



DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 5, 2024

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIV No. 193

SRABAN 21, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 29, 1446 HIJRI

12 PAGES : Tk 15.00

# At least 93 dead as violence grips the country

## STAR REPORT

At least 93 people were killed and more than a thousand others injured, many with bullets, as a new wave of violence convulsed Bangladesh yesterday.

Ruling party activists and police clashed with anti-government protesters in at least 20 districts on the first day of the student-led non-cooperation movement designed to keep pressure on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down.

With yesterday's count, the total death toll in anti-government protests crossed 300 in just three weeks, making it the bloodiest period in the history of Bangladesh's civil movement.

The day began with an eerie calm, but it turned violent after supporters of the ruling Awami League descended on the streets to subdue anti-government protests.

As violence spread, an angry mob attacked a police station in the northern district of Sirajganj, beating 13 police personnel to death. Separately, at least five people died in clashes in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj, taking the total death toll to 18 in the district, the highest tally among all.

In the capital, at least 12 people were killed. Most of them were brought dead to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

With the country already on the boil, attackers torched or vandalised the homes of some ruling party lawmakers, Awami League offices, police stations, law-enforcement



A wounded protester is being carried on a rickshaw in the capital's Farmgate area. *Top right*, an alleged ruling party activist chases protesters brandishing a firearm in Enayet Bazar area of Chattogram during a clash between the protesters, and police aided by ruling party men. *Bottom right*, two bullet-hit persons lie motionless on the street in Azampur of Uttara in Dhaka.

PHOTO: REUTERS, STAR, COLLECTED

**With yesterday's count, the total death toll in anti-government protests crossed 300 in just three weeks, making it the bloodiest period in the history of Bangladesh's civil movement.**

vehicles, prison vans and hospital buses throughout the day, forcing the authorities to tighten a nationwide curfew and block 4G mobile internet to quell the violence.

Details of death and destruction kept coming from across the country until late last night. The death toll is likely to rise as many were hospitalised with grievous injuries, according to reports filed by The Daily Star's district correspondents. At least 70 establishments owned by individuals or the government were set on fire, according to fire service data.

Bangladesh announced the shutdown of public and private offices, including banks, for three days, while students scheduled a long march for today, setting themselves on a potential collision course with pro-government groups.

It all came as protesters whittled their demands down to just one: the resignation of Hasina and her cabinet members. Simultaneously, they started a non-cooperation movement, urging citizens not to pay taxes and migrant workers not to send remittances from abroad through banking channels.

The latest spell of violence was born out of job quota reform protests led by students. The protests entered a

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## 'ONE-POINT DEMAND' Protesters call for 'March to Dhaka' today

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-discrimination student movement has moved up the "March to Dhaka" programme from Tuesday to today to press for their one-point demand - the resignation of the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

They called upon the students and people from across the country to join the march towards the capital.

Earlier around 2:00pm yesterday, the March to Dhaka was announced for tomorrow. However, as incidents of violence and deaths unfolded throughout the day, the protesters decided to move it forward.

They made the fresh announcement around 5:00pm through social media, and also rejected the nationwide curfew announced from 6:00pm last evening.

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## 13 cops killed in attack on police station in Sirajganj

Another cop murdered in Eliotganj; 4 offices of SPs, 20 police stations attacked

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 13 policemen, including an officer in charge, were beaten to death at the Enayetpur Police Station in Sirajganj yesterday.

Another policeman died following an attack on Eliotganj Highway Police Station in Cumilla.

Police headquarters in a release said officer-in-charge Abdur Razzak of Enayetpur Police Station was among those killed in the brutal attack by goons.

Mohammad Hannan Miah,

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additional superintendent (crime) of Sirajganj, said a mob tried to attack the police station and police opened fire and used teargas to disperse them.

"At one stage, the police officers thought they were safe. But hundreds of people made a sudden attack on the station," said Hannan.

They have so far recovered the bodies of 13 policemen, including the officer in charge, four sub-inspectors, one assistant sub-inspector, and seven constables, he said, adding that the attackers also torched the police station.

## Houses of 2 ministers, 9 MPs come under attack

AL offices, several business establishments vandalised

### STAR REPORT

Residences and businesses of lawmakers and Awami League leaders, AL party offices, as well as government offices came under attack by agitators in at least 19 districts yesterday.

In Khulna, the homes of parliamentarians Sheikh Helal and Sheikh Salauddin Jewel, also family members of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, were vandalised and set on fire.

Helal is an MP from Bagerhat-2 and Jewel is an MP from Khulna-2.

The house, in the city's Sher-e-

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DISTRICT	Sirajganj	Dhaka	Lakshmipur	Feni	Narsingdi	Bogura	Magura	Rangpur	Sylhet	Kishoreganj	TOTAL 93
DEATH	18	14	8	8	6	5	4	4	4	3	
DISTRICT	Munshiganj	Pabna	Cumilla	Sherpur	Joypurhat	Bhola	Habiganj	Barishal	Cox's Bazar	Gazipur	
DEATH	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	

SOURCE: POLICE & HOSPITALS

## Clashes spill over into BSMMU

24 vehicles torched

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 24 vehicles parked inside Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital's Shahbagh were set on fire and several others vandalised during chase and counter-chase between ruling party activists and protesters yesterday.

According to witnesses, the protesters gathered at Shahbagh intersection while a group of leaders and activists of the Awami League and its front bodies took position in front of Birdem Hospital.

Around 10:45am, the ruling party activists tried to chase the protesters away from the area.

When the agitators retaliated, the AL men entered the BSMMU through gate-1 for shelter.

They hurled brick chunks from inside and from the roof, and the protesters too threw brick

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Plumes of smoke billowing from the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University as unidentified youths set fire to several vehicles, *inset*, parked inside the compound yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Resist the saboteurs with an iron hand

PM urges people

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked people to deal with saboteurs with an iron hand.

