



QUOTA PROTESTS All deaths unfortunate Says HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said the deaths in the violence over quota reform protests were unfortunate.

"These deaths are sad for all of us," the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon said during a hearing on a writ petition.

Lawyer Aneek R Haque presented newspaper reports on the death of six-year-old Ria on the roof of a house in Narayanganj. "When a life is lost, there are no sides. A six-year-old child."

Justice Mustafa, presiding judge of the HC bench, said, "We will not address emotional issues in this court. We are deeply ashamed."

The petition was filed by Supreme Court lawyers Aynunnahar Siddiqua and Manzur Al-Matin on Monday seeking HC orders for the immediate release of six coordinators of the quota reform protests

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With red cloths covering parts of their faces, teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday brought out a silent march to protest the torture and detentions of students and also to demand justice for those killed during the unrest centring the quota protests.

PHOTO: AKHLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Govt largely to blame for huge loss of lives

Says eminent citizens' platform, gives govt 24hrs for releasing quota protest organisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is largely responsible for the huge loss of lives during the quota reform protest, said eminent citizens yesterday.

The level of violence and attacks on peaceful protesters has shocked and outraged the people of Bangladesh and the world, they said at a press conference under the banner of Aggrieved Citizen Society at the Dhaka Reporters Unity. They said they were lost for words to condemn or protest such levels of brutal killings and violence.

The citizens also issued a 24-hour ultimatum for the unconditional release of the key organisers of the quota reform protest currently in the custody of the detective branch (DB) of police "for their security".

"Now, everyone is feeling insecure -- will [DB] provide safety to all by bringing them into their office?" said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

If the coordinators of the quota reform protest were not released unconditionally in the next 24 hours, tougher programmes will be announced, he said.

The citizens are concerned, shocked, and worried, he added.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, read out an 11-point demand.

It includes proper and transparent probes and accurate trials of the members of the police, Rab, Ansar, BGB, activists of Chhatra League, Jubo League and everyone who fired shots during the quota reform protests.

They also demanded an independent, acceptable and credible probe under high-positioned specialists of the UN into every killing, law enforcers' use of weapons, and use of force.

They demanded immediate release of the arrested students and suspension of all drives to arrest students.

All educational institutions must be reopened and the politics of arms and influence have to be stopped.

The citizens demanded the immediate disclosure of

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BUSINESS

S&P lowers Bangladesh rating

S&P Global has downgraded Bangladesh's long-term sovereign rating from BB- to B+ amid deadly protests over the quota-based hiring system for government jobs. The country is still at risk of failing to rebound from lingering economic pressures, it said.

STORY ON B1

Teacher-student demo in several univs

Many take to social media to express solidarity; protesters to bring out processions today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students at Jahangirnagar University and faculty members at Rajshahi University yesterday staged demonstrations, with red cloths covering parts of their faces, calling for an end to harassment, detention and torture of students.

They also demanded thorough investigation into the indiscriminate killings during the unrest over the quota reform movement.

In Khulna and Tangail districts, college students blocked intersections to press for the same demand.

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UN, EU call for thorough probe into the killings

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remains concerned by emerging reports of excessive use of force by security forces and credible evidence of human rights violations in Bangladesh during the quota reform protest, said his spokesperson.

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Joseph Borrell also expressed grave concern at the announcement of a "shoot-on-sight policy" and unlawful

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NARSINGDI JAILBREAK All 68 prison guards suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

All 68 prison guards have been suspended in connection with the July 19 attack on Narsingdi District Jail, which resulted in the escape of a total of 826 prisoners, including nine militants, and the looting of around 85 arms and 9,000 bullets from the jail's weapon's cache.

They were suspended on Monday, confirmed Tajwar Akram Sakapi Ibne Sazzad, additional deputy commissioner of Narsingdi, quoting an order of the home ministry's Security Services Division.

Earlier, Narsingdi Jail Superintendent Md Abul Kalam Azad and Jailer Md Kamrul Islam were suspended.

At least, at least 272 people have so far been arrested over the jailbreak incident, and five out of nine escaped militants have been apprehended.

On July 21, the district administration made announcements on loudspeakers asking the escaped inmates to surrender before the court.

In response, a total of 575 inmates have surrendered in the last 11 days till yesterday. On the other hand, 51 out of 85 looted arms and 1,091 rounds of looted bullets were recovered.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles a relative of a boy injured during the recent violence centring the quota reform protest. The PM yesterday visited several wards of the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital and enquired about the treatment of the wounded.

PHOTO: BSS

Teacher-student demo in several univs

FROM PAGE 1

On social media platforms, students, teachers, guardians and people of different ages and walks of life changed their profile pictures to solid red, expressing solidarity with the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement's programme.

Rejecting the government-announced nationwide mourning in remembrance of those killed in the recent unrest, the organisers on Monday urged people to cover their faces with red cloths and upload the photos on their social media.

The online protests went on despite restrictions on several websites, including Facebook. Many users bypassed these restrictions using VPNs (Virtual Private Network).

Under the banner of "Jahangirnagar Against Oppression", teachers of different departments held a silent march with their mouths covered with red cloths. Students joined the march, expressing solidarity.

The procession began at the university's Shahid Minar around 12:30pm.

Anwarullah Bhuiyan, a philosophy professor, said, "We can see the full design and implementation of misrule and a dictatorial mentality... When the students took to the streets with their logical demands, the state's forces attacked them. Now again, the government is arbitrarily arresting the students, jailing and torturing them."

Towhid Siam, a coordinator of JU student movement, said, "Our protests will continue until our demands are met. We now also demand the unconditional release of Arif Sohail, a coordinator of the JU movement."

At RU, over 200 teachers, under the banner of "RU Teachers Against Oppression", demonstrated with the same demands.

Their procession started from the Shaheed Intellectual Memorial at

11:30am and marched through the university roads before a rally at the university's main gate.

Physics Professor Saleh Hasan Naqib, speaking at the rally, said, "The government has failed to deal with the student movement. The students are still being harassed and tortured. The government has resorted to all kinds of dirty methods, including taking student leaders into DB custody and forcing them to give statements."

"We want an end to such torture and harassment. We want proper investigation into the indiscriminate killings, and fair justice."

Economics Professor Farid Uddin Khan said, "The government first directed Chhatra League to attack the students who had been demonstrating peacefully. Then, the state used the law enforcement agencies to suppress the students' movement and shoot them dead on the streets."

Marketing Professor Faridul Islam, Arabic Professor Ittikharul Alam Masud, and Finance Professor Amzad Hossain also spoke. The teachers announced they would hold a similar programme today at the same place and time.

In Khulna, hundreds of students demonstrated at the Shibbari intersection around 11:30am, protesting the police firing at quota protesters. Blocking the intersection for over three hours, they chanted "Shooting won't stop the movement" and "One point, one demand, step down Sheikh Hasina."

Many people joined the students in solidarity.

One of the protesters said, "Bullets bought with our fathers' tax money are being used against us. The police shot and killed students in the quota reform movement, we demand justice for these killings."

In Tangail, a group of quota reform protesters wearing red badges brought

a procession on the Registrypara Road around noon, but the march was halted by police near the Girls' School Intersection.

FRESH PROTESTS

Organisers of the quota reform movement yesterday announced a "March For Justice" programme at all educational institutions, court premises and major roads today to press home their nine-point demand.

The announcement was made in a press release, signed by Abdul Hannan Masud, a coordinator of the Anti-Discriminations Student Movement. Copies of the release were sent to media houses around 8:30pm.

Students and people are expected to join the programme around 12:30pm.

Their demands include an apology from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and resignations of Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, Law Minister Anisul Huq, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat, and State Minister for Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak.

Some other demands are: dismissal of police high-ups in the districts, including Dhaka, where students were killed by law enforcers; resignation of the vice chancellors and proctors of every university, including DU, Jagannath, JU, RU and CU, where peaceful protesters were attacked by law enforcers; immediate reopening of all educational institutions and halls, and lifting of the curfew and removal of the police, Rab, BGB, Swat and army personnel deployed across the country. (Our correspondents in Dhaka University, Savar, Tangail, Khulna, and a correspondent from Rajshahi contributed to this report.)

All deaths unfortunate

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from law enforcers' custody and stopping the use of bullets on protesters.

The bench held hearing on the petition for the second consecutive day yesterday amid chaos and commotion in the packed courtroom.

The court will hold another hearing today and issue an order.

Lawyers Sara Hossain and Aneek represented the petitioners while additional attorneys general SM Munir, Sk Md Morshed and Mohammad Mehedi Hassan Chowdhury the state.

Reading excerpts from the Police Regulations Bengal and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) about law enforcers' use of bullets, Aneek said if the police have to shoot, they should aim at legs. If someone is committing a robbery at night, law enforcers can shoot directly in self defence.

A loss for the nation should not only mean the damage to some buildings and structures, the loss of life is also a loss for the nation, the lawyer argued, adding that police used to spray hot water and pepper to suppress or disperse protests.

Justice Mustafa said teargas shells and rubber bullets can be used but before that warnings should be made through loudspeakers.

Lawyer Sara said six coordinators of the quota reform protests are in custody.

No one can be detained illegally, she said. "No action can be taken beyond legal capacity. It is being said that their family members were able

to meet them. But there is no way to know who they [the coordinators] want to meet."

The court said detentions should be made in a legal process.

"Produce them before the court," the bench added.

Additional Attorney General Munir said law enforcers did not use excessive force and they abided by the Police Regulations Bengal.

The petitioners must prove whether the law enforcers used excessive force, he said, adding that the petitioners' lawyers had omitted that the family members of six organisers had met them and said they were well.

Justice Mustafa said, "We ourselves have said that the family members met them."

The court said the person, who was victimised, should talk about it.

SM Munir said the writ petition was unacceptable because it lacked grounds and it was devoid of facts.

Additional Attorney General Mehedi said the writ petitioners and their lawyers came to the court to protect personal interests.

"They formed a mass inquiry commission. All of those who have come here are members of this commission. They have an ulterior motive. The chairman of the commission is the father [Justice MA Matin, a retired judge of the Appellate Division] of one of the petitioners [Manzur-Al-Matin]," he said.

Citing a UN charter on the principles on the use of forces and firearms by the law enforcement,

of which Bangladesh is a signatory, he said law enforcers can open fire during a serious offence to lower the damage and save lives.

Lawyer Mehedi said at least three policemen were killed and around 1,200 others were injured.

Fifty-two police personnel were rescued by helicopters from the miscreants, he said, adding that the police have the right to self defence.

Additional Attorney General Morshed said none of the six coordinators was detained or arrested. Rather, they are kept at the detective branch office for their security. Therefore, the question of bringing them before a court within 24 hours cannot arise.

The right to assembly and gathering is subject to some reasonable restrictions which cannot be challenged in the court, he said.

Sk Morshed said Justice MA Matin, who had issued restrictions on holding gatherings in the Supreme Court premises in 2005, has been chairman of the mass probe commission, although the government has constituted a judicial commission to conduct inquiry into the incidents of deaths in violence and the judicial commission has been working to this effect.

The writ petition is not acceptable, he added.

Senior lawyers Md Nurul Islam Sujon, Azahar Ullah Bhuiyan and Shah Monjurul Hoque told the court that the writ petition had been filed from a misconceived idea, and therefore it should be rejected.

Govt largely to blame for huge loss of lives

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the actual number and identities of the deceased, injured, and affected individuals.

The government must provide adequate compensation to the families of the deceased, take full responsibility for the medical treatment of the injured, and ensure the rehabilitation of those who have lost their eyes and limbs.

"The sick mentality of suppressing protests by firing must be stopped. The government must move away from the culture of intimidation," she said.

They also demanded curfew and army withdrawal, stoppage of block raids, mass arrests, student-parent harassment, and "helicopter patrolling".

The wife and mother of Nahid Islam, a key organiser of the quota reform protest and now in DB custody, was supposed to join the press conference but they backed out at the last minute, said Shireen Huq, a rights activist.

"The quota reform protesters were undergoing treatment and were taken by intelligence. Were they

unsafe at the hospital and have they ever said they were not safe there?" she added.

The first attack on freedom of speech came when the students uttered slogans, said Gitiara Nasreen, a professor at the DU Department of Mass Communication and Journalism.

"It is unfortunate that most of the teachers, proctors and vice-chancellors did not come forward to save the students... We get paid because of the students. Students will now distrust teachers because they didn't protect them," she added.

ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Haque said that they did not participate in the Liberation War to see such a Bangladesh.

"Bullets bought with the taxpayers' money were being fired at the students. We have gone past the moment of saying enough is enough," he added.

Students and youths are being harassed in the name of block raids, said Asif Nazrul, a professor of law at Dhaka University.

