failure to handle the violent backlash from quota reform protests has only intensified it. It is, therefore, imperative to urgently restore normal business conditions, particularly by fully reopening internet services. Small businesses and low-income workers and employees are the backbone of our economy. The authorities must remove all barriers to their survival.

## Ensure FDI inflow isn't badly hampered

### Govt has a lot to do to recover business and investor confidence

Violence centring around the quota reform movement, a five-day total internet blackout, and the ongoing curfew have naturally shaken foreign investor's confidence in Bangladesh, which must be addressed. According to a report in this daily, the country needs to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) equal to 1.66 percent of its GDP annually to become an advanced economy by 2041. But in 2022, Bangladesh's FDI inflow amounted to only 0.75 percent of its GDP. Bangladesh Bank data shows that in 2023, net FDI inflow fell to \$3 billion, a decrease of 14 percent from \$3.5 billion in 2022. Against this backdrop, the confidence crisis caused by recent events becomes more concerning.

When it comes to attracting investors, a country's reputation as a reliable investment destination is vital. Investors already had a number of issues with Bangladesh in that regard. Problems like corruption, bureaucracy, anti-competitive procurement system, violation of intellectual property rights, and inconsistent policy shifts have all been previously identified as barriers to Bangladesh attracting higher FDI. With several international rights organisations and foreign countries having identified a number of human rights violations during the government's brutal crackdown on protesters recently, the country's image as an investment hub has surely taken a further hit. And this crisis cannot be quantified, as explained by the president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The modern nature of business is such that all business activities around the world have become tremendously dependent on the use of the internet. The five-day total internet shutdown—along with the fact that internet services across the country are yet to be fully restored—has had a massive impact on all businesses. And although the country is slowly recovering with limited online and physical connectivity, full operations are yet to be revived.

On top of that, foreign investors with a stake in the export sector are anticipating losses and increased expenses due to overtime bills. Some of them will now have to go for costly air shipments to make up for lost time and meet their lead times. And the uncertainty that many businesses and investors faced during the internet outage have made them particularly antsy, with many foreign investors raising questions about the country's political stability.

Even though the government has remained confident about the country's ability to attract FDI despite recent turmoil, we believe there is a lot that can, and should, be done to regain investors' trust. First, the government must urgently restore full internet services, and reinstate normalcy by lowering tensions within society at large. It also needs to take all necessary steps to ensure a positive business environment that is conducive to attracting investment, and that can largely mitigate the losses businesses suffered.

# The responsibility lies squarely with the government



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ANU MUHAMMAD

Over the last few days, we went through an unexpected, uncertain, and cruel experience. It felt as though we were living in very disturbing times—the students and citizens on the one end and the government on the other. The problem that fuelled the frustration among people was avoidable. The government showed us how to take a solvable problem and make it complicated—how to increase people's anger and frustration.

The resistance was increasing on par with the viciousness of the attacks. We saw a multitude of student sections join in later as the attacks increased. First we saw it begin at public universities and public colleges. When these students came under attack, we saw the private universities join in. Then we saw the colleges and even many school students join in. As the attacks became more and more violent, the courage of the protesters continued to increase as well.

**This level of bloodshed prompted the government to announce quota reforms, albeit belatedly. If they had acted a week earlier, this bloodshed and financial losses could have been avoided, and lives could have been saved. Our country's informal sector is vast, and everyone in it has been harmed either physically or financially.**

The first action taken to stop the protests was vacating the student residential halls at the universities. Law enforcement members, along with Chhatra League and Jubo League, ran the operation to forcibly remove students from their halls and campuses. There is a good number of students in Bangladesh who live in rented homes near their educational institutions. Chhatra League and Jubo



FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

**A member of police is seen opening fire during the unrest centring the quota reform movement in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on July 19, 2024.**

League activists even went to their homes and forced them to leave. Some students that I know, who study in Chattogram, were made to leave like this and when they tried to go back to their homes, the curfew had already started. So they were stranded on the roads with nowhere to go. These kinds of stories are abundant.

I taught at Jahangirnagar University for 40 years. The university campus is filled with lakes and trees. I am used to seeing students roaming around on their beautiful campus surrounded by nature. But on TV, I had to see the same campus streets filled with big police cars and armoured vehicles. I saw law enforcers firing tear shells and sound grenades. They were firing guns on that campus. The students were trying to hide in bushes! The teachers were also trying to save themselves from the attacks. The sound of birds chirping and students' conversations and laughter were replaced with the sounds of gunshots and sound grenades. This was painful for me to see as a teacher.

The closest we have witnessed to this event was 41 years ago. In 1983, at one point, the army cracked down on students, torturing them and forcing them out of the residential halls to sit

the numbers of those injured and dead increased, even more people joined the protests.

Such indiscriminate violent attacks on students and civilians are unprecedented in Bangladesh's history. We have never seen such a high death toll in any protest in Bangladesh, even during the Pakistan regime, apart from the Liberation War. Conservative estimates suggest the death toll may exceed 200, with thousands injured. Those who survived with injuries are suffering silently; their plight is often overlooked. Simply being alive is not enough—they should be acknowledged and supported.

The way in which the situation deteriorated since July 16 was unimaginable. We saw students getting attacked in multiple ways. First we saw the ruling party's student body attack general students. News reports say the police joined in, then Rab, and then the BGB. And finally, the army and curfew were added to the mix, indicating the seriousness of the situation.

My study has a window where I find solace. While working, I look at the open sky to break the monotony. I had a horrifying experience these last few days, watching helicopters come and go, firing from the sky. I saw

smoke emanating from the helicopters with deafening noise. Later, I learnt that they were firing sound grenades, tear gas, and possibly bullets, despite officials denying that. I witnessed these events with my own eyes. I read reports stating the victims ranged from three-year-olds to 70-year-olds.

This level of bloodshed prompted the government to announce quota reforms, albeit belatedly. If they had acted a week earlier, this bloodshed and financial losses could have been avoided, and lives could have been saved. Our country's informal sector is vast, and everyone in it has been harmed either physically or financially. Those who have been injured are burdened with the additional expense of their medical treatment. Their traumatic experiences will haunt them for life. None of this would have happened if the government had shown responsibility and heeded the legitimate demands of the protesters, rather than rigidly sticking to its ways.

Even the quota reforms announced by the government lack transparency. They did not consult the stakeholders and protesters. Decisions were made unilaterally, neglecting those deserving the quotas. The movement aimed not to deny the minority groups their quotas, but to ensure fair and sustainable distribution.

The government's failure to seek sustainable solutions in 2018 and its recent unilateral decision reflect insensitivity and exclusion, causing dissent among various groups. Despite claiming to have agreed to all demands, the government has failed to address the deaths and damages incurred over the past two weeks. It has not taken adequate steps to ensure justice or hold those responsible for the injustice accountable. There is no indication that it will take action in the future. The government's aggressive stance is evident even now with indiscriminate harassment and arrests of the people.