"Those who are now causing the violence are students. They are criminals," Hasina was quoted as saying by Assistant Press Secretary ABM Sarwer-E-Alam Sarker.



The government in a press release urged students and parents to return home and stay safe.

"Militant attacks are taking place in various places. Strict action will be taken against the attackers," it reads.

Besides, the ruling Awami League said the party had reached the end of its patience and would resist those engaged in terrorism and anarchy.

Briefing reporters at the AL president's Dhanmondi office, presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanak urged people to resist militant groups and BNP-Jamaat.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED, RASHED SHUMON, UDAY CHANDRA BURMAN, PALASH KHAN

Photos capture moments from fierce clashes that erupted across the country on the first day of the nationwide non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement yesterday. Clockwise from bottom left, agitators swoop on The Daily Star's photojournalist Amran Hossain at the BSMMU. Protesters and ruling party supporters clash in the capital's Paltan. Two police vehicles burn inside Dinajpur Sadar Police Station. A child suffered shotgun pellet injuries to his arm and torso in front of Shimanto Square in the capital's Dhanmondi. The body of Rangpur district unit Swechhasebak League member Khairul Islam Sabuj being taken to a hospital after he was killed in violence in the city's Supermarket area.

## At least 93 dead as violence grips the country

**FROM PAGE 1**  
dangerous phase after at least 208 people were killed in indiscriminate firing by law enforcers, members of Border Guard Bangladesh and ruling party activists, in a spasm of violence from July 16 to August 3.

Tension in Bangladesh has been simmering since Saturday night, following AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader's announcement that the ruling party activists would be on the streets to maintain their positions against protesters.

In Dhaka, some areas felt like battlefields yesterday as police, ruling party activists and protesters engaged in three-way violence at Farmgate, Dhanmondi, Mirpur 10, Uttara, Shahbagh and Gulistan.

Hundreds of ruling party supporters wielding sticks walked down Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue towards the Karwan Bazar intersection around 12:50pm, raising fears of violence.

The road stretching from Farmgate to Bangla Motor resembled a "battlefield" as police and ruling party men fired indiscriminately on a huge crowd of protesters, who were advancing towards Farmgate with sticks in hand. They were also carrying drums and plastic traffic barriers to the protest site. At times, they threw brickbats at the police and Awami League supporters along the way.

A clash broke out between protesters and ruling party men near the Awami League office in the capital's Dhanmondi around 12:30pm when protesters from Dhanmondi 2 moved to Dhanmondi 3. Sounds of gunshots and stun grenades rang out in the area.

Most shopping malls, shops, bank branches and other establishments were closed. Public transport disappeared from the streets, forcing people to walk home or to workplaces, while long-haul buses and trains suspended their services.

In Old Dhaka, a clash between police and protesters halted proceedings at the

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court premises.

Over a hundred protesters, along with pro-BNP lawyers, broke a collapsible gate to the court premises, which the police had cordoned off since morning. The protesters threw brickbats at the doors and windows in the court area, witnesses said. Two prison vans and two police cars were vandalised by unidentified people as violence broke out.

The Shahbagh intersection was on edge after rival groups gathered since morning, leading to a violent clash. Both groups barged into the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University premises and engaged in another round of clashes. At least 24 vehicles were set on fire with black smoke billowing skywards.

Meanwhile, the Mirpur 10 intersection turned into a hotspot as protesters arrived in droves. AL men, some of them with firearms, had already occupied the area, backed by police. Numerous gunshots rang out, sending panic through the area.

**VIOLENCE BEYOND DHAKA**  
In Laxmipur, eight people were killed and 100 others were wounded in a clash between protesters and members of Jobo League and Chhatra League, police said. Three of the victims suffered gunshots, while five were beaten dead.

In Narsingdi, at least six AL leaders were beaten to death and several others injured in a clash between AL supporters and protesters. The incident took place in front of a mosque next to the Madhabdi Municipal Building, according to KM Shahidul Islam Shohag, additional superintendent of police.

In Feni, at least eight people were killed in clashes as Awami League men attacked protesters. Several people were injured in the incident, reports our correspondent. Their identities could not be immediately confirmed.

In the northern city of Rangpur, four people died in clashes. Abdul Jalil, an

official of the Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, confirmed two of the deaths.

One of the dead was identified as Haradhan Roy, president of the Parshuram Thana Awami League and councillor of Ward 4 in Rangpur city. The second man was his driver whose name could not be known.

In Sylhet, four people were shot dead and at least 25, including policemen and members of Border Guard Bangladesh, were injured in a clash. One of the deceased was identified as Taj Uddin, 43, a businessman of Dharabohor village in Sylhet's Golapganj upazila.

Meanwhile, protesters and police clashed around 12:00pm, half an hour after hundreds of demonstrators gathered at the Court Point area in Sylhet city. Police fired shotguns, tear shells and stun grenades to disperse the protesters.

In Bogura, separate clashes left at least five people dead and many others injured, with 32 hospitalised.

One of them, Manirul Islam, 24, was shot dead as police opened fire on protesters after they attacked Dupchanchia Police Station. He was brought dead to a local hospital, according to a doctor. Besides, two others were brought dead to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College in Bogura.

"It seems they died of gunshot wounds. But we could not confirm it," Abdul Wadud, deputy director of the hospital, told The Daily Star. At least 32 people are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

In Pabna, at least three people were killed and 50 others injured during a clash between protesters and ruling party men. One person was brought dead, while two others died of their injuries at the Pabna Sadar Hospital, said its assistant director, Rafiqul Hasan.

In Munshiganj, at least three persons were killed and 20 others injured near

the Super Market area.

Abu Hena Mohammad Jamal, superintendent of Munshiganj General Hospital, said two persons were brought dead and many were hospitalised with injuries. The doctors, however, could not give details on the nature of the injuries.

Police did not open fire, Munshiganj Additional Superintendent of Police Khairul Hasan said, adding that he was unaware of any casualty.