"Have the government declared war on the youths and students? Is it

the Gaza Strip? Is it Kashmir?"

He said, "I don't see the government cry for those killed. But I see them crying for structures [that were vandalised]. Everyone knows the truth, but the police FIR is saying that Abu Sayed [slain student of Begum Rokeya University] died when a chunk of brick was thrown. Are you kidding us?"

There is no evidence of who carried out the atrocities and still thousands of unrelated people are being arrested, Nazrul added.

When the students were attacked in front of the vice-chancellor's house, he was on the second floor, said Mirza Taslima Sultana, a professor of anthropology at Jahangirnagar University.

"But he did not open the gate for the students," she said, adding that outsiders were brought in to carry out attacks on the students.

Samina Lutfha, an associate professor at Dhaka University's sociology department, said she feels guilty as they have failed to save the lives of students.

"History will not forgive us if we don't stand beside the students during this trying times," she said.

UN, EU call for thorough probe

FROM PAGE 1

killings perpetrated in recent days by the authorities in Bangladesh.

They demanded a thorough investigation into the killings and holding accountable those responsible.

The government put the death toll in the violence at 150.

But according to The Daily Star's count, at least 163 people were killed.

The 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.

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

Besides, law enforcers have arrested over 10,000 people in connection with the violence and destruction of properties.

During a regular briefing in New York on Monday, UN secretary-general's Spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said Guterres reiterated his call for all acts of violence to be investigated promptly, transparently, and impartially, and for those responsible to be held to account.

The secretary-general remains deeply concerned about the situation in Bangladesh and notes reports of

the resumption of student protests and reiterates his call for calm and restraint.

"The secretary-general is concerned about reported mass arrests of thousands of young people and political opposition in connection with the current student movement. He underscores the importance of due process and the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

"We continue to raise our concerns about the situation in the country with relevant authorities, both in the capital, Dhaka, and here in New York, and we count on Bangladesh to respect and uphold human rights, including as a top troop contributing country to United Nations peacekeeping missions."

He said the UN took note of the statements by Bangladesh authorities that UN-marked vehicles are no longer being deployed within Bangladesh.

Following a UN statement on the use of UN-marked vehicles during the violence in Bangladesh, Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud had said such vehicles were mistakenly used. Later, the UN marks were erased. Guterres said the equipment marked with UN insignia is used only when peacekeepers perform mandated tasks during peacekeeping operations.

Meanwhile, EU High Representative Joseph Borrell in a statement yesterday said that in the margins of the ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Laos on July

27, he conveyed to the representative of Bangladesh and former foreign minister AK Abdul Momen his grave concern at the announcement of a "shoot-on-sight policy" and unlawful killings perpetrated in recent days by the authorities in Bangladesh.

"I'm also deeply concerned by the killings of law enforcement officers, violence, torture, mass arrests, and damage to property that have taken place."

He said these acts must be thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice.

"There must be full accountability for the numerous instances of use of excessive and lethal force by the law enforcement authorities against protesters and others, including journalists and young children. The thousands arrested must receive due process."

"We will follow closely the actions of the authorities in the context of this crisis and ... expect all human rights to be fully respected," Borrell said.

The EU is Bangladesh's largest export destination, with about \$30 billion a year. It has been providing duty-free access to Bangladesh as an LDC. However, as the country graduates from LDC bracket by 2026, the duty-free facility will not be abolished.

The country can enjoy similar privileges after 2026 under another scheme called GSP Plus, which will, however, require conditions on human rights, labour rights, democracy, and environment.

Russia stages naval drills involving most of its fleet

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday began large-scale military drills involving every part of its navy not engaged in the Ukraine offensive, the defence ministry said.

Some 300 vessels, including submarines, and more than 20,000 personnel will be involved in the exercises, which are being staged in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, as well as the Baltic and Caspian Seas.

The drills will involve "more than 300 combat exercises with the practical use

of combat weapons", the ministry said.

"The main purposes of the exercises is to test the actions of the navy's military command at all levels, as well as the readiness of the ships' crews, naval aviation units and naval coastal troops," it continued.

Units from four of Russia's five navy divisions – the Northern, Pacific and Baltic fleets, and the Caspian Flotilla – will take part, each staging training exercises in its own "operational zones".

Russia's Black Sea Fleet, the fifth division, is engaged in the offensive

on Ukraine, where it has sustained significant losses over more than two years of combat.

Ukraine claims to have damaged or destroyed a third of Russia's fleet in the Black Sea – a notable military success for Kyiv as its troops struggle to hold ground on land.

Satellite images show Moscow has been forced to move most of Black Sea fleet away from its historic naval base at Sevastopol, on the annexed Crimean peninsula, to Novorossiysk, further east on the Russian mainland.

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Will take foreign tech support for judicial probe

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will seek foreign technical assistance for the judicial probe committee investigating the deaths centring the quota protests, to ensure a thorough and standard inquiry.

"We will take foreign technical assistance for the judicial inquiry committee to make it appropriate and standard," she said.

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GUARDIANS BESIDE CHILDREN. Holding a placard that says "Why did you kill my children?", a guardian leaves the premises of Dhaka Medical College yesterday after law enforcers barred them from holding a sit-in there.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Guardians barred from staging sit- in at DMC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police barred a group of guardians from holding a sit-in under the banner of "Santaner Pashe Obhivhabok (Guardians beside children)" in front of Dhaka Medical College yesterday.

They announced the programme at the main entrance of DMC, demanding answers for the deaths of their children in clashes centring the quota reform protests.

Shima Dutta, a guardian, said they wanted to hold a silent sit-in to protest the killings of their children.

"We requested the police to permit us to hold the sit-in for just 10 minutes. But they refused. We have the right to stand anywhere to express ourselves. The constitution guarantees this," Shima told the media.

Md Aktarul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Ramna zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that they were not allowing the demonstration because the guardians had not obtained permission from the DMP.

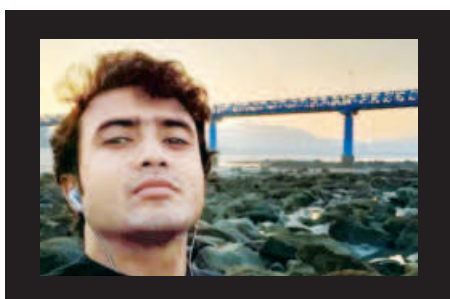
"Without permission, we cannot allow them to hold their programme here," he added.

Later, they visited injured students undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The students suffered injuries in recent clashes with law enforcement agencies and pro-government groups during the protests.

We requested the police to permit us to hold the sit-in for just 10 minutes. But they refused. We have the right to stand anywhere to express ourselves.

More than just NUMBERS

A 28-year-old father shot and killed in Dhaka. A 35-year-old farmer died from bullet wounds in Mymensingh. A 25-year-old son fatally shot in Cox's Bazar. At least 162 lives (the actual number could be much higher) were lost when law enforcers opened fire on protesters. But these victims are not just statistics; they were children, husbands, and friends. In this report, we try to know the stories of three such names among these tragic numbers.



Why isn't father calling me?

4-year-old daughter of Priyo, who was shot dead on July 19, keeps asking

MD ABBAS

On July 19, journalist Tahir Zaman Priyo, 28, was fatally shot in the head as law enforcers opened fire to disperse quota reform protesters in the capital's Science Lab area.

Priyo's friends, present at the protest, saw him fall as the shots rang out.

Despite trying to reach him several times, they were forced back by the police gunfire. Later, they watched as officers retrieved Priyo's body and took it away.

As the situation calmed, Priyo's friends searched from one police station to another for Priyo's body.

Their search met deadends as no station provided information about Priyo's whereabouts.

The next day, a lead took them to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College.

After obtaining the necessary police clearance, they entered the morgue, bracing for the worst. Their worst fears were realised as they found Priyo's body lying in the morgue among other victims.

THE CHILD WHO LOST HER FATHER Priyo left behind his four-year-old daughter Sadira Zaman.

The bond between Sadira and Priyo was a cherished one, built through nightly video calls that kept them connected despite the physical distance.

"Why isn't my father calling me," she

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Saiful's daughter still waits for his return

Tragedy strikes family twice as his grief-stricken grandfather dies from stroke

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

For the last couple of days, two year-old Sayma Akter holds a mango in her hand, hoping her father will return home so that they can share their favourite fruit together.

But her father, Md Saiful Islam, 35, will never return home. He was killed after a bullet pierced through him, when law enforcers opened fire at Amuakanda Bazar area in Phulpur municipality of Mymensingh on July 20.

However, this would not be the only death in their family that week.

"Hearing the news of Saiful's death, my grandfather Aftab Uddin, 80, cried out and suffered a stroke from the sorrow. He died

We miss him every day

Says mother of 25-year-old Ahsan who died from bullet wounds

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Hasina Begum has become numb since her eldest son, Ahsan Habib, 25, died after being shot in the neck during a clash centring the quota reform protest on July 18.

"Who will I blame for the death of my child? I am leaving it up to the Almighty to deliver justice," she kept on saying.

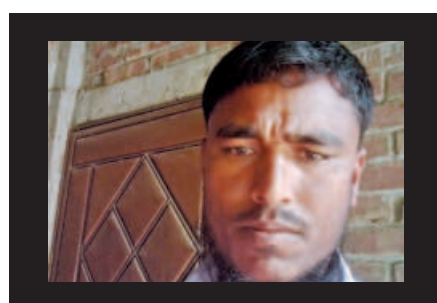
"Not a day goes by that we don't think of him... We miss him every day," Hasina added.

Ahsan used to work as an office assistant at a cable service centre in Cox's Bazar town to support his family.

Besides studying in pass course at Chakaria Degree College with an aim to improve his life and support his family members better.

His father, Helal Uddin, a vegetable seller and resident of Fasiakhali village

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on July 23, three days after Saiful," said Halizul Islam, Saiful's younger brother.

Meanwhile, Sayma still firmly believes her father will return home with more mangoes.

David Hasanat sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent garment exporter KM Rezaul Hasanat David, chairman and CEO of Viyellatex Group, to jail on completion of his five-day remand in a case filed over vandalising and setting Setu Bhaban on fire on July 18.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifur Rahman passed the order after Shikder Mohitul Alam, an inspector of the Detective Branch of Police and also the investigation officer of the case, produced him before the court in the case.

David was accused of financing the perpetrators.

The court also directed the jail authorities to provide

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Curfew relaxed from 7am to 8pm for four days

Normal office hours resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to relax the ongoing curfew for 13 hours for four days starting today.

The curfew will remain in force from 8:00pm to 7:00am till Saturday.

The decision will be effective for four districts -- Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, and Narsingdi. In other districts, the local administration will decide on the curfew.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan made the disclosure yesterday around 6:45pm after a special meeting at the Secretariat.

At the same time, all public and private offices will run their operations as per their normal schedule -- 9:00am to 5:00pm -- from today.

The Ministry of Public Administration sent an SMS to the media in this regard yesterday.

From July 28, public and private offices were operating for six hours, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

At the special meeting, the home minister said the violence did not stop even after accepting all the demands of the students during the quota movement.

"So, we were forced to impose a curfew. We discussed the peace and law-and-order situation across the country.

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No journo should be in danger for doing their job

Says IPI, calls for probe into killings of 3 journos

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The International Press Institute (IPI) global network has called for a swift investigation into the deaths of three journalists, who were killed while covering the recent protests in Bangladesh, and ensuring a safe working environment for media.

Besides, around 30 journalists have sustained injuries while covering the protests demanding reforms to the quota system in government jobs, said IPI in a statement on Monday.

Hasan Mehedi, a journalist at Dhaka Times, was killed while covering clashes between protesters and police on July 18 in Dhaka. On the same day, Md Shakil Hossain, a correspondent for Daily Bhorer Awaj, was killed in Gazipur city, while on July 19, Abu Taher Md Turab, a correspondent for Daily Naya Diganta, was shot in Sylhet while covering the violent clashes.

"IPI strongly condemns the killings of Hasan Mehedi, Md Shakil Hossain, and Abu Taher Md Turab and calls for a thorough investigation into the circumstances of their deaths," said Amy Brouillette, director of advocacy at IPI. "No journalist should be in danger for doing their job."

"We once again renew our call on the government to take action to improve press freedom in the country and hold

those responsible for crimes against journalists accountable," she also said.

Regarding injured journalists, some of them were caught up in the clashes, while others were attacked by the police or by the counter protesters supporting BCL, according to Reporters Without Borders.

An IPI monitoring report from October

An IPI monitoring report from October 2022 to March 2023 indicates that journalists in Bangladesh operate in a hostile and difficult environment even when protests are not occurring.

2022 to March 2023 indicates that journalists in Bangladesh operate in a hostile and difficult environment even when protests are not occurring.