I believe the responsibility lies squarely with the government, which must stop harassing the youth and people in general. It should come out with the list of killed and injured people along with credible investigations to identify the list of responsible groups behind the loss of lives and damage to properties.

In fact, steps towards democratic transition and establishing people's authority should be brought to discussion. We don't want to live in a long-term state of civil unrest in Bangladesh, which is already showing dangerous signs. Indeed, democratic transformation in the real spirit of the Liberation War is the only viable path forward.

## FIRST BUDGET OF MODI GOVT 3.0

# Political exigencies and beyond



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PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

India's annual budget is always as much an economic statement as it is political. And the first fully fledged annual budget of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third successive term clearly reflected the changed political realities after the recent national elections saw the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) posting a below-par performance, missing the majority mark in the Lok Sabha and being forced to depend on the support of its allies for survival.

When Modi retained almost all the members of his second cabinet with the same portfolios in his third tenure, many analysts were tempted to wonder if he would be a changed man in his third term without a clear majority. But the July 23 budget proposal indicates change has begun to set in, taking a cue from the recent national election results.

Statistics don't always reveal the full reality. But they don't hide the reality either. The budget clearly reflects three major political realities that Modi-led BJP has come to terms with post-parliamentary elections. First, it lacks a majority on its own after having enjoyed the same for a decade since 2014. Secondly, as a logical consequence of the first, Modi is critically dependent on the support

of his major allies, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ruling Andhra Pradesh having 16 lawmakers and Janata Dal (United) governing Bihar with a dozen MPs. Thirdly, the budget has acknowledged what Modi and BJP are loath to accept in public: that unemployment, an issue forcefully brought up during the electioneering, is among the crucial factors responsible for pulling down the saffron party's numbers.

There is little doubt the FY2024-25 budget has kept in mind the reality of changed numbers in the 18th Lok Sabha. It is, therefore, no surprise that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman loosened the purse strings for TDP and JDU with a surfeit of development schemes for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. She announced funds for early completion of a key irrigation project, industrial development of Andhra Pradesh, infrastructure like water, power, railways and roads, and additional allocation towards capital investment for economic growth of the state and grants for backward regions. Bihar got support for capital investments in the development of road connectivity projects in the state at a cost of 26,000 crore rupees. Expressway over the Ganges River, a new 2,400MW power plant,

new airports, medical colleges and sports infrastructure in the state are among the other promises made in the budget, reflecting BJP's political exigency. By keeping the two parties in good humour, Modi has underlined his intent for ensuring political and macroeconomic stability.

Implicit in the budgetary promise to pump in \$24 billion to be spent in the next five years to create jobs is that the problem of joblessness has been staring at the economy. India's official unemployment rate in urban areas is 6.7 percent, but the Centre For Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) pegs it at 8.4 percent. The government's economic survey, presented in parliament a day before the budget, says the Indian economy needs to generate an average of nearly 78.5 lakh jobs annually until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce. The budget has sought to engineer a fine balance between supporting job creation and skilling, envisaging \$32 billion for rural development this year alone and promoting agriculture, along with continued focus on infrastructure spending without sacrificing fiscal prudence.

Sitharaman announced three schemes for "employment linked incentive" as part of the prime minister's package. These will be based on enrolment in the provident fund with focus on recognition of first-time employees and support to employees and employers. The other budgetary measures aimed at boosting employment include incentives for companies to train staff as well as cheaper loans for higher education. There is also a substantial amount of welfare to be spent on women-

led development and the agriculture sector covering a large part of the electorate. The government has ample resources to increase spending without jeopardising its fiscal deficit plans due to a significant windfall of \$25.3 billion from the Reserve Bank of India and a surge in tax revenues powered by the economy's expected growth of over seven percent this fiscal year.

The budget is also providing for the MSME sector with the help of a credit guarantee scheme to help the manufacturing sector obtain loans to finance their purchases of machinery and equipment without collateral or a third-party guarantee. In doing this, the government is apparently mindful of a perception, right or wrong, that it is pro-big corporate houses. It is not coincidental that the economic survey points out that the corporate sector has not done its bit to help job creation despite the union government cutting taxes in September 2019 to facilitate capital formation. According to the survey, "... Between FY20 and FY23, the profit before taxes of the Indian corporate sector nearly quadrupled... hiring and compensation growth hardly kept up with it."

The opposition Congress has dubbed the budget as a "kursi bachao" exercise, an unstated reference to the budget pandering to the wish lists of TDP and JDU. But there is another important messaging in the Modi government's outreach to its two regional allies: that of signalling to other powerful regional parties which are outside the BJP-led alliance that they, too, can have a share in the federal government's much bigger power pie.



# The prolonged internet shutdown sets a dangerous precedent



Mahiya Tabassum is a journalist at The Daily Star.

MAHIYA TABASSUM

The recent nationwide internet blackout in Bangladesh, beginning on July 18 and lasting over 150 hours, represents a grave threat to democracy and human rights that demands urgent attention. This unprecedented act of digital repression not only violated the fundamental rights of 170 million Bangladeshis but also set a dangerous precedent for authoritarian control in the digital age.

The shutdown occurred against a backdrop of mounting student protests, though the government initially attempted to obfuscate its role in the blackout. Officials, including ICT Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, first attributed the outage to security concerns, then to an arson attack on the cables in Mohakhali at nearby data centres by miscreants. Palak even suggested that broadband internet would be restored within a day. However, this explanation, or rather excuse, quickly crumbled under scrutiny. The truth, as confirmed by international observers like Cloudflare and Telenor, was that it was a deliberate, government-ordered shutdown.

Cloudflare, one of the world's largest cloud service companies, used global internet traffic monitoring tools to confirm that the blackout was indeed government-ordered. Telenor, the parent company of Grameenphone, corroborated this assessment, stating

**This calculated move to sever digital communications coincided with student protests, revealing the shutdown's true intent. By denying citizens access to social media platforms, messaging apps, and news websites, the government effectively silenced the nation and prevented the outside world from witnessing what was happening inside Bangladesh.**



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

that local authorities had mandated the shutdown of 3G and 4G networks. The extent of the blackout is particularly troubling given Bangladesh's multiple internet connectivity options. The country has access to submarine cables through Bangladesh Submarine Cable Limited, land fibre connections through India, IIG VSAT connectivity for limited data links, and 3G/4G mobile networks. Put simply, the diverse infrastructure makes it implausible that a single localised issue could cause such widespread disruption, further supporting the assertion that this was a calculated move by authorities.

As internet access slowly returned after more than 150 hours, it came with draconian restrictions. Reportedly, the

shutdown's true intent. By denying citizens access to social media platforms, messaging apps, and news websites, the government effectively silenced the nation and prevented the outside world from witnessing what was happening inside Bangladesh.