In Magura, at least four people were killed and 20 others were injured in clashes that involved protesters on one side and police and ruling party men on the other.

In Kishoreganj, at least three people, including a woman, were killed and over 100 injured in a clash between protesters and AL activists.

Witnesses reported that the AL office was vandalised and set on fire during the conflict. Subsequently, the protesters blocked the road for three hours.

In Cumilla's Debidwar upazila, three persons were killed and several others were injured in a clash. One of them was Md Rubel, 33, who was rushed to a local hospital with a head injury, where a doctor declared him dead.

The clash started as AL supporters attacked protesters with sharp weapons in the New Market area in Debidwar upazila.

In Chattogram, at least 172 people have been admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, after they were wounded with bullets in a clash between protesters, police and AL activists.

In Khulna, unidentified people torched the Khulna Zilla parishad office.

In Faridpur, the district Awami League office was vandalised, while a BCL office was torched allegedly by protesters. The protesters also set fire to 10 motorcycles in front of the district AL office in the town. Besides, police fired rubber bullets, sound grenades and teargas shells when the Kotwali Police Station was attacked.

## Clashes spill over into BSMMU

**FROM PAGE 1**  
chunks back at them, witnesses said, adding that around 11:30am, some unidentified people got inside the hospital through the main entrance, and set at least two dozen vehicles on fire and damaged several others.

Around 11:50am, this correspondent found at least 10 cars and 14 motorcycles set ablaze. Two ambulances, eight cars belonging to doctors, and one microbus were vandalised.

The office of the hospital's basic medical science building and various office equipment and valuables were also damaged.

Requesting anonymity, a driver of a hospital vehicle said, "A group of people carrying sticks and rods torched and vandalised the cars outside."

"During the clash, one of the groups was about to vandalise around 40 vehicles parked underground. They left at the

drivers' request. We're too scared to leave the hospital," he told this correspondent around 5:30pm.

The mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the hospital was smeared with black spray paint and its nameplate was removed.

The whole incident caused panic among the patients, attendants, doctors and staffers.

Speaking to The Daily Star, a patient's relative Rumina Islam said, "I went outside the hospital to get some food. Around five to six people charged at me to attack and I ran back inside... I've never been in a more frightening situation in my life."

Didar Hossain, a patient, said, "I've been in the hospital for treatment. I saw from my room that around 30 people were attacking different parts of the building. We all [patients] locked our rooms from fear."

## Resist the saboteurs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The one-point demand for ouster of the government is the demand of BNP-Jamaat conspirators.

"Don't destroy the country's stability and state properties. We don't want conflict, we want peace. Everyone will have to behave responsibly," said Nanak, adding that the leader of the ongoing movement will have to take the responsibility for all the killings and violence.

He added that yesterday's violence was caused by cadres of BNP, Jamaat, Chhatra Dal, and Shibir.

He urged the parents not to be confused by the propaganda and keep children at home.

The AL also postponed a mourning procession, which was supposed to be

held from the Engineers Institute to Bangabandhu Bhaban on Dhanmondi 32 today over the curfew.

At another briefing, Mohammad Ali Arafat, state minister for information, said the government was willing to resolve the crisis through talks, but "if the terrorists carry out violence, the law will be enforced," he told reporters at a briefing on Jatiya Sagsad Bhaban premises, reports BSS.

The student movement has lost its direction and now it has turned into terrorism and violence, he said.

The judicial commission has invited the foreign experts to help in the investigation process to ensure full transparency of the probe, Arafat said, adding that the perpetrators will be brought to justice.

## 13 cops killed in attack

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Police sources said eight bodies were found near a mosque, three in a pond, and one in a field. Another body was found hanging from a tree. Most of the bodies did not have any shirts on.

"We are verifying how many people were on duty at the police station and whether anyone is missing," Hannan said.

At least 15 policemen of the station were admitted to a hospital and 20 others had primary treatment.

He said police took control of the station with the help of the army around 7:00pm.

Locals said a group of protesters were marching in the morning when police dispersed them by firing shots and teargas. This enraged locals and the protesters who around 1:00pm attacked the police station.

In Eliotganj, the agitators attacked the police station around 1:30pm, said police headquarters. They assaulted policemen and set fire to the station. Many policemen went to the roof of the station to save themselves.

Highway DIG Eastern Zone Khairul Alam told The Daily Star that constable Ershad was killed.

Firearms kept at the Hatikumrul Highway Police Station in Sirajganj were looted and the station was set on fire, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Wadud.

He said numerous protesters suddenly attacked the police station and beat up policemen. He could not say how many firearms were taken.

In Netrakona, police sources said criminals attacked and looted a vehicle carrying arms and ammunition from the police lines.

Several high officials at the police headquarters yesterday said they have never seen such attacks on police.

At least 300 police personnel were injured in attacks on establishments belonging to the police.

The police headquarters said at least four offices of the superintendents of police, 20 police stations, two police outposts, and a range office were vandalised and torched.

They said the SP offices in

## Houses of 2 ministers, 9 MPs come under attack

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Bangla road known as "Sheikh Bari", was ransacked once at noon, and then again at 3:30pm.

In addition, the district's AL office and the district magistrate's office were ransacked.

In Chandpur, Social Welfare Minister Dipu Moni's home in the town's Natun Bazar, was vandalised. She was not home at that time, sources said.

In Habiganj, the residence of Habiganj 3 MP Md Abu Zahir was besieged for four hours and then set on fire. The fire completely engulfed the first and second floors. The protesters had taken control of the house around noon. Later, the army had intervened and convinced the protesters to leave around 10:00pm.

In Dinajpur, the residence of Jatiya Sagsad Whip Iqbalur Rahim, also the Dinajpur 3 lawmaker, was attacked, looted, and torched in the town's Munshipara area around 11:45am.

In Barishal, the residence of State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque was vandalised at the city's Nobogram road area around noon.