They often face physical attacks, threats, and legal harassment, as well as censorship and surveillance.

In May 2023, IPI published an open letter calling on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, expressing concerns about the state of media freedom in Bangladesh and demanding that the government take steps to protect press freedom.

Curfew

FROM PAGE 3
The curfew will be relaxed from 7:00am to 8:00pm from Wednesday to Saturday. Besides, the education minister will decide when the educational institutions will open. Considering the technical issues, the state minister for ICT will decide when the internet will be fully restored," he said.
The nearly three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting, attended by the seven ministers and state ministers, started around 3:20pm.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway (BR) will resume operations of passenger trains on a limited scale from tomorrow, around two weeks after the service was suspended.
Some local, mail and commuter trains will be operated on the short-distance routes during the break of the ongoing curfew, Railways Minister Zillul Hakim said yesterday.
However, no decision regarding the intercity train service was taken, he told reporters after a meeting with the officials of his ministry and railway at Rail Bhaban.

PRAYER TIMING
JULY 31

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

Business picks up for boat makers

SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

The century-old Bhanga Boat Market in Faridpur's Bhanga municipality is going through a busy time amid rise in demand for boats in monsoon.
Every year since the British era, the famed market opens twice a week on Mondays and Fridays between June and September, in Chiladharchar area on the bank of Kumar river near Dhaka-Barishal Highway.
Hundreds of boat makers, sellers and buyers from Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj and other neighbouring districts gather at the market to buy and sell boats for communication in riverine areas of the country's southern region, said Hafizul Mia, a leaseholder of the market.
Visiting the boat market recently, this correspondent saw at least 200 boats of different sizes were on sale.
Many people came to the market as visitors alongside buyers and sellers who were engaged in bargaining.
"I have made 30 boats with help of an assistant in last one month. Today, I brought three boats to this market, and sold two of those at Tk 5,000 each," said Goutam Mandol, 50, a boat-maker from Brahmapara village under Bhanga upazila.
Babul Mandol, 42, another boat-maker from the same area,



said their boats are made from Raintree and Chambal wood at a cost of around Tk 4,000-4,200 each.
Jagadish Mandol, 69, of Azimnagar area, said, "I have been selling boats in this boat market for last 45 years. Even though the demand for boats is no longer like it was before, I continued to remain engaged in my ancestral

profession."
Ratan Sheikh, 37, of Dangarpara village under Bhanga upazila, came to the market to buy a boat. "I am a jute cultivator. I needed a boat to transport my jute from the cropland, and bought one for Tk 6,000," he said.
Amir Khan, 50, a boat trader in the market, said he purchases

boats from Barishal and sells those in the market for Tk 5,500-7,500 each. He makes a profit of Tk 300-500 from each boat.
"The boat market becomes busy during monsoon, but not as much as it used to be in its heyday. Once I could sell 15-20 boats on a single day, but now it is tough to sell even half the number," he added.

BANNING JAMAAT-SHIBIR Govt trying to distract people Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is bringing the issue of banning Jamaat-Shibir to distract people from the current situation, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.
"Why did the government not ban Jamaat before? Why are they taking the decision now after so many years," he asked.
He said this in response to journalists' questions at a press conference yesterday afternoon at the BNP Chairperson's office in Gulshan.
"The government creates such issues to divert attention of people," he added.
Fakhrul said, "BNP believes in multi-party democracy. It is the responsibility of the people to decide whose politics they will accept and whose they won't. For this, a free, fair, and acceptable election is needed."
Referring to the ban on the Communist Party during Pakistan era, Fakhrul said, "Authoritarian regimes are the ones that resort to such decisions; they feel compelled to make such moves."
In response to a journalist's question about BNP's stance as an ally regarding the ban on Jamaat, Fakhrul stated, "This issue is not our concern; it is the government's decision."

Nirmul Committee and Gonojagoron Mancha welcome the decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Gonojagoron Mancha have welcomed the government's move to ban Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir.
The Nirmul Committee, following a joint meeting with advisory councils and central committee members, led by Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, yesterday said they welcomed the move, although the government has delayed in making the decision.
They urged for these groups to be recognised as war criminal organisations through trials by the International Crimes Tribunal.
In a press release, they also called for a commission, including a Supreme Court judge, to investigate Jamaat and its affiliate parties for killing, torturing, and creating anarchy.
The committee emphasised the need to probe the financial, social, and cultural institutions controlled by war criminals and Jamaat-Shibir.
Gonojagoron Mancha similarly welcomed the government's decision.
"We have learned from media sources that the 14-party alliance unanimously decided to ban the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir on July 29," said Imran H Sarkar, the platform's spokesperson.
"Banning Jamaat Shibir's politics was one of the demands of Gonojagoron Mancha, which started on February 5, 2013," Sarkar added.

Abba will come

FROM PAGE 3
"I cannot bear the pain when Sayma says, 'abba ashbe, aam niye' (father will return with mangoes)," said Rahima Akter, Saiful's widow.
A father of three children, Saiful worked as a sharecropper to support his five-member family.
Hailing from the remote Chak Dhakirkanda village in Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila, he was unaware of the unrest gripping the country at the time.
On the day, Saiful along with his elder brother Shahidul Islam went to Amuakanda Bazar to sell their paddy.
After selling their crops, they sensed a commotion near the Amuakanda

Bridge area. Before he could even figure out what was happening, Saiful was shot on the right side of his forehead.
Saiful was taken to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex, but doctors referred him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. On the way to the hospital, Saiful died, said Shahidul Islam.
Saiful was buried at their family graveyard.
"My children have lost their father. Who will take the responsibility of my three children?" asked Rahima, weeping.
"My brother has no connection with politics or the protest. Yet, he died by the bullets of police," said Hafizul.

We miss him

FROM PAGE 3
"On July 18, a clash ensued in the evening between police and ruling Awami League activists on one side and protesters demanding quota reform on the other, near Ahsan's office in Cox's Bazar town," said his uncle Masud Siddique.
"At around 7:00pm, after hearing gunshots, Ahsan came out of his room in the office to an open space on the second floor of the building, when a bullet hit him in the neck. He was taken to Cox's Bazar General Hospital from where someone informed me over the phone," he added.
"I immediately went to the hospital, where doctors advised us to take him

to Chattogram Medical College Hospital since his condition was critical. We hired an ambulance and were on the way to the hospital when he passed away around 1:00am," Masud said.
"It was a terrible blow to the family. Ahsan was not involved in any political or criminal activity. He was working hard, alongside continuing his studies, to support his family. His parents have become shell-shocked since they came to know of Ahsan's untimely demise," he added.
Contacted, Md Ziaur Rahman, deputy manager of BRB Cables in Cox's Bazar where Ahsan worked, said Ahsan was an office assistant of their organisation.

David Hasanat

FROM PAGE 3
him with proper treatment as per the jail code after his lawyer submitted an application in this regard.
On July 25, another Dhaka court placed David on a five-day remand in the case.
In the forwarding report, the IO said David gave important information about the incident, which is being verified. The IO appealed to the court to confine him to jail until the investigation is completed.
David started his garment business in 1996 and over the last three decades, he diversified his business empire to power generation, tea estate, educational institution, agriculture, engineering and banking sector.

Viyellatex Group's garment section is known for its green garment initiative with the reuse of steam heat, reuse of water, harvesting the rainwater and planting trees for compensation to the carbon emission.
The group's export is more than \$400 million apart from its local business conglomerate. According to the Viyellatex website, his company employs over 300 management staff and over 15,000 workers.
A relative of David, requesting anonymity, said they do not know exactly why he has been arrested as they think he was not involved with any such activities.

Waste being dumped near KU's main

FROM PAGE 5
Like Munna, 11 others also collect wastes from around 2,500 families in the locality.
Ashiq, former chairman of the local Jalma union parishad, said, "We do not have any dumping ground or STS (Secondary Transfer Station) in the area. So, local collectors dump

those here. Shopkeepers of Gallamari kitchen market also do the same."
"We charge Tk 100 from each house for the salary of waste collectors and other maintenance. However, the city corporation should collect the wastes from the spot regularly," he added.
Sadhon Chandran Swarnokar, assistant professor of KU's

environmental science department, stressed that such unchecked waste dumping adversely impacts the environment in numerous ways, including polluting soil and air, and potentially contaminating any nearby water sources.
"KCC must develop a well-managed waste management policy," he added.

Anwarul Kadir, a civil society member and educationist, echoed him.
Md Anisur Rahman, chief conservancy officer of KCC, said, "The dumping spot is located outside the city corporation area. However, we still collect wastes from there regularly. The local union parishad should construct a STS to solve the issue."

Will take

FROM PAGE 3
The prime minister made these remarks while German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Tröster visited her at Gono Bhaban.
PM's Press Secretary M Nayeemul Islam Khan briefed reporters.
The government has formed a judicial probe committee, headed by a High Court justice.
The envoy said Germany will stay beside Bangladesh.

Invitation to submit proposals for two Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-2024-9191852: To provide technical support to SBC capacity building strategy implementation-Phase-1.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to supplybangladesh@unicef.org

The pre-bid meeting schedule and bid submissions deadlines are mentioned in the respective bid document.

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org/bangladesh

unicef for every child

Why isn't father

FROM PAGE 3
keeps asking her grandmother since July 19.
This question has left Priyo's mother, Shamsi Ara Zaman, grappling with an answer she could not bring herself to give.
"What should I tell this little child?" she asked.
Priyo and his wife had got divorced early, and Sadira lived with her father until he moved to Dhaka for work.
Since then, she has been staying with Priyo's mother in Rangpur.
When Priyo's body was brought home, Sadira asked visitors not to disturb him, saying, "Baba ghumacche, tomra disturb koro na (My father is sleeping, do not disturb him)."
The house was filled with mourners, a crowd that puzzled Sadira.
She asked her grandmother why so many people had gathered at their home.
UNFULFILLED DREAM
According to his mother,

Priyo had a passion for cinematography and aspired to be a movie director. After passing the HSC examination, he moved to Dhaka to pursue his dream, enrolling at Pathshala South Asian Media Institute instead of university.
Priyo worked as a journalist for the online news portal thereport. live and was about to join another portal.
He actively participated in 2013 protests against war criminals, 2018 quota reform and road safety movements, said his mother.
During the recent clashes, Priyo's mother asked him not to participate due to the danger, but he insisted, saying, "This is a just movement, and I have the responsibility to join it."
Priyo's uncle, Alamgir Kabir, said Priyo had immense courage, reminiscent of his grandfather, a hero of the Language Movement.

McGill UNIVERSITY

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.ugc.gov.bd

UGC-McGill Ph.D Fellowship Program

University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh and McGill University, Canada joint Ph.D Fellowship Program (UGC-McGill Ph.D Fellowship Program) has been announced. Applications were invited on 23 May 2024 from the interested public universities' faculties of Bangladesh. **Application process must be completed before 14th August, 2024 (Canada standard time and date).** Details of the necessary information are available at this website www.ugc.gov.bd (Notice Board or Scholarship/Fellowship Box). Applicants must collect all the information from the website by their own responsibilities. No personal communication will be made with the applicants.

N.B: UGC, Bangladesh & McGill university, Canada preserve the rights to take any decision regarding UGC-McGill joint Ph.D Fellowship and that will be considered as the final decision.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman
Secretary, UGC

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Address: 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka
Phone: 02-9561674, 02-9514046
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E-mail: dgmeed@agrانبانک.org

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
Agrani Bank PLC.
Establishment and Engineering Division

Amendment Notice

No.: E&ED/ENGG./MECHA-2/161/2024 Date: 28/07/2024

This is to inform all concern that the notice for invitation of tender for supply and installation of Air Cooler published in newspaper and website has been amended as follows:

Sl. No.	Ref. No. & Date	Name of Work	Field Name	Previous Closing & Opening Date-Time	New Closing & Opening Date-Time
01	IFT No.: E&ED/ENGG./MECHA-2/130/2024, Date: 09/07/2024 Amendment Notice No.: E&ED/ENGG./MECHA-2/157/2024, Date: 24/07/2024	Supply & Installation of Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) Type Air Cooler for Agrani Bank PLC., Laldighi East Corporate Branch, Chattogram.	Last Selling Date Closing Date Opening Date	28/07/2024 From 10:00am to 6:00pm 29/07/2024 At 3:00 pm 29/07/2024 At 3:15 pm	04/08/2024 During Office Time 05/08/2024 At 3:00 pm 05/08/2024 At 3:15 pm
02	IFT No.: E&ED/ENGG./MECHA-2/148/2024, Date: 15/07/2024 Amendment Notice No.: E&ED/ENGG./MECHA-2/157/2024, Date: 24/07/2024	Supply & Installation of 12 (Twelve) Air Coolers for Agrani Bank PLC., Bangabandhu Avenue Corporate Branch, Dhaka and Shaikh Mujib Road Branch, Chattogram.	Last Selling Date Closing Date Opening Date	04/08/2024 During Office Time 05/08/2024 At 3:00 pm 05/08/2024 At 3:15 pm	11/08/2024 During Office Time 12/08/2024 At 3:00 pm 12/08/2024 At 3:15 pm

All other terms and conditions of above mentioned IFT will remain unchanged and this amendment notice will be also a part of the tender document.