When governments impose internet shutdowns and restrictions, particularly during protests, they hinder the flow of vital information to citizens. This includes preventing people from contacting emergency services like fire departments and healthcare providers. Moreover, these shutdowns impede international and local media outlets, as well as human rights organisations, from documenting potential human rights violations. Such

access. This selective availability raises questions about the government's priorities and potential preferential treatment of certain entities.

The shutdown, however, is part of a disturbing global trend. In 2022, there were over 180 internet shutdowns across 35 countries worldwide. Governments increasingly deploy this tactic to cover up grave human rights violations, including state violence against peaceful protesters, electoral interference, extrajudicial killings of political dissidents, and arbitrary arrests and detentions.

The UN Human Rights Council, via establishing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), has unequivocally

stated that internet shutdowns have "indiscriminate and disproportionate impacts on human rights." In today's interconnected world, internet access is essential for the realisation of numerous fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and access to information, the right to education, the right to health, the right to work, and freedom of assembly and association. By imposing this blackout, the Bangladesh government has effectively violated these rights for its entire population, contravening its obligations under international human rights law.

The shutdown's impact extends beyond civil liberties. In an increasingly digital economy, such disruptions can have severe economic consequences. Businesses relying on online transactions, e-commerce platforms, and digital communication tools suffer significant losses. The global nonprofit organisation NetBlocks estimates that the 150-hour shutdown could have cost Bangladesh's economy over USD 500 million, further burdening a nation already grappling with economic challenges.

Moreover, the blackout jeopardised public safety and health. During times of crisis, access to timely information can be a matter of life and death. Recounting my personal experience, doctors were not available to see outdoor patients at Birdem Hospital due to the ongoing nationwide curfew. However, online consultation and public health information also became inaccessible due to the internet shutdown. By cutting off internet access, the government potentially hindered emergency services, disrupted healthcare communications, and prevented citizens from accessing crucial public health information.

We and the world must respond accordingly to this flagrant violation of digital rights. The United Nations should launch an investigation into the shutdown and its human rights implications. International and development partners should insist on respect for digital rights and internet freedom. Tech companies and telecom providers operating in Bangladesh should publicly disclose any requests for government orders to shut down services. Civil society organisations should document the impact of the shutdown on human rights, the economy, and public services to build a case for accountability.

And lastly, the Bangladesh government must provide a full, transparent explanation for the shutdown, and implement legal safeguards to prevent future arbitrary internet restrictions.

The fight for internet freedom is synonymous with the struggle for human rights and democracy.

## WOMEN'S ASIA CUP 2024

# Bangladesh's semifinal defeat warrants some self-reflection



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MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

The Bangladesh women's cricket team made its debut in 2007 and gained One Day International (ODI) status in 2011. Their most impressive achievement came in 2018 when they won the Women's Asia Cup and remain the only team to have lifted the trophy other than India. On Friday, Bangladesh faced India in the semifinal of this year's Asia Cup looking to recreate some of that same magic but failed by a large margin. This does not however come as a surprise, since their only wins in their last 13 games came against Thailand and Malaysia in this Asia Cup.

While Bangladesh seems to be going through a rough patch, they had established themselves as a regularly competitive side

**While Bangladesh seemed to be going through a rough patch, they had established themselves as a regularly competitive side before this current phase. The semifinal match against India was an opportunity for them to carry the momentum from their previous two wins and reinforce the fact that they are still a side to be taken seriously. They failed to capitalise on their existing strengths and the manner in which they lost the match may warrant some self-reflection.**

before this current phase. The semifinal match against India was an opportunity for them to carry the momentum from their previous two wins and reinforce the fact that they are still a side to be taken seriously. They failed to capitalise on their existing strengths and the manner in which they lost the match may warrant some self-reflection. The team will want to turn things around so that they can regain their self-confidence and emerge as a resilient team capable of going through

difficult phases and overcoming them.

Bangladesh started the tournament by losing to the hosts, Sri Lanka. They were able to score only 111-8 in 20 overs which was not nearly a competitive score on the Dambulla ground and Sri Lanka cruised to a victory by seven wickets with 17 deliveries to spare. After that however, Bangladesh turned things around and ended their 10-match losing streak in T20Is (five of which came as recently as in April and May 2024 against India) against Thailand. It was a combined effort from the bowlers and the top order which led to a convincing victory for Bangladesh. They restricted Thailand to a total of 96/9 which Bangladesh chased down by scoring 100/3

in 17.3 overs. Bangladesh benefited from the leg spinner Rabeya Khan's 4-wicket haul and a half-century from the left-hand batting opener Murshida Khatun.

The Bangladesh women's cricket team played to their strengths in the match against Malaysia where they displayed their most impressive performance in the tournament, securing a spot in the semifinal. In their biggest victory in the 2024 Women's Asia Cup, the Bangladeshi batters exhibited their capabilities

in making the most of a batting friendly ground. Batting first, they posted their second highest T20I total of 191-2. Murshida Khatun and Nigar Sultana combined their firepower to score half-centuries with a high strike rate. This was particularly notable because Sultana has been criticised in the past for not increasing the run rate. But in this match, she remained not out with an impressive strike rate of above 167. In the second innings, a cohesive team

Since the Bangladesh team was not in its best form before the tournament, the fact they had qualified for the semifinals should have come as a welcome validation of their competitive abilities. However, it must be mentioned that there seems to exist a significant gap in the quality of cricket played by the top four teams—India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh—versus the rest of the teams. While India established their



The Bangladesh women's cricket team failed to capitalise on their existing strengths against India in the Asia Cup semifinal match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

performance saw six Bangladeshi bowlers chipping in to restrict Malaysia to 77/8 and completing a 114-run victory. Nahida Akter stood out as the star performer who took two wickets at an economy rate of 3.25. The two wickets brought Akter's tally of T20I wickets to 99. She would have looked to complete the historic achievement of the first woman to get 100 wickets in T20Is in the semifinal but is still yet to do so due to the crushing defeat that saw India winning the match with all 10 wickets to spare.

dominance in the game with a consistency that's awe-inspiring, Bangladesh should have backed themselves with their own strengths. They failed to make the most of their right-arm spinners (Rabeya Khan, Shorna Akter and Rumana Ahmed), as one of the only teams in the world to regularly play three such bowlers who are known to be some of the most attacking wicket takers globally. If they were to be a match for India, all players would have had to come together to amplify their strengths. Instead, the performance we saw

in the semifinal conveyed a complete absence of conviction that the team considered themselves worthy of a spot in the final.