In Sylhet, the offices of Sylhet 3 MP Habibur Rahman was vandalised and set on fire, around 3 pm in the afternoon. The office is in the district's South Surma upazila.

In Tangail, the residence of Tangail 2 MP Tanvir Hasan Choto Moni came under attack in the town's Adalatpara area around noon. Around an hour later, a petrol pump owned by Choto Moni was torched in the town's Turun area.

Besides, district unit AL General Secretary Zuayer Islam's personal vehicle was vandalised around 11:00am in the town's Bot Totala area.

Later in the afternoon, the municipality building and the district

unit AL office were torched. Tangail Sadar UNO office in Ashekpur was also vandalised.

In Nilphamari, the residence of Nilphamari-2 AL lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor in the Upazila Parishad Road area came under attack around 2:00pm. Around 15 motorbikes were torched there at that time.

Earlier in the day, the AL office in the town's Chaurangi intersection was vandalised around 12:30pm.

In retaliation, AL men attacked the office of the district unit BNP President Alamgir Sarder in the Babupara area.

In Narayanganj, the office of the deputy commissioner was attacked around noon and a state-run amusement park came under arson attack.

Besides, the attackers also set fire to the Rifles' Club in the city's Chasara area.

In Jamalpur, the Bakshiganj upazila unit AL office was vandalised and torched. Bagarchar union parishad chairman's vehicle was also set on fire.

Witnesses said the protesters brought out a procession from Noor Mohammad High School and marched on different streets of the upazila.

Later, the protesters attacked the AL office at around 1:00am. AL leaders left the office at that time. The vehicle that was kept near the AL office premises was torched.

In Sirajganj, protesters attacked the Raiganj upazila AL office and beat up AL men at the office. A few of them rushed to the nearby Press Club for shelter where they were again attacked, said witnesses.

In Pabna, a vehicle of Abu Sayeed, organising secretary of Pabna Sadar upazila unit, was torched around 12:30pm at the town's Joykali Bari area.

Besides, a local Jubo League office at Bulbul College area was also vandalised

around that time, said witnesses.

Besides, around 30 motorbikes that were kept in front of his home were torched.

Around half an hour later, agitators vandalised six more motorbikes of AL men and an ambulance in the Chaumatha area.

Later, AL men set fire to the BNP office in the city's Sadar road area.

In Chandpur, protesters attack the Haziganj municipality office, torching 12 motorbikes, three vehicles, and vandalised the office.

In Kushtia, protesters vandalised AL office and a traffic police box at Saddam Bazar intersection area at around 12:00pm.

In Bogura, the offices of Dupchachia UNO and assistant commissioner (A-land) came under attack around noon.

In Gaibandha, the town's municipality office was vandalised around 2:00pm and several motorbikes were torched there.

In Rajshahi, Mohonpur upazila food warehouse and upazila AL office were attacked in the morning.

In Gazipur, AL office was vandalised at Kapasia upazila in the morning. In Bogura, the residence of Bogura 6 MP Ragibul Ahsan Ripu, also general secretary of the district unit AL, at the town's Shibbari area was vandalised around noon.

In Thakurgaon, the district AL unit's office was vandalised and torched around 1:30pm in the town. Many shops were also vandalised at that time.

In Panchagarh, the house and two vehicles of lawmaker (reserved seat for women) Rejia Islam were set on fire yesterday afternoon. They later torched the houses of Panchagarh Municipality Mayor Zakia Khatun, former upazila chairman Amirul Islam, and councillor Shafiqul Islam.

In Faridpur, protesters attacked

the district unit AL office in the town's Niltoli area around 11:00am and the district unit BCL office near Rajendra College area around 11:30am.

In Brahmanbaria, an office of Housing and Public Works Minister RAM Obaidul Mukhtar Chowdhury in the district headquarter came under attack.

**BUSINESSES ALSO ATTACKED**

At least five garment, textile, and plastic factories came under arson attacks yesterday in Dhaka's Ashulia and Gazipur's Sreepur.

Rozina Islam, duty officer at the Central Control Room of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Dhaka, said Sinha Textile, Beximco Synthetics, a warehouse of scrap fabric owned by Ha-Meem Group, Bengal Plastic at Zirani in Ashulia area were set on fire between 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

In Gazipur, a spinning mill was set on fire in Sreepur area.

In the capital's Dhanmondi, a showroom of the clothing brand "YELLOW" was set ablaze around 3:30pm.

Mentionable, Faridpur-3 MP AK Azad is the managing director of Ha-Meem Group; Salman F Rahman, adviser to PM, is the co-founder and vice chairman of BEXIMCO Group, which owns YELLOW; and Noakhali-2 MP Morshed Alam is the chairman of Bengal Group.

In Manikganj, a business establishment owned by Manikganj municipal unit AL General Secretary Zahidul Islam was vandalised around 11:00am.

Protesters also vandalised the AL office and DC office there. In retaliation, AL men vandalised the district BNP office in the evening.

[Our respective districts correspondents contributed to this report.]





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## Live bullets can't be used if there's no riot or law violation: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that law enforcers can use rubber bullets, teargas shells and then live bullets if anyone violates the law.

Live bullets cannot be used if there are no riots or violation of the law, the court added.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon made the observation while delivering an order on a petition that challenged the legality of keeping six coordinators of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement in the DB custody and the use of live rounds on demonstrators.

The bench, however, rejected the petition saying that it has become infructuous after the release of six coordinators of the movement.

The petition was filed by Supreme Court lawyers Aynunnahar Siddiqua and Manzur-Al-Matin on July 30.

The six coordinators were freed on Thursday.

Yesterday, the HC observed that "every citizen shall have the right to participate in peaceful procession, assembly and public meetings as per the directions of the constitution."