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(Md. Abdur Rahman)
Deputy General Manager

Why did they shoot my boy?

Asks mother of Ziaul, 20, who sustained bullet wound

SIFAYET ULLAH, City

"If my son had committed any crime, they (police) could have arrested him, but why did they shoot my boy?" said Khorsheda Begum while sitting beside her son Ziaul Hoque, 20, on his bed at the orthopedic ward of Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Ziaul had sustained a bullet wound in his right leg while going to his brother's house in the port city's Bahaddarhat area during a clash involving law enforcers, Chhatra League activists, and protesters demanding reform to quota system in government jobs, on July 18.

The youth from Chakaria of Cox's Bazar, who works in a factory in the port city besides studying at Chittagong College, is now groaning with pain in his leg and in risk of becoming crippled for the rest of his life.

"The physicians removed the bullet surgically on Saturday, and told me that the condition of my son's leg isn't good. I am worried about his future," she added.

In the same ward, Yeash Sharif, 17, a college student, was also seen being treated. He was shot in his leg by unidentified people during a clash in Bahaddarhat area on July 18.



Just around a month back, Yeash's mother Ruby Akter passed away after suffering from several ailments. His father, Aziz Khan, who has been attending his son at the hospital, was found sleeping on the hospital floor.

"I did not approve of him joining the protest, but he did so nonetheless. My sons are the lone reason why I live," Aziz said later.

A total of six people died and five others are being treated at CMCH after being wounded in clashes at different areas in port city since July 16, said Alauddin Talukder, sub-inspector of Chattogram district police attached to the hospital.

"We are providing all facilities to those injured in the clashes as per instruction of the health directorate," said Brigadier General Taslim Uddin, director of CMCH.



Heaps of trash and food waste, collected from various areas, are dumped right next to the entrance of Khulna University, creating not only hindrance for students but also commuters.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Waste being dumped near KU's main entrance

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

In the vicinity of the main entrance of Khulna University, merely 200 metres from the four-lane Sher-e-Bangla Road, an important thoroughfare in Khulna stretching from Zero Point to Moilapota intersection, awaits an abominable sight -- a waste dumping ground.

According to locals, some of the neighbouring areas, including Mohammad Nagar, Sachibunia, Hanna Sarak, Zero Point, and Hall Road, fall outside the jurisdiction of Khulna City Corporation.

Over the past few years, household wastes from these areas, as well as wastes from the city's largest kitchen market located in Mohammad Nagar, have been collected by local waste collectors.

They then discard those at the spot near the KU entrance.

Later, KCC collects the wastes from the spot once in a while and dumps those in Thikraband area.

Visiting the spot recently, this correspondent observed that around a 200-metre stretch along the Sher-e-Bangla road in front of KU campus was full of waste, which got mixed with rainwater and spilled all over the place. Pedestrians and commuters were seen passing while covering their noses and holding their breath.

A dormitory for KU's male students is located just 40 metres from the spot, while the Sheikh Russel Children's Training and Rehabilitation Centre lies barely 20 metres away. Besides, an office of additional project director of

Sustainable Marine Fisheries Project is just a yard away from the spot.

Abu Bakar, a local filling station staffer, informed that KCC did not collect wastes from the spot recently.

Addullah Al Mamun, a second-year student of KU's English department, said, "It is just unimaginable that a waste dumping spot can be found near the main entrance of a university. We cannot walk along the newly constructed footpath due to bad odour."

Md Munna Sheikh, a waste collector, said, "I collect wastes from 150 houses and dump it on the spot near Khulna University as per instructions of the waste management committee of Mohammad Nagar."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Crops worth Tk 63cr damaged in Sirajganj flood

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Crops worth around Tk 63 crore have been damaged in the ongoing flood in Sirajganj district, according to the Department of Agricultural Extension.

The damaged crops are of different varieties including paddy, jute, pulses, vegetables, banana, and green chilli, among others.

"The floodwaters inundated 6,525 hectares of cropland across the district's five upazilas since early this month. Even though water started receding since mid-July, crops on at least 3,185 hectares of land were completely damaged," said Babul Kumar Sutradhar, deputy director of DAE in Sirajganj.

"The estimated damage to crops is worth Tk 62.78 crore," he also said.

"I had cultivated pulses on 4 bighas of land, which was not ready for harvest when floodwaters inundated the cropland, and hence all of it was damaged," said Afsar Bhuiyan, a farmer of Bonir Char (shoal) under Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Mazeda Khatun of Kawakola village had cultivated jute on 10 bighas of land after taking a loan of Tk 20,000.

"All the jute saplings were damaged in the flood. I am now worried how to pay back the loan, and whether I will be able to cultivate the land again in Bangla 'Kartik' month after floodwaters recede completely," she said.

Many other farmers across the vast shoal areas in the district faced a similar plight.

Babul Kumar said they have listed the names of flood-affected farmers to provide them support including seeds in the upcoming crop season.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board, Jamuna's water has been receding since July 14 and is now flowing below danger level.

"A total of 336 sq km area across 34 upazilas in five upazilas of Sirajganj has been submerged under floodwaters. Many shoal areas are still inundated and may remain so longer," said Md Nazmul Hossain, sub-divisional engineer of BWDB in Sirajganj.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Despite ban, a makeshift three-wheeler plies the highway in Khulna. Such slow moving vehicles are often involved in accidents with cars and buses going at high speed. The photo was taken in Beel Pabla area yesterday.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sadar, Laxmipur.
www.lged.gov.bd

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
শ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No-46.02.5143.000.14.001.24-160

Date: 29/07/2024

e-Tender Notice (LTM)
Tender Notice No:03/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

SI No	Package No.	Tender ID No	Tender Submission Date & Time	Tender Opening Date & Time
1	e-Tender/LAX/SAD/UDF/2023-2024/W-38	990409	25-August-2024 15:00	25-August-2024 15:00
	e-Tender/LAX/SAD/UDF/2023-2024/W-39	990410	25-August-2024 15:00	25-August-2024 15:00
	e-Tender/LAX/SAD/UDF/2023-2024/W-40	990411	25-August-2024 15:00	25-August-2024 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 12:30pm on 25-August-2024 Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Jahangir Kabir)
Upazila Engineer
LGED
Sadar, Laxmipur.
ue.laxmipur-s@lged.gov.bd

GD- 90

Office of the Mirkadim Paurashava
District: Munshiganj.

Memo No-Mika/Paura/Engr-10-110/24/428

Date-28/07/2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM) No. 03/2024-25

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

SI No	Tender ID No.	Package No	Name of the work	Closing and Opening Date & Time
1	1005059	UIIP-BC/PCO/W-624	A) Improvement of Existing BC Road by starting from Nagarkasba Ayna Cinema hall more to Mirkadim bazar Mosque (Ch0.0-1+290m) in ward No 07,08, & 09 under Mirkadim Paurashava (Salvage Amount Tk1,06,236.00). B) Improvement of Existing damaged brick drain beside road starting from Nagarkasba Ayna Cinema hall more to Mirkadim bazar Mosque with RCC (Ch0.0-0+110m) in ward No 07, 08 & 09 under Mirkadim Paurashava (Salvage Amount Tk98,843.00).	13.08.2024 Time: 13:00

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

(Mohammad Quayum Chowdhury)
Executive Engineer
MirkadimPaurashava

GD-89



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Local Press Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Importers/Reputed and Related Suppliers for Supply of following Chemicals for WTP (Potable Water), Boiler Softner and Feed Water Tank at EDCL, 3rd Plant Gopalgonj on urgent basis:

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	EDCL/PUR/Chem/PT/2024/310 Dt. 30/07/2024	01. Sodium Chloride (NaCl) 02. Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) 03. Anti Scalant (Details as per Tender Schedule)	Tk. 500.00/set Non-refundable	Closing: 11/08/2024 at 12.00 PM Opening: 11/08/2024 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever

(5Incx4Colum)

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

State is yet to answer for so many deaths

Why the silence around security forces' role in quota protests?

The government seems to be in overdrive to identify those involved in the violence centring the quota protests, which would have been welcome had it included in its assessment of "violence" the role of its own security forces, especially in the deaths of over 165 people (as verified by this paper) that occurred during those violent clashes. In this connection, more than 10,000 people have been arrested in 12 days, and at least 473 more detained in police raids till July 29, according to our reports. Many of the arrests and detentions, as highlighted by a recent editorial in this daily, have been taking place without following due process of the law.

Unfortunately, despite the gravity of the violence against students and the general population, the government's sole focus seems to be catching those who carried out vandalism of public properties, or clashed with security forces and members of ruling party affiliated groups—totally disregarding the role played by the latter in terms of instigation, escalation, and even the commission of killings. It is not for nothing that the students are now asking if the damage and destruction caused to public establishments, which we must condemn, are worth more to the current regime than the loss of citizens' lives.

By the home ministry's own count, at least 150 people have so far lost their lives in the recent violence over the quota reform protests. Would the ministry please provide an answer for how these people died? Was there really a shoot-on-sight order? If so, who ordered it, and why? And if not, why did law enforcers go out of their way to indiscriminately open fire on protesters? It is beyond comprehension that law enforcement would react the way they did when there are many options available to riot police to dissipate protests in non-lethal manners. Verified videos, media reports, and eye-witness accounts have provided chilling evidence of the cruelty of the state apparatuses, which didn't even spare a four-year-old standing on his balcony.

Despite repeated calls for accountability and justice—not least from the students themselves who have lost their comrades—we have not seen any real attempt by the government to address the mass killings, even as it observed a nationwide mourning in remembrance of those killed in the recent violence. The judicial probe commission that was formed has confirmed that it will only investigate the six deaths that took place on July 16 for now. Who will answer for the blood that has since been spilled? And when?

As the government goes all out to quell the protests—by using the full force of the state—they seem to be missing the point altogether. Public anger and calls for accountability cannot be suppressed by mass arrests and crackdown on social media. By refusing to acknowledge the complicity of state apparatuses in the deaths, it is trivialising the sanctity of the lives of citizens and in the process further eroding its own credibility in the public eye. We can observe a national mourning day, but without unearthing what caused so many deaths, it will lack any moral authority.

Politically-motivated lending must stop

Take measures to rein in NPLs and reduce banking sector vulnerabilities

The World Bank's (WB) recent observation about non-performing loans (NPLs) and its connection to politically motivated lending in Bangladesh does not come as a surprise. We have repeatedly warned about the risks of bending banking rules to lend to politically connected special interest groups, which has led to default loans soaring. Experts too have called attention to this issue over the years to no avail.

Consequently, there has been a 20.7 percent increase in NPLs from 2022 to 2023, amounting to a total NPL of Tk 145,633 crores in December 2023, with almost half belonging to state-owned banks. When the Awami League assumed office in 2009, the NPL figure was Tk 22,481 crore. Over the last one and a half decade, while private commercial banks mushroomed (from 30 in 2008-2009 to 43 in 2024), NPLs grew by more than six times. Loans were given out without proper credit risk management, lending and recovery rules were bent or relaxed, and the independence of regulatory bodies further compromised all to favour certain politically linked borrowers, many of whom later became defaulters. Meanwhile, no big defaulter has been brought to book.

As the WB report rightfully points out, honest borrowers and businesses are bearing the brunt of the NPL burden, as interest rates continue to rise and ailing banks face liquidity crisis. Despite repeated warnings, no effective measures have been taken to rectify the poor governance, weak market discipline and low capital buffers in the banking sector. Capital adequacy ratio in Bangladesh's banking sector is in fact one of the lowest in South Asia, which means that in the face of unexpected losses, many banks may not have adequate capital to meet their obligations to depositors and creditors.

Unfortunately, the effort spent to understate NPLs by using poor accounting and disclosure standards and regulatory forbearance, was absent in the government's initiative to properly address the vulnerabilities of the financial sector. Before we thrust ourselves to a point of no return, the government must heed expert advice and warnings by the WB and other international financial institutions and put an end to political consideration in lending and default loan recovery. Lastly, authorities must ensure the autonomy of the central bank, not only on paper but in actual terms, upgrade its supervisory and regulatory capacity to fix the problems of the banking sector, and ensure that banks in the country are strictly adhering to internationally accepted banking guidelines and standards.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Fidel Castro temporarily hands over power to his brother Raul Castro

Because of health problems, longtime Cuban leader Fidel Castro handed over provisional power to his brother Raul; the latter served as the country's acting president until officially assuming the post in 2008.