Batting first, Bangladesh managed to post a total of only 80/8 in 20 overs. Renuka Singh—whose form had come in question ahead of the tournament and had been left out in two of the three T20Is in the series against South Africa—took three wickets in three overs, leaving the Bangladesh batting lineup in shambles. Bangladesh's opener Dilara Akter was a player, who many would have hoped would give the Indian bowlers a run for their money. She scored a six off Renuka but succumbed to a fielder off deep square in the very next delivery. Some of the other batters' shot selections were also questionable. Only two Bangladeshi batters got to double digits which is a disappointing display of the team's batting abilities in a knock-out game. One of those two batters was the captain Nigar Sultana who scored 32 off 51 deliveries and is bound to once again raise questions about her scoring rate. Though she needed to build a partnership when Bangladesh fell to 21-3, 19 dot balls in the overs between six and nine simply did not seem justified. At that point, one wonders what is the objective with which the batters are playing, since to beat India a much fiercer brand of cricket needed to be played.

Ultimately, it seemed as though the memories of the previous crushing defeats to India earlier in the year still gnawed in the Bangladeshi players' minds and that they had already lost half the battle before they appeared on the field. In 2018, when Bangladesh lifted the Asia Cup, they did so after beating India twice—once in the group stages and again in the final. It is only likely that the team would have changed since then but the Bangladeshi fans will hope that the team can rebuild and position themselves once again as the top Asian team. After all, the most commendable teams in the world are not only those who remain at the top consistently but also the teams who climb up from the depths of challenges. Bangladesh will hope to chart a similar story for themselves.



# A FORGOTTEN CHAPTER

## in the intellectual movement of Bengali Muslims

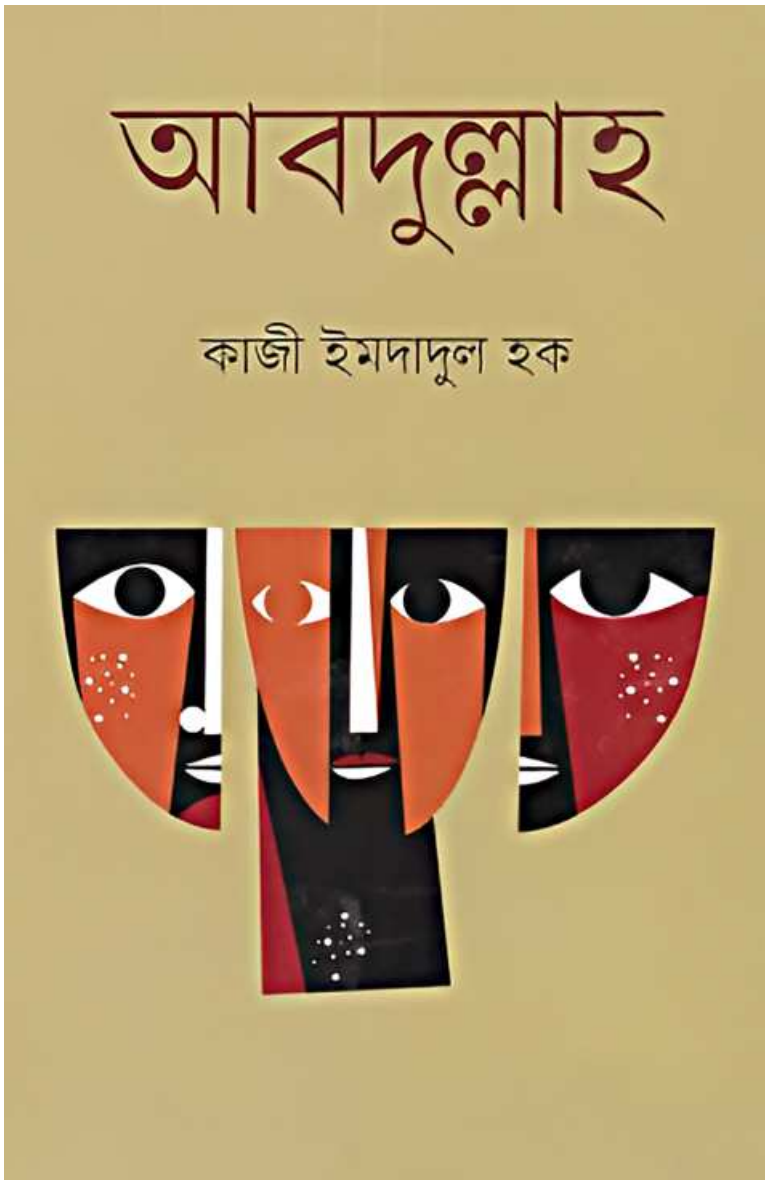
90 years after Anwarul Quadir's *Amader Dukkho*

Nazrul was inspired by the new association's activities and lauded Anwarul Quadir as a leading thinker within the group. With a hint of sarcasm, he called both himself and Quadir "Kafir" or "infidels" to underscore their challenge to traditional views.

**PRIYAM PRITIM PAUL**

Anwarul Quadir (1887-1948) was a key literary figure whose work significantly influenced the intellectual movement of Bengali Muslims in late colonial Bengal. He is best known for completing the novel *Abdullah* after the death of its original author, Kazi Imdadul Huq (1882-1926). *Abdullah* is recognized as a pioneering work in Bengali literature by Bengali Muslim writers, addressing several contentious social issues. Additionally, Quadir published his only essay collection, *Amader Dukkho*, in 1934, which compiled his writings from various periodicals. Now 90 years old, this seminal book addressed pressing issues of its time that remain relevant today.

Born in 1887 in Port Blair, Andaman Islands, as his father was posted there as a headmaster of a government school, Anwarul Quadir held the family title of Kazi, and their family originally hailed from the village of Paygram Kasba in Khulna. He completed his entrance exam at Jessore Zilla School and earned his BA from Presidency College. Quadir pursued a career in teaching and obtained his MA in English Literature in 1928. He also served as an assistant to Mr. Steplan, who was specially assigned to the proposed Dhaka University. Quadir passed away from cancer in 1948 at Presidency General Hospital in Calcutta. He was awarded the title of *Khan Sahib* for his lifelong service in education. Anisuzzaman noted that Quadir was an ideal figure among his students and colleagues,



Cover of the novel *Abdullah*, published by Bangla Academy

"At the top is the Nawab family of Dacca, an impregnable fortress of conservatism. Dacca, in that period, was far removed from the modernity of free liberal thought. A university was just being established on the outskirts of Ramna Green and the Dacca Inter area, and Jagannath College was located near Sadarghat in the main town. In this limited and often hostile environment, a small group of individuals championed the cause of 'free intellect,' founded institutions, and published periodicals. Remarkably, most of these young reformers were from outside Dacca and lacked significant local support or patronage."

Historians note that after C.R. Das's death in 1925, communal tensions intensified in Bengal, with Dhaka frequently witnessing Hindu-Muslim riots. Amid this volatile atmosphere, the group introduced a new vision in Dhaka. As the most senior writer in the group, Anwarul Quadir believed it was not just the responsibility of political leaders but also of writers and thinkers to guide the nation in the right direction.