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**PRAYER TIMING**  
AUGUST 5

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## It's a clear violation of human rights Says Dr Kamal Hossain about law enforcers using lethal weapons on protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Excessive force and lethal weapons used by law enforcement agencies on unarmed protesters during recent quota reform protests was in clear violation of human rights and contradictory to democracy and justice, Gonoforum founder Dr Kamal Hossain said yesterday.

In a statement, Dr Kamal, also an eminent jurist, called for a neutral probe into the killings and tortures during the protests.

He said the probe should be done under the stewardship of international expertise and culprits be brought to justice.

"However, suppressing dissents or harassing common people on this pretext will in no way be acceptable," he added.

He slammed the government order to "shoot on sight" and denounced "extra-judicial killings"

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Lives were lost, scores suffered injuries, establishments were vandalised and vehicles were torched in Dhaka on the first day of the non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement yesterday. *Top*, a building set on fire in Dhanmondi-2. *Bottom left*, law enforcers firing tear shells to disperse crowd in Segunbagicha. *Right*, protesters at Shahbagh. *Inset*, a torched police box near Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, ANISUR RAHMAN

# Violence rocks Dhaka

STAR REPORT

Dhaka wore the grim hue of a battleground yesterday, witnessing mass demonstrations and violent clashes across different areas, leaving at least 12 people dead and many others injured on the first day of the non-cooperation movement declared by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement.

The violence that ensued between Awami League affiliates and the protesters left the city dwellers largely unnerved and traumatised.

Tahidul Islam, 22, Abdullah Siddique, 22, Ramizuddin Rouf, 24, Selim, 40, Riazuddin, 36, and four others who are yet to be identified were brought dead or died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Bachchu Mia, in charge

of DMCH police outpost.

Another youth named Rezaur Rahman, 23, was brought dead at Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital, from Gulistan area around noon, said Abdul Ahad, Ansar commander of the Mitford Hospital.

An unidentified person was brought dead to Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, the activists of AL and its affiliates, many of them brandishing weapons and canes, took positions at different points to politically counter the non-cooperation movement.

The capital remained almost disconnected from the rest of the country throughout the day. Except for those joining the rallies and demonstrations, people rarely ventured out of their homes, leaving the streets largely

deserted, while most shops remained closed.

Meanwhile, the students' platform yesterday declared a long march to Dhaka for today.

SHAHBAGH

In Shahbagh, protesters kept the intersection blocked from 10:00am to 6:00pm. By 11:40am, the Shahbagh intersection and adjoining areas became crowded with demonstrators carrying banners and posters and chanting anti-government slogans. They also marched from Shahbagh to Banglamotor area during this time. In the afternoon, more protesters joined the rally, some carrying sticks and iron rods. Amid this, sporadic clashes, chases, and counter-chases occurred around the area.

Around 10:45am, a clash ensued between

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## CLASHES IN CAPITAL

# At least nine bodies brought to DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid widespread violence in the capital, at least nine bodies were brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Among them, four of the deceased have been identified. Four bodies couldn't be identified as their information was not registered in the system, and one body was taken away without autopsy.

According to our correspondent, Abdullah Siddique, a 3rd year BBA student from Habibullah Bahar University was brought dead to DMCH with a bullet wound in his chest. He was shot during a clash in Jigatola.

They said the body of Ramijuddin Rouf, who was also shot in the head, was brought to the hospital around 6:30pm but was taken away without autopsy. Rouf was a 2nd-year student from Daffodil University.

He was injured in a clash in the Karwanbazar area and died before reaching the hospital, they said, adding that a bullet pierced through his eye.

Tahedul Islam, 22, a junior office assistant in a consultancy firm in Mirpur DOHS, was brought dead to the hospital from the Farmgate overbridge area where a clash broke out between protesters and revolver-carrying men in civil clothes and police.

Of the four more unidentified bodies, two were snatched away from the hospital by the protesters. They took the bodies to Central Shaheed Minar in a procession chanting anti-government slogans. The bodies belonged to 14 to 20-year-olds, said DMCH sources.

In Uttara's Azampur, around 11:30am, Awami League men took position in the area. As a clash ensued, a protester was allegedly shot dead there. His body is currently at DMCH as one of those unidentified.

There was a rush of injured people at DMCH between 4:30pm and 6:30pm. Most of the 234 people who were treated at the hospital had bullet injuries. Of them, 53 were admitted to the hospital.

Another youth named Rezaur Rahman, 23, was brought dead at Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital, from Gulistan around noon, said Abdul Ahad, Ansar commander of the hospital.

**There was a rush of injured people at DMCH between 4:30pm and 6:30pm. Most of the 234 people who were treated at the hospital had bullet injuries. Of them, 53 were admitted to the hospital.**

## BNP supports one-point demand Fakhruel urges party members to stand by students

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday extended full support for the one-point demand of the student-led Anti-Discrimination Movement, urging its leaders, activists, and people from all walks of life to stand by the protesters.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhruel Islam Alamgir called on the government to step down amid the mass upsurge.

He said the entire nation has rallied behind the one-point demand for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the immediate transfer of power to a neutral government.

"BNP declares full solidarity with the one-point declaration..." he said.

"In this extreme crisis facing the nation, democracy-loving people and the leaders, workers, supporters, and well-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



## 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MUSLEHA ISLAM

Musleha Islam, wife of Late Farukul Islam, left us on this day three years ago. Widowed at the age of 29, she raised her 4 young children alone braving many obstacles and social taboos. She was loved and admired for her warmth, generosity and affection by all who knew her. She was a staunch supporter of our freedom struggle. She allowed her house to be used by freedom fighters as a safe house and to store arms, ammunition, medical supplies, blankets, etc. Her house was raided by the Pak army on August 30, 1971 to arrest her eldest son freedom fighter Wasif Islam and not finding him wanted to take away her youngest son, Rizwan Faruk, who she saved with her wit and courage.

It has been 3 years yet we miss her every day and remember her with profound gratitude, admiration and love. She remains forever in our hearts as a source of strength and inspiration.