KILLINGS DURING QUOTA REFORM MOVEMENT

Crossing the red line



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KALLOL MUSTAFA

A recent example of what can happen if there is no minimum democratic and governance accountability in a country is the unprecedented brutality shown by the government and the killing of more than 200 people (according to Prothom Alo) during the quota reform movement this month. The agitation, which began following a High Court verdict on June 5 reinstating the quota system in government jobs, was limited to peaceful rallies. But the government did not give due importance to the students' demands and did not even try to negotiate with them, saying that it was a court matter.

The movement turned violent on July 15 when the ruling party's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), attacked protesting students at several public universities, including Dhaka University. Even after the tragic killing of six youths on July 16 in attacks by police and BCL, the government did not budge. If it had removed the police and BCL men from the streets and had taken the initiative to negotiate with the protesters on their quota reform demand, the subsequent brutal killings could have been avoided.

Analysing 150 of the deaths, Prothom Alo found that students and workers were the majority of the victims of the fatal violence and clashes centring around the quota reform movement. As many as 113 victims (75 percent) were children, teenagers and young adults. Nineteen were children and adolescents including a four-year-old child. Ninety-four were 18-29 years old, 21 were 30-39 years old, and 16 were about 40 years old. At least 45 victims were students of different public and private universities, schools and colleges. Besides, a large number of the dead were labourers, petty traders, shopkeepers, drivers, and low-income earners. The analysis also revealed a horrifying reality: most of the dead bodies bore live bullet injuries, while marks of pellets, rubber bullets or other types of injuries were little.

Usually during a mass movement when thousands of people take to the streets, there is a belief among them that law enforcement agencies will not fire directly on them no matter what. If there is a large number of people in a protest march, there is no fear. One



Law enforcement forces of a civilised and democratic country can never use weapons on an indiscriminate, wholesale basis against their own people.

FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

reason for this is the collective power of a large crowd. Another reason is the idea that no state force would open fire on large numbers of people. It is a red line that LEAs around the world would never cross—except those in countries that are ruled by military dictatorship or occupation armies. The LEAs and militaries of any modern state have a wide variety of weapons at their disposal—machine guns, tanks, fighter jets, helicopter gunships, etc—which can kill a large number of people in an instant. But law enforcement forces of any decent civilised and democratic country would never use these weapons on an indiscriminate, wholesale basis against their own people. They simply can't, because crossing this red line means breaking the people's contract with the state. The people give the exclusive power to use force to the state on the condition that this force would be used to protect the people, not to kill them.

only the demonstrators, but also the pedestrians, shopkeepers, rickshaw pullers, hawkers and even children standing on rooftops or balconies. No law enforcers of any democratic country would directly shoot at the chest, head or eyes of the common people, because they will be held accountable for every shot. Once this red line is crossed, a country's government loses its legitimacy and people's trust.

In Bangladesh, the ruling Awami League-led government has employed the country's law enforcement agencies against the people before. They have been accused of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and violent suppression of the political opposition's activities. These are also red lines that no democratic government should cross. But this time, the line crossed by the government while suppressing the quota reform

university students, who have taken to the streets across the country for several days.

Even after so many killings, there is no credible action on the government's part to admit the wrongdoings or bring the killers to justice. Not only that, cases have been filed against hundreds of thousands of people without proper investigation, and activists and opposition party members are being arrested at a wholesale rate in block raids. This is indicative of more oppressive government action in the coming days.

If the government cannot be pressured strongly and effectively from all quarters for impartial investigations, trials and accountability of these killings, and if the perpetrators get away with killing so many innocent people, including children, the danger will increase even more for the people of the country.

Are we failing our own future?



Jannatul Mawa works in online education and youth development.

JANNATUL MAWA

Students' protests against discrimination, law enforcers on university campuses, brutal crackdown by law enforcement personnel, shocking violence and rage against the citizens, complete internet blackout, and finally a nationwide curfew—this series of events have been overwhelming, to say the least, for the whole nation. The young generation of today is fighting and struggling in countless ways and forms, in a free country. So, as we stand in 2024, after 53 years of independence, tagging those who hold a different opinion as "anti-state" and "anti-independence" has become an outdated and overused tactic. This tagging has caused widespread violence against students, leading to deaths and injuries.

Over the last decade, we have seen several student uprisings demanding some of the basic rights. Each time, a similar formula has been applied, starting with alleging their affiliation with other political entities and ending with a combined Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and police brutality. However, the senseless brutality, mass arrests of students and social media blackouts that the nation has witnessed this time is unprecedented. This time, it is creating a prolonged state of fear. Law enforcement personnel are still roaming the streets. One of the most powerful

slogans heard during the protests was "proshason jobab chai," which is basically asking to hold the authorities accountable for their inaction and hoping for proactive steps. But the very authorities that are accountable for protecting us have failed to do so—be it the university authorities, the police, or the government itself.

This brings forth a series of questions. Who is fighting against whom? Why did the vice-chancellors of most of the public universities essentially disown their students? Why did law enforcement personnel open fire against unarmed students? Why did the authorities use such force against the students who want but the bare minimum of equity?

The answers to all these questions go beyond the current movement. The students know the system is becoming increasingly rotten. Still, they want reforms to ensure a just system, even after knowing that it may not make much difference because many a job is now for sale. As the movement got momentum and the students felt they were being insulted, they understood it was time to continue fighting, not only for the reformation of the system but also to find their voices because, apparently, no one else has the courage to do so.

Bangladesh has a long history of student movements. The public

universities, especially Dhaka University, have their pride in leading the successful and justified movements that have always shifted the course of history. So, why did a student movement that started with a demand to reform a discriminatory and unconstitutional system get so violent?

Many are now attempting to satisfy their own agendas. But in this age of

Some ministers' comments during this crisis were neither responsible nor sensitive; rather they were provocative against students who were practising their democratic rights. During a crisis, the true face of both the people and the system comes out. This nationwide movement is not an exception, of course; it is rather doing an excellent job of revealing the failure of our institutions.

technology, countless video footage showed BCL and law enforcement agencies' brutality against the protesters clearly. It should not be difficult for them to find out the people who killed so many people and were involved in the looting and destruction

There's a lot at stake for Bangladesh on the global stage

In light of Bangladesh's student protests and the government's response that has brought the nation to a standstill—with violence, mounting death toll, and a brutal crackdown—Michael Kugelman, the director of South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center, talks to Ramisa Rob of The Daily Star about the implications for the country on the international front.



Michael Kugelman.

As an observer from outside, but one specialising in South Asia, did you expect the student protests for quota reform to escalate to one of the biggest challenges that the Awami League government has faced?

It was surprising. There have been plenty of protests during Awami League's regime over the last 15 years, but nothing as large, long, and violent as this one. That's likely because there was a perfect storm this time around: an unpopular court decision, an especially ferocious government response—incendiary rhetoric along with violent actions of great scale—a deep repository of pent-up public anger and grievances against the state, and growing economic stress that accentuated the public's grievances.

Can you describe the international response towards the spiralling situation and particularly the government's handling of student protests from the beginning?

There have been expressions of concern from the UN, some lawmakers, and some leaders around the world, especially in the West. And there have of course been strong condemnations from the international media and human rights groups. But on the whole, the international response, especially from foreign governments, has been rather muted.

Some may find this relatively restrained international response to be puzzling, given the scale and egregiousness of the violence. There are several reasons for it. One is quite simple: the world is on fire, and with multiple major wars playing out, an internal crisis in Bangladesh won't register high on many radars. Another reason is very practical: many governments prefer to keep a low profile and say little publicly at such a dangerous and volatile moment in Bangladesh, to avoid any risks to their nationals and interests in the country.

But let's be clear: many governments, including in the US, are concerned. Bangladesh may not be a major power, but it's a consequential and strategically significant player, especially in an era of intense great power competition. It's also a top global economic player. From the international

community's perspective, there's a lot at stake with Bangladesh, and when it's convulsed by unrest and uncertainty, that doesn't serve anyone's interests.

What do you make of the government's narrative that the protests were orchestrated by the opposition parties from the beginning, and is it of concern internationally?

I know this is the narrative the government is trying to project, but aside from the hardcore Awami League support base and certain constituencies in India, I don't think anyone

In January, after the US deemed the election was not "free and fair," you had written that Bangladesh remains a "test case" for US value-based foreign policy in a world where realpolitik often prevails. Do you think the current situation will have an impact on the US approach?

This crisis will, I think, validate those in the US government that believe that rights and democracy should remain a focus of the policy towards Bangladesh. And it presents a challenge for those in Washington charged with focusing more on the interest-based part of the relationship—scaling up

unlikely that those sanctions will be removed anytime soon. Additionally, we've seen over the last year some US visa restrictions that targeted those that undermined the election process. So, we can't rule out additional visa restrictions that target those linked to the illegal uses of force during the protests.

What would you think are the general concerns of this ongoing unrest and instability for nations that have economic and political ties with Bangladesh?

Stability risks are a major problem for countries with both economic and political

to extended security concerns. That would make diplomatic relations more difficult. And that would be quite disappointing for a government—and a ruling party—that has long prided itself on its ability to conduct relations with countries across the board, and navigate fierce geopolitical competition, come what may. Let's be clear: it's hard to show "friendship to all, malice towards none" if many of your friends are taking a step back due to security concerns.

What do you believe are the geopolitical implications for Bangladesh's reputation from this current movement? Is there any way to turn back the clock at this stage?

Bangladesh's global reputation and image have taken serious hits. But I wouldn't overstate the geopolitical implications of this. The Chinas, Russias and Indias of the world, and much of the Global South, won't let the internal policies of the Bangladesh government—including and especially the use of repression—impact their relations with it. I envisage a fair degree of continuity in policy.

Whether Bangladesh's relations with the West will face any consequences remains to be seen. These relations will largely be impacted by how long this crisis plays out. A prolonged crisis, and especially one that involves more state repression, could pose a challenge to Dhaka's relations with the West—from its efforts to earn more trade privileges from the EU to prospects for arms sales with the US and others. At the end of the day, the West—including the US—won't be stopped from engaging with Bangladesh if strategic interests warrant that engagement. But this has been an especially serious crisis, with especially grave concerns about the actions of the Bangladesh government and state actors.

If the situation were to calm down, do you expect a major shift in the strategic significance of Bangladesh, especially in regard to the nation's position as a key battleground for great power competition?

That strategic significance will remain entrenched, regardless of whether and when the situation calms down. Bangladesh's location, size, economic status, and relations with great powers are constants that won't be impacted by prolonged instability.

But there's a cautionary tale here. India has been successful in leveraging its own strategic significance, ensuring that the West remains closely engaged with it despite concerns about its domestic policies. Bangladesh is also strategically significant, but not so much that the US was willing to hold back from pursuing tough policies—including sanctions—that risk aggravating relations. In effect, Dhaka can't use its strategic significance as a shield, in the way that New Delhi can.



There've been plenty of protests against the Awami League government over the last 15 years, but nothing as large, long, and violent as this one. PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

is buying it. The protests were organised and spearheaded by members of the public, not political parties. They were led by students, not political partisans. This isn't to say opposition forces didn't exploit and infiltrate the protests—I'm sure they did, given the opportunity it provided. But these were public protests led by student leaders.

It's a painful truth for the Awami League that there were mass displays of public anger against the government. That's a big reason why it has put out the narrative that it has by blaming it all on the opposition, you try to hide the reality that many Bangladeshis—common people, not political partisans—seem to be fed up with the government.

economic cooperation, furthering strategic collaborations, and so on. If the crisis recedes and instability subsides relatively soon, it will be easier to get back to that balance of values and interests that the Biden administration has sought to strike post-Bangladesh election, with the letter that was issued in February. But prolonged unrest and crisis will make that much tougher to pull off.

This crisis could have a big impact on one particular key US policy: sanctions on Rab. The US has said in recent weeks that it has no plans to remove those sanctions. But events of recent days, especially if the US concludes Rab was involved in the unlawful use of force during the protests, will make it even more

ties with Bangladesh. Countries and investors operating commercially in Bangladesh have already been spooked by the scale of the violence, and they'll be nervous about the possibility of additional flare-ups down the road. And the sense of uncertainty about what could be coming next will add to that sense of anxiety. This isn't good for Bangladesh, especially as it's already dealing with growing economic stress and badly needs course corrections that include more FDI flows.

Bangladesh's diplomatic ties could also be hampered, and especially in a worst case scenario where foreign governments scale down their diplomatic presence due

Who would be better for Palestine: Trump or Harris?