Although poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was not directly involved with the Dhaka-based literary association, he was invited to its inaugural conference in 1927 due to his prominence among young Muslim intellectuals in Bengal. He traveled from Kolkata to open the conference and expressed his enthusiasm with these words:

"Today, I am thrilled to make a joyous announcement at this conference. For the first time in a long while, I enjoyed a peaceful night's sleep. I see that a new movement among Muslims has begun here, and I intend to spread this message far and wide. Furthermore, I once thought I was the only heretic, but now I am convinced that virtuous individuals like Maulavi Anwarul Quadir are the true dissenters. My circle of supporters has expanded; beyond this solace, I seek nothing more."

Nazrul was inspired by the new association's activities and lauded Anwarul Quadir as a leading thinker within the group. With a hint of sarcasm, he called both himself and Quadir "Kafir" or "infidels" to underscore their challenge to traditional views.

As noted earlier, a significant contribution of Anwarul Quadir

was completing the novel *Abdullah*. He wrote chapters 31 to 41 based on the original draft, and the complete version was published in 1932. Kazi Abdul Wadud remarked on their differing styles:

"Kazi Imdadul Haque is primarily a painter, whereas Anwarul Quadir is more of a psychologist, a difference reflected in their writing styles. Notably, Quadir's contributions shine in two chapters: one depicting Saleha's death and the other describing Mir Sahib's final days. While Imdadul Haque portrays Saleha as nearly lifeless, overly constrained by her father's rigid principles, Quadir introduces a touch of compassion to her character and adds a hint of novelty and affection to Abdullah's otherwise mundane life."

Wadud notes that Anwarul Quadir brought a more dynamic and humanistic dimension to Saleha, the lead female character, who was largely passive in Kazi Imdadul Haque's original portrayal.

Anwarul Quadir's another major contribution is *Amader Dukkho*, an essay collection. Originally published in Calcutta, the prose work was reprinted twice, first in 1990 and again in 2010.

The title *Amader Dukkho* (Our Sorrows) underscores the urgent issues Anwarul Quadir critically examined during his time. This period was marked by intense and unresolved Hindu-Muslim conflicts, which eventually led to the Partition of Bengal. Quadir noted that leaders of these competing groups adopted narrow, self-serving views driven by religious biases, failing to unite for the nation's benefit. The government officials were more concerned with their own positions and perks, with their salaries rising while the common people's suffering worsened.

He presented a critical analysis of the socio-economic and political climate, which was increasingly polarized between Hindus and Muslims. This growing distrust approached a state of near-separation, with each side accusing the other of grievances. Quadir found Hindu accusations of Muslims

destroying temples and desecrating idols to be largely exaggerated, just as he saw Muslim fears that Hindus would eliminate them after achieving independence as overstated.

Quadir argued that both Hindus and Muslims faced significant poverty and criticized inherent issues within each community. He found the Hindu caste system incompatible with modern democratic values and noted that Muslims were often more conservative and resistant to change, sometimes practicing their religion in a way that seemed bigoted and misaligned with Islam's core principles. Instead of focusing on religious differences, Quadir emphasized shared problems like severe poverty, food shortages, and inadequate clothing. He questioned whether the country's leaders would understand these issues or continue to follow antagonistic policies.

Anwarul Quadir's lecture, titled "*Bangli Musalmaner Samajik Galad*" ("The Social Faults of Bengali Muslims"), appeared in the first issue of *Shikha* and was later included in his book *Amader Dukkho*. In this lecture, Quadir explored the challenges and potential of Bengali Muslims. He emphasized, "Without the liberation of the mind, religion cannot be taught. Intelligence is essential for understanding and following religious principles. The true essence of *Dharma* has been lost due to a lack of intelligence, leading to a dominance of orthodoxy in our practice."

In the essay collection, Quadir also critiqued the thinking of influential educational and social leaders, such as the respected chemist and educationist Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861-1944). Ray remarked that the narrowness of the Hindu caste system had driven lower-caste people to seek refuge in the "kindheartedness of Islam," resulting

Buddhism and various Hindu sects among oppressed people.

He dismissed Ray's conclusion as narrow-minded, arguing that such sectarian blame emerges under subjugation and reflects a form of subservience. He emphasized that if even a respected social leader like P.C. Ray, known for his liberal ideas and acceptance among Muslims, held such views, it would alienate Muslims and lead them to seek a fictitious identity elsewhere, neglecting their place in their own land. He suggested that overcoming such narrow-mindedness requires insight and a fresh perspective, avoiding stereotypical thinking in a colonized state.

Quadir did not accept that communal issues in India began with the colonial period but pointed to historical examples, such as the exile of 500 Brahmins during Harshabardhan's reign for causing unrest. He believed that widespread communal issues arose from rulers seeking personal benefits, with religion frequently manipulated for these purposes. He criticized the hypocrisy of showcasing religion, which obscured sincere and humble adherence to its practices.

During the final phase of colonial Bengal, the Hindu-Muslim feud intensified as economic opportunities dwindled. Zamindari became less profitable, agriculture stagnated, and competition between the two major religions centered on the limited number of government jobs. These rivalries extended beyond daily economic and social activities and even impacted Bengali literature, where communal biases influenced the portrayal of characters in religious terms. Quadir criticized this environment, claiming it was impossible to produce "honest literature" under such conditions, and expressed hope that literary figures would develop

a more harmonious approach in their work.

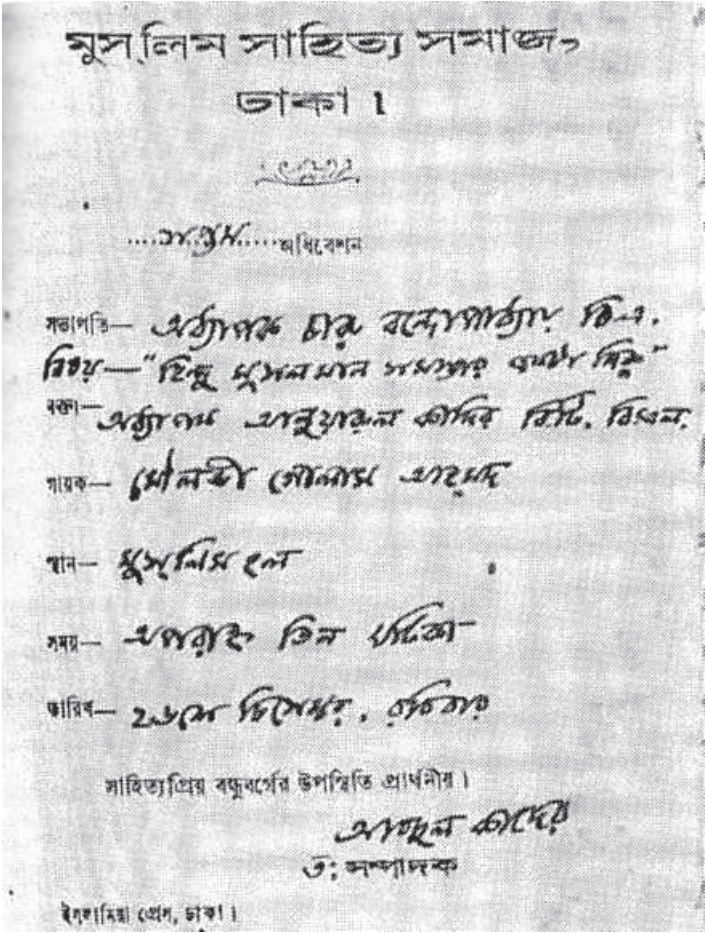
Quadir emphasized Rabintranath Tagore's view on the Hindu-Muslim issue, noting Tagore's concern that the nation's identity had become mired in religious divisions, obstructing the path to unity. Quadir argued that both communal Hindus and Muslims had failed to adopt Tagore's ideals of compassion and love, resulting in a lack of empathy and leaving the nation's problems unresolved.