All are requested to pray for her everlasting peace in Jannat Ul Ferdous.

Syed Wasif Islam, Shaheen Anam, Sheraz Faruk, Rizwan Faruk, Mahfuz Anam, Sonia Faruk. Grand Children: Tahmima, Yasin, Usama, Shahzad, Hafsa, Sahar, Shaveena. Rayid, Samanzar, and 6 great grandchildren.

## Take back armed forces from streets Say retired officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of senior and mid-ranking retired officers of the armed forces yesterday called upon the government to withdraw the armed forces from the streets and send them back to barracks in these difficult times.

They came up with the statement while addressing a briefing at the RAOWA Club in the capital's Mohakhali DOHS.

Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, the former chief of army staff, read out the statement on behalf of the retired armed forces officers.

The retired officials organised the press briefing to make their stand clear amid the ongoing situation in the country.

While reading out the statement, Iqbal Karim said the patriotic military "must not accept any responsibility for the current situation".

"We appeared here because we are deeply concerned, troubled, and saddened by all the egregious killings, tortures, disappearances, and mass arrests that have been tormenting Bangladesh over the past three weeks," he said.

"Witnessing all these as guardians, we simply cannot absolve ourselves from the responsibilities

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Teachers lay out 5-point outline for interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh University Teachers' Network yesterday proposed an outline to form an interim government consisting of teachers, judges, lawyers, and civil society stakeholders, based on the opinions of civil and political forces for a democratic transition.

According to their proposal, the protesting students will play a key role in the election of members of this government, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government will resign to this interim government.

On behalf of university teachers, former Jahangirnagar University teacher Prof Anu Muhammad announced the proposal at a press briefing held at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Prof Anu said this resignation and democratic transition can be possible in a few steps. A shadow government led by citizens, including students and teachers, will be formed with organisations representing the stakeholders of the main forces of the protesting students, he said.

"It will ensure accountability and transparency of this interim government so that a conducive

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



## Entire state structure must be overhauled Says TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday condemned the unlawful use of lethal weapons and the disproportionate use of force by law enforcement agencies.

"The entirely peaceful, non-violent and apolitical anti-discrimination student movement has been subjected to imposed violence, leading to an unprecedentedly tragic loss of hundreds of lives and a reign of terror over the past two weeks," said TIB in a statement.

"The entire state structure must be overhauled including all institutions associated with the rule of law, particularly the law enforcement and intelligence agencies through an initiative grounded on national consensus," it said.

Those responsible for ordering and approving this unprecedented brutality must be subjected to exemplary accountability, TIB said in the statement.

Other than what TIB termed "cruel killings", these weeks have been characterised by arbitrary filing of cases, indiscriminate attacks, mass arrests through block raids, illegal remand, detention, and torture in detention by the Detective Branch, unjust warrants, online and offline threats, and systematic violation of constitutionally guaranteed human rights including freedom of speech, right to protest and freedom of association.

"According to independent assessments, at least 200 students and ordinary individuals, including children, teenagers, journalists, and other professionals, have been killed by law enforcement agencies. At least 213,000 individuals have been implicated in more than 200 cases in the police stations of the capital alone."

In the statement, TIB demanded that proper accountability for human rights violations of all types must be ensured via an internationally acceptable investigation conducted by a United Nations-engineered initiative.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

An injured person being taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday. The atmosphere at CMCH turned grim from 11:45am as a continuous stream of injured individuals arrived. A total of 172 people were admitted to the hospital as of 9:00pm.

## CHATTOGRAM CLASHES

# Most of the injured bullet-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 172 people were admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday after sustaining injuries during clashes between protesters and the police, along with ruling Awami League and Chhatra League activists across the port city and neighbouring upazilas.

Tuhin Shuvro Das, an emergency medical officer at CMCH, confirmed the matter, saying that most of the injured were hit by bullets.

He said as of 9:00pm yesterday, at least 110 people were admitted with bullet wounds while 62 were admitted with other injuries. Of them, three are in ICU.

The atmosphere at CMCH turned grim from 11:45am as a continuous stream of injured individuals arrived. A total of 90 people were admitted to the casualty ward alone by 6:00pm, with many patients being referred to other wards due to overcrowding.

Md Shahadat, 11, from West Madarbari, was admitted to the Paediatric Surgery

ward around 4:50pm with injuries from rubber bullets. Shahadat said he was standing by the roadside in New Market area when he got hit by a rubber bullet.

A clash was ongoing in the area at that time.



Mohiuddin, a madrasa student from Patiya upazila, was admitted to the casualty ward with a bullet injury in his right hand. He was caught in a clash between protesters, police, and AL men.

Hospital sources reported that around

12 madrasa students were injured and admitted to CMCH, most of them with bullet wounds.

Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed across Chattogram district yesterday, with very sparse movement of public transport. No long-haul buses were seen on the roads, and hardly anyone ventured outside unless it was an emergency.

Numerous clashes occurred throughout the day between protesters and police, AL, and BCL men in areas including New Market, Jubilee Road, and Kazir Dewri.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing ruling party men firing at protesters. There were also numerous chases and counter-chases between them.

At one point, protesters were besieged by AL and BCL men from three sides at Wasa intersection.

Meanwhile, army personnel were seen posted and checking vehicles at various points in the port city, including GEC, Wasa, Lalkhan Bazar intersections, and Chatteshwari Road.

## Innocent people get caught up in violence

SIFAYET ULLAH and FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Mohammed Ashik, 23, who works at a mobile repairing shop in Chattogram city's Reazuddin Bazar, was going to his workplace around 11:20am when he found himself in the line of fire as activists of Jubo League and Chhatra League were shooting at protesters yesterday.

Admitted to the casualty ward at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Ashik was seen in agonising pain. "My employer asked me to join work, so I was heading there when suddenly a bullet hit my right leg and I fell down," he said.

Ashik's father Jalal Majhi said he had asked his son to leave for their hometown in Noakhali as the situation in the port city was worsening. "Even before he could leave, he got shot," he added.