Ramisa Rob is in charge of Geopolitical Insights at The Daily Star.

RAMISA ROB

The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, against whom there exists an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, delivered a controversial address to Congress, just days after incumbent Joe Biden dropped out of the high-stakes presidential race. Thousands and thousands of protesters gathered outside, and Netanyahu called them "Iran's useful idiots," as bipartisan—though mostly Republican lawmakers—clapped theatrically.

Joe Biden has been the face to blame for abetting the genocide of over 40,000 Gazans, and rightly so, as he's deferred to Netanyahu, providing his extremist government with billions of military aid and lethal weapons to annihilate a whole population. Ahead of the 2024 elections, Biden's role in Gaza genocide had birthed a sinister question: would Donald Trump have been better for Palestinians? Now that Vice President Harris is poised to replace Biden on the Democratic ticket, the question still remains: Will Donald Trump be better for Palestinians than Kamala Harris?

First, an undeniable fact must be addressed: the US political establishment itself is Zionist, and it is in no position to pivot from favouring Israel over Palestinian lives. Harris, as a presidential candidate in the US, cannot win by being "anti-Israel," but the conundrum she faces is that young voters will not tolerate further US-backed brutality in

Gaza. Her first foreign policy challenge, in her newly launched presidential campaign was the way she dealt with Netanyahu's visit, as left-leaning Democrats insisted that she must clean up Biden's Gaza policy mess—which has actually harmed Democrats much more than Biden's debate performance. A recent Century Foundation poll, conducted before Biden dropped out, showed that nearly four in 10 voters (38 percent) said they were less likely to vote for Biden due to his handling of Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Harris did not attend Netanyahu's address, which she would normally preside over, but she met him privately, after which she, expectedly, harped on the harmful rhetoric, "Israel's right to defend itself." But she also expressed concern, more vocally than Biden, regarding innocent Palestinians in Gaza. "We cannot allow ourselves to be numb to the sufferings and I will not be silent," she said. It's far from enough, but she did carve a microscopic space for Palestinians in the conversation, which is a shift from Joe Biden, who has, for the most part, glossed over the large number of civilian casualties of Palestinians in Gaza, and even questioned them.

In an interview with the *Nation*, during the historic US student protests against the genocide in Gaza, Harris seemed to show sympathy with students, though restrained, stating that, "They are showing exactly what the human emotion should be, as a response

to Gaza." Kamala Harris has irritated Israeli ministers, including the President Isaac Herzog who said in a recent interview, that "she has made quite a few problematic statements in the context of the war in Gaza," which he added, "might have been influenced by the more progressive camp in the Democratic Party." While Biden is more of an old-school Zionist in his personal views, Harris' own personal views are unclear. She has internally advocated for more pressure on Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire. But she keeps showing double standards with her staunch support for Ukraine against Russian invasion, while reiterating that the Israeli persecution of Palestinians "is not a binary issue." Bernie Sanders was one of the very few US politicians, other than Rashida Tlaib—the only Palestinian American in Congress—to contextualise the Hamas attacks and lightly address the root of the conflict. He has been condemned by many, including Democrats for it. So, to expect Harris to act like Sanders or Tlaib, who was censured for her pro-Palestinian comments, and win the nomination and election, is utopian.

As for Donald Trump, he shares a close relationship with Netanyahu. When addressing Congress, Netanyahu thanked former President Trump for the historic "Abraham Accords," which sought to normalise diplomatic relations between Israel and other nations in the Middle East. Trump was coaxed to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal during his presidency, secured by Obama, and almost went head-to-head with Iran—a long-time dream that Netanyahu has had. The Abraham Accords only emboldened Netanyahu's plans to annex the West Bank, and greenlit illegal settlements on Palestinian Territories—which Biden tepidly sanctioned during the ongoing genocide. Trump's actions in Netanyahu's Israel were far from advancing the cause of "peace," but rather

reflected a coordination between two corrupt politicians. Trump warmly hosted Netanyahu in Washington, and told reporters, "No President has done what I've done for Israel." He then went on to lambaste Harris for voicing her concerns for Palestinian civilians, saying, "I think her remarks were disrespectful."

Right after the October 7 Hamas attacks, Trump criticised Israel's security failure, condemning Biden, and then went on to say that he would expand a freeze on refugees that he enacted during his presidency to cover people from the Palestinian territory of Gaza. He has now vowed to set new restrictions on immigration crackdowns, saying, "If you want to abolish the state of Israel, you're disqualified."

Israeli Ministers like the extremist Ben Gvir have openly expressed they prefer Trump and Republicans, saying, "Instead of giving his full backing, Biden is busy with humanitarian aid. If Trump was in power, it would be different." And that should itself be the answer to the question on a lot of progressives' minds.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Palestinians expressed their belief that Trump would exacerbate their suffering, and he's also made it clear in the presidential debate, that Israel needs to "finish the job." It's also remarkable though, that residents expressed scepticism regarding Harris' presidency due to her cozy history with pro-Israel lobbying groups. Fathi Nimr, a Palestinian political analyst, told Al Jazeera that a "major shift" in US policy in the Middle East under Harris is unlikely. Some believed the only change would be that she could be tougher on Netanyahu, whom many accuse of prolonging the war to remain in power in a nation where he is copiously disliked.

The fact that the "will Trump be better" question is even being asked stems from a concept that's been going around for quite some time: Donald Trump is "anti-war," and

it's also become the new MAGA pitch. In January, Senator JD Vance—now Trump's running mate—had claimed that Trump's legacy was that he "started no wars." And it's working, as the anti-war left and just anti-war people who've been seeing thousands and thousands murdered have said the same on social media. But Trump's chaotic presidency and xenophobic foreign policy seems to have been memory-holed. Under Trump, the civilian deaths in Afghanistan skyrocketed. He widely supported the Saudi Arabian war against Yemen, started the trade war with China among many other inflammatory incidents he created himself. During the Black Lives Matter movement after the killing of George Floyd, as police fired tear gas onto the protesters, Trump deployed National Guard troops on the streets of Washington DC. If he had reacted with military force during the BLM movement, then would he have not done the same—if not worse—during the pro-Palestine student encampments that shook the nation this year?

One thing is for sure, Trump has never hidden behind the facade of "human rights," and maybe he deserves credit for that. But he will not be championing any kind of peace for Palestinians—whose lives reflect a slur to him. To think that he will be simply asinine. Progressives in the US, advocating for an end to the worst military campaign in modern history, need to unfortunately settle for a stable candidate who will not repress public pressure, but who has more chances of reacting to it. If pressured, Harris has a higher likelihood of deviating from the unilateralist and militarist US foreign policy, where the US weapons industry proliferates at the cost of the violence unleashed onto the rest of the world. There could be a starting point with Harris at least, whereas with Trump there definitely won't be.

Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel A beloved face in music lost

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel, a revered figure in Bangladesh's music and television industry, passed away yesterday, leaving behind a rich legacy spanning over three decades. Known for his soulful voice and exceptional production skills, Jewel emerged as a prominent artiste in the early 1990s when band music was burgeoning in the country.

Yesterday, his *janazah* was held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asr prayers. The second *janazah* was held at 6pm on Channel i's premises, and he was later laid to rest at Banani Graveyard.

We honour the life and legacy of this esteemed artiste, who succumbed to cancer at the age of 56 after a courageous 13-year battle. Jewel's childhood was marked by frequent relocations across Bangladesh, shaping his diverse cultural exposure. Encouraged by his parents, he began singing at a young age, starting formal lessons in first grade and performing on stage by fourth grade. Despite his passion for music, Jewel ensured it wasn't his sole source of income, pursuing a career in television production to balance artistic pursuits with practical considerations.

His debut album was released in 1992, marking the beginning of a prolific career that saw 10 albums over 28 years. His collaborations with legendary guitarist Ayub Bachchu, who composed seven of his albums, left an indelible mark on Bangladeshi music. Jewel's influence extended beyond the studio; he also captivated audiences on stage, even though his later years were devoid of new releases. Yet, music remained an integral part of his life, a constant companion through highs and lows.

Among his numerous songs, Jewel held a special fondness for *Amar Ache Ondhokar*, penned by Sayed Awlad and composed by Bappa Mazumder, with musical arrangement by Ayub Bachchu. This track, the title song of his 1995 solo album, held a special place in his heart.

In 2015, with Bachchu's permission, Jewel reintroduced *Amar Ache Ondhokar* with a new piano arrangement, showcasing his deep voice in a fresh, stripped-down format. This rendition was shared on his YouTube channel with a lyrical video and the story behind its creation.

Before Ayub Bachchu's passing, Jewel reflected on the album's creation in an interview with the rock legend, recounting, "The album was set to release on Eid, but Boss (Ayub Bachchu) couldn't find time. So, I came up with an idea and got Boss off the hook for four days. We then checked into a hotel in Shanti Nagar. Boss, Tutul, and Fanti (the drummer) got to work with great enthusiasm. Boss would take a lyric, grab his guitar, and compose a tune. Fanti would handle the rhythm section, while Tutul recorded keyboard layers and music sequences."

The team completed 11 songs by the afternoon of the second day, leaving only the title track, composed by Bappa Mazumder. Upon hearing the demo of it, Bachchu approved, stating, "The melody and lyrics are great, Julu! It's perfect for you. Let's do it. Call Bappa." This collaboration resulted in one of Jewel's most cherished songs, blending Mazumder's composition with Bachchu's arrangement.

His notable productions include *Ek Bikele* (1994), *Amar Ache Ondhokar* (1995), *Ekta Manush* (1996), *Beshi Kichu Noy* (1998), *Bedona Shudhui Bedona* (1999), *Firtee Pothe* (2003), *Dorja Kholo Bari* (2009), and *Emon Keno Holo* (2017). Among his 10 solo albums, *Ek Bikele* gained the most popularity, earning him the moniker 'Ek Bikeler Jewel'.

His passing has left a void in the industry, as expressed by fellow artistes and fans.

Singer Elita Karim posted,

"Dearest Jewel *bhai*, may he rest in peace. May the Almighty grant him the highest honour in heaven. He was one of the finest human beings in the music industry, and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to actually say this to him a while ago."

Singer Konal reflected, "Jewel *bhai*, our industry's musical jewel, and a gem of a human being, left us for the heavens. I lost one of my mentors today."

Debashish Biswas, Khijir Hayat Khan, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, and Adnan Faruque Hillol, among others, also expressed their deep sorrows.

Jewel's departure marks the end of an era for Bangladeshi music, but his contributions and the memories he created will continue to resonate with his fans and loved ones.



Shweta Tiwari to star in Karan Johar produced web-series

Shweta Tiwari was once a household name, popularly known for her role as Prerna in the Indian television series *Kasautii Zindagi Kay*. The actress recently joined forces on a Karan Johar-produced web-series.

In a recent interview with an Indian newspaper, she talked more about the project, "I've signed with Dharma Productions for an upcoming series where I play a don-like character in a saree who smokes cigarettes (laughs). The role seemed challenging, which is why I'm excited about it."

Besides, she is set to reprise her cop role in *Singham Again*, which stars Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, and Arjun Kapoor.

Jimmy Kimmel not returning to host Oscar

Jimmy Kimmel, a four-time Oscar host, has turned down the offer to host the 2025 Oscars. He is tied with Whoopi Goldberg and Jack Lemmon for fourth in hosting duties, behind Johnny Carson (5), Billy Crystal (9), and Bob Hope (19).

People Magazine reports that Jimmy Kimmel has declined to host the 2025 Oscars, so he won't be on stage for the 97th Academy Awards. Kimmel previously hosted in 2017 and 2018; the ceremony had no host from 2019 to 2021.

The 97th Academy Awards will be broadcast live at 7pm (ET) on ABC on Sunday, March 2, from the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood.



NEWS

One bullet

FROM PAGE 12
In Shonir Akhra's Rayerbagh area on July 20, Jisan was hit by a bullet, which pierced through his eyebrow and exited through his skull. He died on the spot. This, however, was not the end of the tragedy.

Unable to bear the pain of losing her husband, Mishiti had stopped eating from the very day he was shot dead.

Nine days later, she died by suicide. "She couldn't bear the thought of living without him," said Jisan's father Babul Sarder, a Bangladeshi working in South Sudan for the past nine years, after travelling from Rangpur to Dhaka following Mishiti's burial in her family cemetery yesterday morning.

"She went into shock after my son was killed and was starving herself. She clutched onto his clothes and cried continuously."

Babul had always hoped his son would join him abroad for a better future.

But Jisan was adamant not to leave Mishiti behind. Though this frustrated Babul, he ultimately accepted his son's decision.

Jisan was a hardworking young man and made around Tk 700 a day by supplying drinking water.