Tagore's predictions about the fallout from Hindu-Muslim rivalry are echoed in the account of scientist Muhammad Qudrat-i-Khuda (1900-1977). During a trip to Darjeeling in the late 1920s, the young Qudrat-i-Khuda met Tagore by chance. In their conversation about socio-political issues, Tagore voiced his concern that ongoing Hindu-Muslim conflicts would thwart any efforts at unity, ultimately leading to the creation of separate states for Hindus and Muslims.

Remarkably, Tagore appeared to anticipate the partition of Bengal as early as the late 1920s, noting the increasing tensions between the major communities. Quadir found parallels between Tagore's observations and his own insights. Furthermore, Tagore, after reading the novel *Abdullah*, expressed his pleasure, mentioning that it deepened his understanding of the inner lives of Muslims in Bengal and shed light on various social issues.

Although Quadir's discussions were framed within the context of undivided Bengal, the issues he highlighted have continued and frequently intensified into serious conflicts even after the formation of three separate states. The sorrow expressed in *Amader Dukkho* remains relevant in a subcontinent still grappling with communal divisions.

**Priyam Pritim Paul** is a Researcher and Journalist at The Daily Star.



An invitation card for a lecture on Hindu-Muslim issues by Anwarul Quadir, organized by the Muslim Sahitya Samaj. The event was scheduled for December 26, 1926, but was postponed due to the killing of Hindu revivalist movement leader Swami Sraddhananda by a Muslim named Abdul Rashid. Courtesy: Purba, 2024.

Quadir argued that both communal Hindus and Muslims had failed to adopt Tagore's ideals of compassion and love, resulting in a lack of empathy and leaving the nation's problems unresolved.

with his significant contributions to the formation and operation of the *Muslim Sahitya Samaj* being highly valued.

Anwarul Quadir was the senior-most author among the seven key writers of the *Muslim Sahitya Samaj*, which is better known as *Shikha Gosthi*, with their publication *Shikha*, the leading progressive writers' association of Bengali Muslims in Dacca at the time. This association played a crucial role in awakening the newly educated minds among Bengali Muslims, injecting a fresh literary and intellectual spirit into the stagnant society of East Bengal's main city.

Mustafa Nur-Ul Islam described Dhaka during the emergence of the *Shikha Gosthi* and the free intellect movement, popularly known as the *Buddhir Mukti Andolan*:



# Sri Lanka break India’s dominance



Sri Lanka batters Harshitha Samarawickrama and Kavisha Dilhari celebrate after the latter hit the winning runs in an eight-wicket thrashing of India in the final of the Women’s Asia Cup final in Dambulla yesterday. The hosts won their maiden Asia Cup title which means that they and Bangladesh are the only two nations to have lifted the trophy other than seven-time winners India. After restricting reigning champions India to 165 for six, Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu and Samarawickrama smashed half-centuries, and the duo put together an 87-run stand for the second wicket to help the Lankans complete a comprehensive run chase with eight balls to spare. Samarawickrama, who struck six fours and two sixes for a 51-ball 69, was adjudged the player of the match, while Athapaththu who took her tournament tally to 304 runs with a 43-ball 61 - laced with two sixes and nine fours – was declared the player of the tournament.

PHOTO: ICC

# ‘ICC understands that everything is all right’

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon yesterday said that his presence at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Annual Conference satisfied the governing body’s concerns regarding the unrest in the country and assured them that the forthcoming ICC Women’s T20 World Cup in Bangladesh could go ahead as planned.

Cricket website Cricbuzz had earlier reported that the ICC were monitoring the situation in Bangladesh following unrest in the country.

However, Papon, who returned to Dhaka on Saturday after attending the ICC conference in Colombo, said there was no formal discussion on the matter and claimed that the ICC officials are no longer concerned about Bangladesh hosting the tournament, which is set to run on October 3-20.

“When I went there, the situation in the country was dire. There was no way to communicate outside Bangladesh. They [ICC] were concerned with the news they were getting,” Papon said in a press conference yesterday.

“After seeing me, they understood that everything is all right. After that there was no discussion about this in the ICC meeting,” he added.

The BCB president also informed that the next ICC board meeting will take place in Bangladesh, where the ICC election could also take place.

## OLYMPICS CORNER



### Paris ‘sorry’ over opening ceremony controversy

AFP, Paris

Organisers of the Paris Olympics said Sunday they were “really sorry” for any offence caused by their daring and quirky opening ceremony.

Some Catholic groups and French bishops have condemned what they saw as “scenes of derision and mockery of Christianity” in the parade on Friday.

“If people have taken any offence, we are of course really, really sorry,” Paris 2024 spokeswoman Anne Descamps told reporters on Sunday.

### Saudi hails first female Olympic swimmer

REUTERS, Paris

Saudi dignitaries on Sunday hailed the performance of Mashaal Alayed, the first female swimmer from the kingdom to compete in an Olympics.

The 17-year-old is the only female swimmer in the delegation and smashed her personal best to come sixth of seven in her 200 metres freestyle heat.

Girls were banned from participating in sport at public schools until 2017 and women not allowed into sports stadiums until the following year in the Islamic state.

Princess Reema bint Bandar bint Sultan, an influential member of the Saudi Olympic committee and the kingdom’s ambassador to Washington, wrote on X “Proud to cheer on this young woman! Breaking boundaries! Mashaal Alayed.”

# Marchand fires up PARIS POOL

AFP, Paris

French hero Leon Marchand threw down the gauntlet with a storming 400m medley swim Sunday as Mollie O’Callaghan outgunned Ariarne Titmus to top the women’s 200m freestyle heats.

Marchand is the Olympic hosts’ big hope after last year demolishing Michael Phelps’ 15-year-old world record in a phenomenal 4min 2.50sec.