Abul Hasnat, a staff member at Chattogram lawyers' canteen, was struck on his head with a sharp weapon by unidentified people who stormed into his house on the third floor of Gazi Tower in New Market around 11:30am.

"I was standing on the third floor when a violent clash was going on outside. Some armed men came up and hit me on the head with a sharp weapon, leaving me unconscious," he recounted while lying on a hospital bed.

Shipon, a rickshaw puller, was shot when he went outside their home to call his son back inside



A child being taken to CMCH after he got hit by rubber bullets amid clashes in the port city yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

as violence ensued nearby in the Tigerpass area. "We live hand to mouth. We neither harmed anyone nor got involved in any movement, then why are we paying the price?" asked his wife.

The port city's New Market area turned into a battlefield yesterday as BCL and JI members, brandishing firearms and sharp weapons, engaged in hours-long fierce clashes with protesters at 11:15am near Shah Amanat Market.

According to witnesses, the BCL and JI members were seen firing at the protesters, and numerous gunshots and crude bomb explosions were heard.

## BNP supports one-point demand Live bullets

FROM PAGE 3  
wishes of the BNP and its affiliated bodies at all levels should take to the streets and unite with the students to accelerate the fall of the 'autocratic' government in

the larger interest of the country and the nation," he said.

He also called upon all political parties, organisations, individuals, professionals, workers,

farmers, and people to make the non-cooperation movement a success.

Fakhrul said a wave of mass uprisings is sweeping across the country against the government.

FROM PAGE 3  
"The law enforcement agencies will place highest priority on the protection of human lives," the bench said.

The HC judges said law enforcers may use force only when necessary.

The bench said, "Freedom of peaceful assembly is to be enjoyed equally by everyone and the authorities must not discriminate against any individual or group or organisation."

"The authorities concerned must comply with the legal obligations and should be accountable for any failure to do so," the HC said.

"What will the police do when a general assembly or

procession turns into an unlawful assembly?" the bench asked.

"Police will continue using respective articles of the constitution, penal code and procedural laws of our land in the enforcement of unlawful assemblies, riots, and other offences against public tranquility," it said, adding that in this situation, the police will follow the relevant articles of the constitution as well as domestic laws," it said.

Hence, in a democratic state, it is essential that the police should act within the four corners of the law and then respect of the constitutional right of the citizens, the HC added.

The details of the observations and grounds, on which the court delivered the order, will be known after its full text is released.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Chief Controller of Stores  
Bangladesh Railway  
Pahartali, Chattogram-4202  
Phone: +88-031-659604, email: ccspt@railway.gov.bd

No: 54.01.1543.335.08.019.24 Date: 30/07/2024.

### Corrigendum to Notice-1

The following corrigendum to tender document have been carried out in respect of Tender Last selling date, Tender closing date & Opening date of tender no. 54.01.1543.335.08.019.24, Date: 11/06/2024, Opening Date: 05/08/2024 of this Procuring Entity:

SL. No.	Description of Corrigendum	Read	For
1.	Tender Last selling date	27/08/2024	04/08/2024
2.	Tender Closing date and Time	28/08/2024, 12.00 PM	05/08/2024, 12.00 PM
3.	Tender Opening date and Time	28/08/2024, 2.00 PM	05/08/2024, 2.00 PM

This corrigendum to tender document shall be treated as an integral part of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered and unchanged.

This is issued with the approval of the Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chattogram.

S(24)(176)

(Md Mizanur Rahman)  
Assistant Controller of Stores (P-1)  
For the Chief Controller of Stores  
Bangladesh Railway  
Pahartali, Chattogram.

GD-115

### Request for Proposal (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization to undertake videography and photography assignments displaying the impact of ILO's work and amplifying constituent and/or stakeholder views on topical issues. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM) at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/242574>

The deadline for submission of proposal is Tuesday, September 03, 2024, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Madaripur  
Website: [ced.madaripur.gov.bd](http://ced.madaripur.gov.bd)

Memo No. EED/Mad/Vertical Ext. Fur/4931-TMED/2024/01 Date: 04/08/2024

### e-Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25

Open/Limited Tendering Method

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works. Details are given below:

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of work	Document last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
01	1005397	EED/Mad/Vertical Extension /Furniture/2024/GD-01	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Selected Non-Govt. Secondary Schools at Hossainpur High School, Sadar, Madaripur.	19-Aug-2024 16:00	20-Aug-2024 13:00
02	1005398	EED/Mad/Vertical Extension /Furniture/2024/GD-02	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building to Selected Non-Govt. Secondary Schools at Alhaj Amin Uddin High School, Sadar, Madaripur.	19-Aug-2024 16:00	20-Aug-2024 13:00
03	1005431	EED/Mad/4931/TMED/2023-24/WR-01	Repair & Renovation Works of Administrative Buildings, Workshops and Labs at Madaripur Technical School and College, Sadar, Madaripur.	19-Aug-2024 16:00	20-Aug-2024 13:00
04	1005432	EED/Mad/4931/TMED/2023-24/WR-02	Construction Works of Internal Road at Madaripur Technical School and College, Sadar, Madaripur.	19-Aug-2024 16:00	20-Aug-2024 13:00

The interested persons/firms may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the tender. 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. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk; ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Tanvir Islam  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Madaripur  
Email: [cc\\_mad@eedmcc.gov.bd](mailto:cc_mad@eedmcc.gov.bd)

GD-112

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড  
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)  
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited  
(A Company of Petrobangla)

গ্যাস জ্বালিয়ে সন্দর্ভ।  
এক ভঙ্গুর যোগে করে জ্বালিয়ে  
সমৃদ্ধি পান করুন।

Ref: 28.20.9153.142.14.019.24/Corrigendum Dated: 04-08-2024

### Corrigendum Notice

Subject: Amendment of e-Tender Ref. no. 28.20.9153.142.14.019.24, Dated: 28-07-2024  
Tender ID: 997990  
Description of Goods: Procurement of Desktop Computer, Laptop Computer, Printer, Scanner for Head Office, Chiknagool, Sylhet under Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.