On the day of the clash, his mother pleaded him to stay home. Jisan, however, insisted on going to work, hoping to earn his daily income.

When he got caught up in the clash, he took shelter in a nearby shop. It was just when he peeked outside to check if the violence had stopped that he was fatally shot.

Babul was in South Sudan at the time and rushed back to the country when he heard of his son's passing.

"My son often wanted to buy a bike but I didn't allow it fearing what if something happened to him ... there would be no one to carry my coffin after I died, as he is my only son. I never imagined that I would be the one carrying my son's coffin instead."

"In Sudan, even the poorest people have AK-47s, but they don't kill innocent people like birds. But my son was killed like one," Babul cried.

"Nobody from the government or police even came to offer their condolences or apologise for such a tragedy in our lives but I saw our prime minister shedding tears over the metro rail, which was built with remittance from people like us."

"The metro rail stations can be repaired but can she give back my son and daughter-in-law?"

"I have left justice up to the Almighty," he added, his voice choked with the grief he must bear for the rest of his life.

Judicial probe

FROM PAGE 12
The inquiry commission has been expanded. The commission can [probe] incidents that took place up to July 21. A notification in this regard has already been sent," Anisul said.

It was decided in the meeting that the ongoing curfew in four districts would be relaxed for 13 hours every day for four days from today, said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

The curfew will be enforced from 8:00pm to 7:00am in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, and Narsingdi, he said.

Apart from Asaduzzaman and Anisul, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun; Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury; State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat; State Minister for Labour and Employment Md Nazrul Islam Chowdhury; and State Minister for Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak also attended the meeting.

Secretaries of different ministries, the inspector general of police, director general of Rab, and top officials of law enforcement and intelligence agencies were also present.

Responding to a question, Asaduzzaman said law enforcers were arresting people based on evidence.

"We are not arresting any innocent person. We are arresting those who we have been able to identify with intelligence information, footage,

Landslides kill 123 in Kerala

FROM PAGE 12
Unaccounted for, state authorities said. Local Asianet TV put the death toll higher at 119.

Yesterday's landslides are the worst disaster in the state since 2018 when heavy floods killed almost 400 people.

"There are still people who are trapped under the ground and those who have been swept away," Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters. "The rescue operation will continue with all possible strength and means."

More than 3,000 people had been moved out of the area and accommodated in 45 relief camps in the district, he said, adding that hundreds of personnel, including

and witnesses' accounts," he said.

"We are not making any mass arrests."

He said those involved in the violence have committed seditious acts and action must be taken against them in accordance with the law.

Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury said they want to reopen educational institutions gradually after considering public safety and the risks.

"We have repeatedly said that public safety is most important when it comes to the question of reopening educational institutions ... We want to open the educational institutions step by step in consultation with all authorities," he said.

Primary schools will be opened after assessing security risks and then the decision will be made regarding secondary schools, he said.

State Minister Palak said the government will inform people about reopening social media platforms, including Facebook and TikTok, by 11:00am today.

"We wrote to TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook seeking explanations, verbally and in writing. TikTok responded. They said they intend to show up and respond verbally and in writing tomorrow [Wednesday]. As far as I know, Facebook and YouTube have not responded."

He said, "We have written to these organisations [TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook] to appear before the BTRC at 9:00am, 10:00am, and 11:00am tomorrow."

Jamaat, Shibir

FROM PAGE 12
The petitioners said Jamaat was a religion-based political party, and it did not believe in independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

Jamaat later filed an appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court challenging the HC verdict. The SC upheld the HC verdict declaring Jamaat's registration illegal.

The party secured the registration on November 24, 2008, after making many changes to its charter in line with the EC requirement.

Families of the Liberation War martyrs and war crimes trial campaigners have long been demanding Jamaat be tried as a party for committing crimes against humanity in 1971. Even the war crimes investigators found proof of committing crimes against humanity by the party and recommended charges be pressed against it.

Law Minister Anisul on many occasions had said the government would amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973 to try parties. But the act is yet to be amended.

Controversial Islamist thinker Sayyid Abul A'la Maududi founded Jamaat in undivided India under the British colonial rule in 1941.

The government of independent

Bangladesh had banned five communal outfits, including Jamaat, which not only opposed the nation's independence but also actively helped Pakistan occupation forces commit genocide and other crimes against humanity.

The banned parties were given the green light to do politics during the rule of late president Ziaur Rahman after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

The international crimes tribunals in their judgments described the Jamaat's role in 1971.

Several top leaders of Jamaat have been executed over committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Some judgments also said Jamaat played a leading role in creating Pakistan occupation army's auxiliary forces like Al Badr, Razakar, and Al Shams, and formation of peace committees that actively took part in atrocities against Bangladeshis.

Jamaat was banned twice before, in 1959 and 1964 in Pakistan, for its communal role.

In 1971, the party took stance against the nation's independence and massacred pro-liberation activists.

Jamaat represented in parliament after its candidates won seats in 1986,

Police drives, arrests continue

FROM PAGE 12
Replying to a query, Biplob said law enforcers would be withdrawn from duty and prosecuted to the full extent of the law if there was any proof that they were demanding money from detainees or their families for their release.

Asked about video footage of police shooting unarmed citizens, he said, "Every incident has to be judged individually. For each case of police firing reported, the context under which it happened will be reviewed. We will ensure a fair investigation in each case."

Among those arrested in 29 districts in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday, two are in Thakurgaon, five in Madaripur, six in Rangpur, three in Feni, four in Sylhet, four in Tangail, one in Moulvibazar, three in Habiganj, 20 in Rajshahi, 10 in Bogura, six in Gaibandha, nine in Narsingdi, 23 in Narayanganj, one in Khulna, 17 in Pabna, five in

Mymensingh, four in Kishoreganj, two in Netrokona, five in Satkhira, one in Cox's Bazar, seven in Cumilla, two in Natore, 46 in Chattogram, two in Lalmonirhat, five in Nilphamari, eight in Noakhali, five in Laxmipur, three in Brahmanbaria, and six in Barishal.

MORE ON REMAND

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former Jubo Dal general secretary SM Jahangir and BNP's Vice-Chairman Barkatullah Bulu's son Omar Sharif Md Imran, alias Saniat on a five-day remand each in connection with a case filed over the vandalism of the Mirpur-10 Metro Station on July 19.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Farzana Shakila Sumu Chowdhury passed the order after DB inspector Shikder Mohitul Alam produced them before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

The same court rejected the bail petition of BNP's International Affairs

1991, 1996, 2001 and 2008 national elections.

In 2001, BNP-Jamaat formed the four-party alliance government.

The AL, Jamaat, and several other political parties waged a joint movement in 1996 to press home the demand for holding general elections under a caretaker administration.

WHAT JAMAAT SAYS

Protesting the decision to ban the party, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman in a statement yesterday said the government's decision is "illegal and unconstitutional".

"Jamaat-e-Islami is an established democratic political party, which has participated in all credible elections in Bangladesh. The party had representatives in parliament," he said.

The Jamaat chief said people will not accept the government's decision.

SIX ORGS BANNED SO FAR

Previous governments through executive orders banned five organisations between 2003 and 2009. They are Shahadat-e-Al Hikma (banned in 2003), Jagroto Muslim Janata Bangladesh (2005), Jamaat-ul Mujahedin (2005), Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (2005), and Hijubut Tahrir (2009).

Purbo Banglar Communist Party was also banned for its terrorist and anti-social activities.

Secretary Nasir Uddin Ahmed Ashim and sent him to jail on completion of his three-day remand in the same case.

Besides, the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifur Rahman placed Bangladesh Jatiyo Party (Manzu) Chairman Andaleev Rahman Partho on a fresh three-day remand in a case filed over the attack on Setu Bhaban in Dhaka on July 18.

The same court sent Rezaul Hasanat David, chairman and CEO of Viyellatex Group, to jail on completion of his five-day remand in the same case.

On July 25, Partho and David were placed on a five-day remand each in the same case.

The same court yesterday placed Nazmus Shakib and Tauhid Ibn Badar, students of Titumir College, on a four-day remand each in the same case after they were produced before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

PHOTO: GR SOHAIL & STAR

'A DEFINING IMAGE OF TRIUMPH'

AFP photographer Jerome Brouillet's perfectly-timed shot of Brazilian Olympic surfer Gabriel Medina earned the adulations it deserved, with TIME magazine describing it as "the defining image of triumph of the 2024 Summer Games". Even though Brouillet said he did not have a clear line of sight of the initial action, he still managed to catch Medina soaring ramrod-straight above the waves pointing one finger in the sky, his surfboard pointing skyward at his side. This picture of Medina kicking out of the wave after a ride that earned a record Olympics score in Tahiti became a global sensation for its sheer brilliance and significance, with this being used by scores of publications around the world and shared or liked millions of times online.



Covid looms: Several athletes test positive

REUTERS, Paris

Three years after the Tokyo Olympics were held amid strict precautions and with no fans because of the global Covid-19 pandemic, the virus has forced athletes to withdraw from events and has others donning masks once again at the Paris Games.

Several athletes have tested positive, including Australian swimmer Lani Pallister who was a medal hope in the women's 1,500 metres freestyle but had to withdraw from the event. Pallister has been instructed to isolate in her room.

British swimmer Adam Peaty tested positive a day after he narrowly missed out on 100 metres breaststroke gold, sharing silver with American Nic Fink. He, however, hopes to compete in relays later this week.

Meanwhile, multiple Australian women's water polo players tested positive for Covid in the days leading up to the opening ceremony, forcing them to isolate from other team members.



Men's triathlon postponed due to Seine pollution

REUTERS, Paris

The men's triathlon at the Paris Olympics did not go ahead as planned on Tuesday as pollution levels in the Seine remained too high, World Triathlon said in a statement, dealing a blow to organisers and leaving athletes facing more uncertainty.

The race was postponed to Wednesday at 10:45 am (2:45 pm Bangladesh time), immediately after the women's event.

Should levels of bacteria remain too high by Wednesday morning both the men's and women's races are likely to be postponed to Friday, the contingency day reserved for the events.

If by Friday the water quality is still not good enough the swim leg will be scrapped and athletes will compete in a duathlon instead.

O'Callaghan, Popovici poised for revered twin gold



AFP, Paris

Mollie O'Callaghan and David Popovici backed up from winning 200m freestyle gold with strong 100m heat swims Tuesday.

Australia's O'Callaghan upset defending champion Ariarne Titmus to clinch the 200m crown on Monday, while Romanian teenager Popovici won by a fingertip in a frenetic men's race.

They both returned barely 12 hours later, with Australian two-time world champion O'Callaghan fifth fastest through the heats, while 19-year-old Popovici -- who burst onto the scene by winning the 100m-200m freestyle double at the 2022 world championships -- was third best.

With reigning champion Emma McKeon failing to qualify at the Australian trials, O'Callaghan has a golden opportunity to secure the revered 100-200 double.

The men's 100m is also without a defending champion after Caeleb Dressel's failure to make the grade at the US trials, leaving it wide open.

'Now is what matters' for history-maker Bhaker

AGENCIES

Scripting a story of remarkable resilience, shooter Manu Bhaker became the first Indian female athlete to win multiple medals in a single edition of the Summer Games and the first Indian to achieve this feat in the post-independence era.

After breaking the country's 12-year Olympic shooting medal drought with a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol event on Sunday, Bhaker, alongside Sarabjot Singh, defeated their South Korean counterparts in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event to bag another bronze.

In the gold medal match, Serbia's Zorana Arunovic and Damir Mikec staged a dramatic comeback to beat Turkey's Seval Ilayda Tarhan and Yusuf Dikec 16-14.

Bhaker's debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games

was marred by disappointment as she failed to reach the final in any of the three events she participated in.

"After Tokyo I was very disappointed... It took me a long time to overcome that. However, I came back stronger. So, what is now is what matters and the past should remain in past," Bhaker concluded.

Prior to Bhaker, British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had won two silver medals in the 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics, before India's independence.

International Olympic Committee member Nita Ambani is hopeful the 22-year-old can take her tally to three medals from the Paris Games after taking part in the individual 25m pistol event too.

"The entire nation is keeping its fingers crossed for her hat-trick now!" said Ambani.



Swimmer Samiul hits new personal best

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladeshi swimmer Samiul Islam Rafi finished 69th among 79 participants in the 100m freestyle event of Paris Olympics yesterday, despite slightly improving on his personal best timing.

Samiul, who trained in Thailand ahead of the Games, took 53.10 seconds to finish fifth among eight competitors in his heat at the La Defense Arena in Paris.

His previous best was 53.13 seconds, thereby the 19-year-old improved his timing by 0.03 seconds.

Jack Alexy of USA produced the fastest timing in the heats at 47.57 seconds while 16th and last qualifier, Sunwoo Hwang, timed 48.41 seconds.