The 22-year-old, trained by Phelps’ old coach Bob Bowman, had not dipped under 4:10 this year as a number of his rivals did, piling on the pressure.

He rose to the occasion on day two at a packed La Defense Arena to touch in 4:08.30 as a raucous crowd went wild, more than a second clear of Britain’s Max Lichfield and two seconds ahead of Japanese veteran Daiya Seto.

In an upset, American defending champion Chase Kalisz failed to reach the final, ending his bid to make the podium for a third time after also winning silver at Rio 2016.

“It was almost like a football stadium but in a pool. Everyone was chanting my name, it was crazy,” said Marchand, who is gunning to end a 12 year French gold medal drought in the pool.

“I think I was prepared. I was able to stay in my performance. I had a



very strong 250m and then I relaxed a little.

“If I can free myself as much as possible from my body, from my mind, it will be great. I think it’ll be fun,” he added of Sunday’s evening final.

At the 2021 Olympics, France took home just one swimming medal, Florent Manaudou’s silver from the 50m free. They haven’t won gold since London in 2012, when they collected four.

Marchand will also swim the 200m medley and 200m butterfly.

Defending 200m champion Titmus was back in the pool a day after taking out the 400m title ahead of Summer McIntosh and Katie Ledecky.

She showed few signs of tiredness, easing into the semi-finals third fastest behind pace-setting teammate O’Callaghan (1:55.79).

Titmus shattered O’Callaghan’s world record last month at the Australian trials to set a new best of 1:52.23.

O’Callaghan also went under her previous world record in coming second, making the pair overwhelming favourites for gold on Monday.

“Definitely hard to back up after last night, but I think I tried to stay as calm as I could last night and try and forget about what happened this morning really,” said Titmus.

“On to another day, 400’s done now, so 200’s the focus.”

# HP need six wickets to win against Pak Shaheens

SPORTS REPORTER

The four-day match between Bangladesh Cricket Board High Performance Unit and Pakistan Shaheens is set up for an exciting finish with the HP side needing six wickets and the Pakistanis requiring 160 runs on the final day to win the match at the Marrara Oval in Darwin yesterday.

The Pakistan Shaheens reached 136-4 at stumps on Day three, chasing 296, with Haseebullah Khan and Tayyab Tahir batting on 44 and four respectively.

BCB HP, who had resumed the day’s play on 84-3, managed to reach 216 in their second innings before running out of wickets.

Overnight batters skipper Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Aich Mollah struck 65 and 58 respectively for HP while Pakistan Shaheens pacer Mohammad Ali claimed 6-63.

Pakistan Shaheens started their reply strongly, courtesy of skipper Sahibzada Farhan hitting a 70-ball 68 during a 96-run opening stand with Haseebullah.

Joy stopped Sahibzada’s onslaught, sending him back in the 22nd over before HP gained a stronger foothold with pacer Rejaur Rahman Raja, who bagged three wickets in the first innings, getting two crucial wickets in successive overs.

Hasan Murad then got HP their fourth scalp before stumps were called.

Previously, the HP Unit had posted 258 in their first innings and bowled out Pakistan Shaheens for 179 to earn a 79-run lead.

# McBrine shines as Ireland beat Zimbabwe

AFP, Belfast

Andy McBrine starred with both bat and ball as Ireland beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in a one-off Test in Belfast on Sunday after recovering from a dramatic top-order collapse.

Set just 158 to win in the shadow of Stormont Castle, Ireland had slumped to 33-5 at the close of Saturday’s third day, with Zimbabwe left-arm quick Richard Ngarava doing the bulk of the damage in a sensational burst of 4-12 in four overs.

But in the first Test to be played in Northern Ireland, the home side lost just one more wicket on Sunday.

**Ireland’s four-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the one-off Test in Belfast was their first home win in the format.**

Lorcan Tucker (56) and McBrine, who completed a fine all-round match to be 55 not out, turned the tide after coming together when Ireland had collapsed to 21-5.

They added 96 for the sixth wicket before Tucker chopped on from Blessing Muzarabani with Ireland still 41 runs short of victory.

Mark Adair, however, who was born in nearby Hollywood, settled quickly making 24 not out and hitting the winning boundary as Ireland finished on 158-6 to triumph with more than a day to spare.

Off-spinner McBrine was named player of the match after the 31-year-old took a combined 7-75 across Zimbabwe’s two innings.

“McBrine is the guy you want to put in your cricket bag and take everywhere. Exceptionally skillful and deserved the award today,” said Ireland captain Andy Balbirnie.

Victory gave Ireland, who lost their opening seven Tests, a first home win in the format and back-to-back successes after they had beaten Afghanistan for their Test first win in March.

“We did believe last night,” said Balbirnie. “We had our two best batters out (there). That partnership was special. It was fitting for Mark, hometown boy, to get us over the line.”

Stormont became the second Test venue in Ireland after Malahide and the 123rd in the history of Test cricket.

“Probably didn’t think growing up that there’d be a Test here,” said McBrine, who comes from the Northern Ireland village of Donemana.

“We tried to be as positive as we can.”

McBrine said he had been “working hard behind the scenes” on his bowling before paying tribute to Ireland’s quicks.

“It was not an easy wicket to bowl on but the way they rotated allowed me to take wickets as well.”

Zimbabwe captain Craig Ervine was left thinking of what might have been had they been able to continue on Saturday night when Ireland were on the ropes at 33-5.

“We’d have liked five, six more overs last night,” he said. “Our games against have Ireland have always been competitive.”



England pacer Mark Wood claimed five wickets in four overs -- three in a single over -- to skittle out West Indies for 175 in their second innings, making things easier for the batters as England had only 82 runs to chase down on the third day of the final Test in Edgbaston yesterday. England skipper Ben Stokes, who promoted himself to open the innings, then butchered the Windies bowling attack to lead England to a crushing 10-wicket win before tea and complete a 3-0 series whitewash with more than two days to spare. Stokes smashed an unbeaten 28-ball 57, getting to his fifty off just 24 balls -- fastest by any England batter in the format.

PHOTO: REUTERS







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# Nationwide crackdown, arrests go on

552 more held taking total number of arrestees to 8,914 in 11 days

**STAR REPORT**

At least 552 more people were arrested in the capital and elsewhere in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday as the nationwide crackdown against protesters and opposition parties continues.

They were arrested in cases filed over the recent violence across the country.

Some 8,914 people, including many BNP and Jamaat leaders, have been arrested in 594 cases in 46 districts, including Dhaka, over the last 11 days since July 18.

Of them, 6,150 people were held outside the capital.

So far, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has arrested 2,764 people in 229 cases filed with different police stations over violence, vandalism, and arson, said DMP sources.

Of them, 228 were arrested yesterday in 22 fresh cases, it added.

According to court documents, 95 people, including several BNP and Jamaat leaders, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka yesterday.

Between 6:00am Saturday and 6:00pm yesterday, police arrested 309 people in 34 districts.