Sakib takes five-for in practice game

SPORTS REPORTER

Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib starred for BCB Red as he claimed a five-wicket haul against BCB Green on the second day of three-day practice match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Tuesday.

Sakib, who claimed three wickets on the opening day, took two more wickets to finish with 5-53 and helped his side dismiss BCB Green for 290 in their first innings after they had resumed on 220-5.

BCB Green's wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali Anik, who was unbeaten on 12 runs overnight, made 50 off 91 balls while Mahedi Hasan scored 19 runs. Both batters were dismissed by Sakib after the match started with nearly three hours' delay due to rain.

BCB Red batters then faced the wrath of Hasan Mahmud (3-24) and Mahedi's (2-25) bowling to be reduced to 92-6 at stumps.

Pritom Kumar and Nayeem Hasan made unbeaten 28 and 17 runs respectively and shared a 44-run stand for the seventh wicket to bring some respite after being 48-6 at one stage.

Earlier on Day One, Anamul Haque Bijoy made 90 runs while Yasir Ali and Mushfiqur Rahim scored fifties for BCB Green after being sent into bat first.

BCB reunites with Stonier

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has reunited with U-19 World Cup-winning strength and conditioning coach Richard Stonier, roping him for two years in the same capacity ahead of the upcoming ICC U-19 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Namibia and Zimbabwe in 2026.

BCB is now back with all of their previous foreign coaching staff for the U-19 unit, with the board already appointing Naveed Nawaz as head coach. Nawaz had guided them during their U-19 World Cup triumph in South Africa in 2020.

"It is confirmed, Richard is returning, he will join on August 3," AEM Kawser, BCB's game development manager confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday.

Stonier, who previously worked for BCB between 2018-2022, also confirmed his arrival to Bangladesh.

"Hoping to arrive at the weekend. Leaving London as we speak for visa once again," said Stonier.

Kawser also informed that they also hired a performance analyst for the U-19 team, Sandip Kumar Ramal, who also had experience of working in the same capacity.

Both Richard and Sandip will join the U-19 group in Khulna, where they will have a selection camp until August 20.

"Sandip Kumar Ramal, a performance analyst from India, will also join us in the upcoming camp. He worked with us in the last U-19 World Cup as well," Kawasar said.

"There will be four selection games. They will go to Khulna on August 4. The camp will run till August 20 and they will return on the 21st," he concluded.



Lack of options sees Soumya cross over to red-ball zone

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday named a host of players for 'A' team's tour of Pakistan to play Pakistan A in two four-day matches and three one-day matches. Two separate squads were announced for the two four-day matches and another squad for the one-day matches on August 23, 25 and 27 respectively.

The A Team's longer-version matches will be followed by the national team's two-Test tour of Pakistan and it could be surmised that the first four-day match of the A team's tour is being prioritised to allow a few national team players to adjust to the conditions in Pakistan before the Test matches.

The Daily Star had previously reported that Mominul Haque and Mushfiqur Rahim, two veterans of the national team's Test squad, are to play the first four-day match of the A team. Along with those two, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shahadat Hossain Dipu, Nayeem Hasan and Hasan Mahmud from the national team have been selected for that match, which will begin in Islamabad on August 10.

The national team squad for Pakistan Tests is yet to be announced but it is believed that at least six players from the first red-ball game will join the national team camp in



Pakistan after the match.

Surprisingly, Soumya Sarkar and Tawhid Hridoy, who are considered white-ball players, have been named in the squad for the second four-day match of the A Team, scheduled to be played in Islamabad from August 17.

"They [Soumya and Hridoy] are basically for one-dayers and will play [four-day matches] if required. It's likely that the players for the second four-day game and the one-day players will go together. So the delegation of players will be 17 to 18 [members]. If there are injuries or otherwise, they are in the squad," BCB chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu told The

Daily Star yesterday.

The selectors had issues selecting the 'A' team with quite a few players having just finished their BCB HP red-ball assignment in Australia. Thus, the likes of Soumya or Hridoy are not the priority for red-ball games but may play given that they are already named for the 'A' team's three-match one-day squad and will be travelling with the one-day squad together.

"There aren't too many players available and we have few players in Australia too. The likes of Soumya are not in the priority list for the four-day game even if they play there," Lipu informed.

Opener Anamul Haque, all-rounder Mosaddek Hossain, spinner Tanvir Islam and pacer Tanzim Sakib are in all the squads for both red-ball and white-ball assignments while all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin, wicket-keeper batter Jaker Ali Anik, opener Mohammad Naim along with Soumya have made the squads for the second four-day and the one-day phase of the tour.

Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain and off-spinner Sheikh Mahedi were named in just the one-day squad. With a couple of players being carried over, following the announcement of the national team for Pakistan tour, the playing elevens of the 'A' team's second four-day match and one-day matches will find more solidity.



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'ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES'

Jamaat, Shibir to be banned thru executive order

Says law minister a day after 14-party alliance recommended outlawing them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has announced that it will ban Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir by today for their alleged involvement in the recent "anti-state activities".

Law Minister Anisul Huq made the announcement yesterday, a day after the Awami League-led 14-party alliance unanimously recommended banning the two organisations.

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat, the minister said, "The party will be banned through an executive order."

The recommendation for outlawing the two platforms came from a meeting of the 14-party alliance at the Gono Bhaban on Monday night. AL President Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

The Election Commission on October 29, 2018, scrapped the registration of Jamaat, a longtime ally of the BNP, following a High Court verdict that declared Jamaat's registration illegal.

On August 1, 2013, the HC in a landmark verdict declared illegal the Jamaat's registration with the EC. The EC the same year suspended the registration.

Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, then secretary general of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, along with 24 others filed a writ petition with the HC on January 25, 2009, seeking its order declaring Jamaat's registration illegal.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Japan team's gymnasts celebrate with the officials after winning the artistic gymnastics men's team final event of the Olympic Games at the Bercy Arena in Paris on Monday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Judicial probe to cover deaths till July 21

13-hour curfew break from today in 4 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judicial inquiry commission, led by a High Court judge, can probe all killings in violence centring the quota reform protest between July 16 and July 21, said the law minister.

The government is also planning to make the one-member commission a three-member body as the probe has become extensive, said Law Minister Anisul Huq after a meeting at the home ministry.

The government formed the one-member probe body, led by Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, on July 16 to unearth the reasons behind the deaths of six people and to identify those responsible for the deaths and violence.

The committee was given 30 working days.

"The scope for work and terms of reference for

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

One bullet, two lives and endless agony

Wife of fatally shot 19-year-old dies by suicide

NILIMA JAHAN and RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Life had just begun for 19-year-old Jisan Ahmed, a small-time vendor who supplied water to shops in his neighbourhood from his battery-run cycle-van.



Just over a year ago, he married the love of his life Mishiti Akter. The newlyweds had known each other for three years before they tied the knot.

However, this blooming love story ended tragically, as both of their lives were brutally cut short.

During a clash between protesters and law enforcers

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Police drives, arrests continue

Another 354 held in Dhaka, elsewhere

STAR REPORT

At least 354 more people were arrested in the capital and elsewhere in the 36 hours till 6:00pm yesterday as the nationwide crackdown on alleged saboteurs as well as protesters and opposition parties continues.

Of them, 215 were arrested by police in 29 districts.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) produced the 139 people arrested in the capital before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court.

The court sent most of them to jail and placed some on remand.

With the latest arrest, at least 10,488 people, including students and members of the BNP and Jamaat-Shibir, have been arrested in 672 cases filed in the capital and 51 districts over the last 13 days since July 18.

Several thousand named and several hundred thousand unnamed individuals have been accused in these cases.

The cases were filed, mostly by police, with different police stations over violence, vandalism, and arson, said DMP sources.

In the cases, police brought charges of gathering illegally, rioting, assaulting law enforcers, and damaging properties.

The country witnessed violence on an unprecedented scale after the peaceful demonstrations for quota reform turned deadly on July 15 when Chhatra League attacked the protesting students on different university campuses.

Biplob Kumar Sarker, joint commissioner (operations) of the DMP, stated at a briefing yesterday that block raids are to continue.

He also claimed that so far, 2,850 people have been arrested and some 264 cases have been filed with 50 police stations under the DMP in connection with the recent acts of sabotage and killings in the capital.

However, DMP sources had earlier said some 2,822 people were arrested in 243 cases till Monday.

Biplob also said that these cases would be investigated fairly and impartially.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

At least 10,488 people have been arrested in 672 cases filed in the capital and 51 districts over the last 13 days since July 18.

Lift curfew, restore access to social media

Urges Amnesty in letter to PM, condemns crackdown on protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International in an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demanded immediate lifting of curfew and restoration of full access to social media platforms.

It also called upon the PM to ensure that shoot on sight curfew orders and internet shutdowns will not be used in the future to crack down on protesters or to repress any other fundamental rights.

In the open letter, Amnesty Secretary General Agnès Callamard expressed grave concern over the recent violent crackdowns on the quota reform protests and urged urgent and concrete action to end the violence and ensure justice and accountability for the death of "over 200 people" during the protests.

The rights organisation also demanded immediate and unconditional release of all the detainees or arrestees held solely for exercising their right to protest peacefully.

On July 28, the home minister stated that the death toll from the violence is 147, while unofficial estimates put the figure at 211, making it one of the deadliest crackdowns on protests in Bangladesh's history, it added.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

42 bodies found in Khan Younis

Say Palestinian health officials as Israeli forces quit southern Gaza city ending incursion

AGENCIES

Thousands of Palestinians returned to their homes in the ruins of Gaza's main southern city Khan Younis yesterday, after Israeli forces ended a week-long incursion there which they said aimed to prevent Hamas from regrouping.

Palestinian health officials said rescue workers had so far recovered 42 bodies of Palestinians killed in the Israeli incursion into eastern Khan Younis. Gaza's Civil Emergency Service said more searches were underway with 200 people still reported missing.



More searches underway as 200 people still missing

Israel army hits Hezbollah targets in Lebanon

Death toll in Gaza now 39,400

The Israeli military said its forces killed more than 150 Palestinian gunmen during the week-long raid, destroyed Hamas tunnels and seized weapons.

After the Israeli forces left, people streamed back to their homes on foot and with donkey carts carrying their belongings. Many found their houses damaged or destroyed.

Witnesses said army forces had bulldozed the main cemetery in Bani Suhaila, the town on the eastern outskirts of Khan Younis that was the main focus of the raid, as well as houses and roads nearby.

"I am coming back and I have faith in God. I don't know whether we will live or die, but it is all for the sake of the homeland," said Etimad Al-Masri, who had walked for at least five kilometers back to her home.

"Despite the suffering, we are patient and God's willing we will have victory." Many residents said they had been displaced from their homes several times, reports Reuters.

Landslides kill 123 in Kerala

Dozens missing

AGENCIES

Landslides swept through tea estates and villages in southern India's Kerala yesterday, killing at least 123 people while they slept as unexpected heavy rain collapsed hillsides and triggered torrents of mud, water and tumbling boulders.

The hillsides gave way after midnight following torrential rainfall on Monday in the Wayanad district of Kerala, a state known as one of India's most popular tourist destinations. Most of the victims were tea estate workers and their families who lived in small houses or makeshift shelters.

Television images showed rescue workers scrambling through uprooted trees and flattened tin structures as boulders lay strewn across the hillsides and muddy water gushed through. Rescuers were being pulled across a stream, carrying stretchers and other equipment to rescue people.

At least 123 people were killed in the landslides, 128 injured and dozens

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Relief personnel carry the body of a victim during a search and rescue operation at a site following landslides in the Wayanad district of Kerala, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel targets Hezbollah commander

AFP, Beirut

Israel struck Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut on Tuesday in retaliation for rocket fire from Lebanon that killed 12 children over the weekend, saying it had targeted the commander responsible for the attack.

"The IDF [army] carried out a targeted strike in Beirut on the commander responsible for the murder of the children in Majdal Shams and the killing of numerous additional Israeli civilians," the military said in a statement, referring to the Druze Arab town in the annexed Golan Heights where the children were killed on Saturday.

Lebanon's Prime Minister condemned the Israeli strike on Hezbollah's stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Najib Mikati "condemned the blatant Israeli aggression on the southern suburbs of Beirut", the premier's office said in a statement, describing it as a "criminal act" in a "series of aggressive operations killing civilians in clear and explicit violation of international law."

A source close to the Iran-backed militant group confirmed that "a leading commander" was the target of the strike, which hit near the group's decision making body, the Shura Council.

The source added that two people were killed in the strike, but was unable to confirm if the commander was among them.

Minutes after the explosions rocked Beirut, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant posted on social media site X that "Hezbollah crossed the red line".