Of them, 50 were arrested in Chattogram, 26 in Rangpur, 25 in Narayanganj, 24 in Pabna, 20 in Rajshahi,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Japan's Coco Yoshizawa celebrates winning the women's street skateboarding final during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at La Concorde in Paris yesterday. The 14-year-old led a trio of teens on the podium in front of a sellout crowd at the La Concorde venue. Her compatriot Liz Akama took silver, while Brazil's Rayssa Leal claimed bronze.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Stars turn out in droves as Biles dazzles

**AGENCIES**

Tom Cruise, Lady Gaga, John Legend, Ariana Grande, and Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour were among the celebrities packed into Bercy Arena on Sunday to witness the return of Simone Biles to the Olympic gymnastics stage for the qualifying round.

Biles, the most decorated gymnast in history, is back for her third Games after withdrawing from most of her events at the Tokyo Games in 2021 with mental health issues.

"It's awesome," Cruise told Reuters in the stands at the Arena.

"Great stories, great athletes. It's incredible what they do."

Legend and wife Chrissy Teigen said there was nowhere they would rather be.

"This was on our bucket list. We wanted to make sure we came to this event," he told Reuters.

"They represent the best

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Hasnatul's remand order scrapped

HC says govt can consider keeping him in parents' custody



**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday said the government can consider keeping Hasnatul Islam Faiyaz, 17, a first-year HSC student of Dhaka College, who was placed on a seven-day remand, in his parents' custody.

A Dhaka court on Saturday placed him on remand in a case filed with Jatrahari Police Station over clashes and vandalism.

The same court yesterday scrapped the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Mobile internet back without social media

Users get 5GB data for three days as compensation

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Mobile internet, used by about 14 crore people, resumed yesterday after more than ten days but popular social media platforms Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp and YouTube would be unavailable.

As compensation, subscribers would be given a 5GB data pack for three days, as per the decision taken at a meeting yesterday at the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission headquarters with the mobile operators.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT and telecom, presided over the meeting, where officials of different government agencies were present.

Asked when Facebook and YouTube will be back, Palak said: "Letters have been sent to the social media companies Facebook, YouTube and TikTok and they have been asked to respond to person on July 31."

In the last month, the government asked the platforms to take down fake news, propaganda, and rumours, he said at a press briefing after the meeting.

"But the number of pieces of content they have taken down and the number of platforms they have blocked are very meagre -- this is not acceptable to us. We have asked them if they want to use cyberspace in accordance with the laws and constitution of Bangladesh, as well as their community standards."

As many as 50 pages that support the Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Wider ME war fear grows after Golan strike

Tel Aviv vows to 'hit the enemy hard' after rocket from Lebanon kills 12 in the Israeli-occupied territory

**AGENCIES**

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant yesterday vowed to "hit the enemy hard" after rocket fire from Lebanon killed 12 young people in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights and again raised fears that the war in Gaza will spread.

Iran warned Israel any new military "adventures" in Lebanon could lead to "unforeseen consequences". Western powers, including France and Germany, condemned the attack and appealed for calm.

The European Union called for an independent probe into what happened.

Israel's army called it "the deadliest attack on Israeli civilians" since the October 7 attack that began the war in Gaza and triggered regular exchanges of fire across the Lebanese border.

Israel blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah movement for firing a Falaq-1 Iranian rocket but the Iran-backed group -- which has regularly targeted Israeli military positions -- said it had "no connection" to the incident.

It said, however, that it had fired one such

rocket on Saturday toward an Israeli military target in the Golan.

The rocket fire in Majdal Shams, whose population are Arabic-speaking Druze, prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to return early from the United States. Upon arrival he went immediately into a security cabinet meeting, his office said.

He said "Hezbollah will pay a heavy price" for the attack, "a price it has not paid before."

The Israeli foreign ministry said Hezbollah had "crossed all red lines".

Israel's military said it had hit Hezbollah targets "both deep inside Lebanese territory and in southern Lebanon".

An Israeli drone fired two missiles at Taraiyya village in eastern Lebanon destroying a hanger and a home without causing casualties, a Lebanese security source told AFP.

Hezbollah has said its cross-border fire is an act of support for Palestinian Islamists from Hamas who have been fighting Israel's military in Gaza since October 7.

- » Hezbollah movement denies involvement
- » Iran warns Israel against Lebanon 'adventures'
- » Israeli military hits targets 'deep inside Lebanese territory'
- » 66 more killed in Gaza

## PM to attend BIMSTEC summit in Thailand

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to visit Thailand to participate in the BIMSTEC summit on September 4, diplomatic sources said.

Bangladesh will be the next chair of the BIMSTEC -- the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation -- comprised of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The official and ministerial meetings of the group will take place from September 1-3. The summit will be attended by heads of the member states, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) remains largely inactive, India is more interested in regional cooperation through BIMSTEC, officials said.

Besides, the BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka is also working to sign at least four agreements including maritime transport cooperation during the summit, according to foreign ministry sources.

The maritime transport agreement would include every aspect of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## 4 of a family found dead in B'baria home

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria**

Police recovered the bodies of all four members of a family from their house in Nabinagar upazila of Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Sohag Mia, 33, his wife Jannat Akhter, 25, and their daughters Faria Akhter, 4, and Fahima Akhter, 2.

All four were found hanging inside the home, said Nabinagar Circle Additional Superintendent of Police Md Sirajul Islam.

"Police recovered the bodies from their house in Bijoypara area around 10:30am after being informed by locals. The exact cause of their deaths could not be ascertained immediately."

Describing the deaths as mysterious, he said police are trying to find the reason behind the incident.

The bodies were sent to Brahmanbaria General Hospital mortuary for autopsy, he added.



Congestion on Airport Road in the capital's Kakoli yesterday morning during the break in curfew. In the absence of metro services, the elevated expressway, and trains, some of the roads in the city are seeing additional load of traffic.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Concentrated fruit juice may cause diabetes in boys

**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

Drinking sugary beverages and concentrated fruit juices in childhood and adolescence may raise the risk of diabetes in boys, a new study has found.

The study of about 500 children in Massachusetts, United States, found that regular consumption of sugary drinks and concentrated fruit juices in childhood is tied to a higher risk of developing Type 2 diabetes among boys compared to girls.

These findings, presented at a recent American Heart Association conference, bolster evidence of a link between consumption of beverages with added sugar and the long-term risk of Type 2 diabetes in young people.

Healthcare professionals "should caution young patients and their parents about sugary drinks and fruit juices when discussing healthy eating habits", Soren Harnois-Leblanc, lead author of the study, said.

Two out of three children and adolescents in America consume at least one sugary drink like soda, lemonade or an energy drink every day.

Studies show that overconsuming sugary drinks can not only lead to weight gain and tooth decay but also raise the risk of developing heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes.