Price & Delivery Schedule Item No.	Description of Item	Existing Quantity (Nos.)	Amended Quantity (Nos.)
1.	Desktop PC	7	5
4.	Printer	7	3
5.	Scanner	8	5

(Tarak Ahmed)  
Deputy General Manager (Procurement)  
E-mail: [dgmpr@sgfl.org.bd](mailto:dgmpr@sgfl.org.bd)

GD-114



## CHILD MURDERS

### UK grapples with worst riots in 13 yrs

AFP, London

UK authorities yesterday faced growing pressure to put an end to England's worst rioting in 13 years after disturbances linked to child murders and involving far-right agitators flared across the country.

Unrest related to misinformation about a mass stabbing that killed three young girls last week spread to multiple towns and cities on Saturday as anti-immigration demonstrators clashed with police.

The violence is posing a major test for Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who was elected only a month ago after leading Labour to a landslide win over the Conservatives.

About 90 people were arrested after skirmishes broke out at far-right rallies in numerous places including Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Blackpool and Hull, as well as Belfast in Northern Ireland.



Palestinians mourn the dead in the aftermath of an Israeli strike that hit tents used as temporary shelters by displaced people in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

### 'We have never been so strong'

#### Says Venezuela opposition leader despite arrest

AFP, Caracas

Venezuela's opposition leader emerged from hiding on Saturday, declaring "We have never been so strong," as President Nicolas Maduro slammed what he called attempts to "usurp the presidency" following last week's disputed election.

Thousands gathered peacefully across Venezuela, including in the capital Caracas where Maria Corina Machado thrilled supporters with a surprise appearance in a truck bearing a banner reading "Venezuela has won!"

Machado, who spent much of the week in hiding after Maduro threatened her with arrest following deadly post-election protests, had backed the candidacy of Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia after she herself was banned from running.

Supporters say he won 67 percent of the July 28 vote, and several Latin American countries and the US have recognized him as president-elect.

Others have called on Venezuela to release detailed vote tallies, including EU states France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

## ASSASSINATION OF HAMAS' LEADER

# Biden voices hope Iran will stand down

### Hamas begins consultations to choose Haniyeh's successor

REUTERS, Wilmington

US President Joe Biden expressed hope Iran would stand down despite its threat to avenge the assassination of Hamas' leader in Tehran, as fears mounted that Israel's offensive in Gaza could escalate into a wider Middle East conflict.

Regional tensions have soared following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' top leader, on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a senior military commander from the Lebanese group Hezbollah, which like Hamas is backed by Iran. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing, and they, together with Hezbollah, have vowed revenge. Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility.

Asked by reporters whether Iran would stand down, Biden said on Saturday in response to a shouted question, "I hope so. I don't know."

Seeking to bolster defenses in the Middle East in response to threats from Israel's foes, the Pentagon said on Friday it would deploy additional fighter jets and Navy warships to the region.

Haniyeh's death was one in a series of killings of senior Hamas figures as the Gaza offensive nears its 11th month, and it fuelled concern that the conflict in Gaza was turning into a wider Middle



East war, reports Reuters.

Hamas said it had begun a "broad consultation process" to choose a new leader three days after the assassination of Haniyeh, who was the face of the group's international diplomacy.

The US and international partners including France, Britain, Italy and Egypt continued diplomatic contacts on Saturday seeking to prevent further regional escalation.

The US urged its citizens who wish to leave Lebanon to start making plans immediately, and the British government advised its nationals to "leave now." Canada

warned citizens to avoid all travel to Israel, saying the regional armed conflict endangered security.

Violence continued on Saturday in the Palestinian territories.

An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced persons in Gaza City killed at least 15 Palestinians on Saturday, hours after two strikes in the occupied West Bank killed nine people including a local Hamas commander, Hamas said.

The Israeli military said the first of two West Bank airstrikes hit a vehicle in a town near the city of Tulkarm, targeting a Hamas cell it said was on its way to carry out an attack.

### Two migrants dead after rescue at sea

#### Says Italian coastguard

AFP, Rome

Italy's coastguard said yesterday two migrants died after they were rescued along with more than 30 others in the Mediterranean off the eastern coast of Sicily.

The coastguard said it received a distress call late Saturday from a boat located about 17 miles southeast of Syracuse carrying Syrian, Egyptian and Bangladeshi migrants.

Search and rescue operations began after the coastguard dispatched a patrol boat and plane to the area, but "the occupants of the vessel ended up in the water as the patrol boat approached," it said in a statement.

Although 34 people were recovered from the water, put onto the patrol boat and transferred to Syracuse's port, one died upon arrival and another after reaching the hospital.

"The search at sea for a missing person who was on board the vessel, which later sank, is currently under way," it said.

The coastguard said it was investigating how the migrants ended in the water as the boat approached.

## 23 killed as Sudan paramilitaries shell Darfur city

AFP, Port Sudan

Shelling by Sudanese paramilitaries killed at least 23 people on Saturday in the besieged Darfur city of El-Fasher, activists said.

The capital of North Darfur state is the largest city in the vast western region not yet under the control of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who have been battling the regular army for more than a year and have laid siege to El-Fasher since May.

The El-Fasher Resistance Committee said in a statement published on its Facebook page that "deliberate bombing" by the paramilitary forces resulted in "23 martyrs", all civilians, and 60 wounded.

RSF shelling of El-Fasher last week killed at least 65 people, said the committee, one of hundreds across Sudan that used to organise pro-democracy protests and have coordinated frontline aid since the war began in April last year.

Medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has said that by late June, at least 260 people had been killed in the fighting in El-Fasher.

The war, which pits the RSF, led by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, against the army headed by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has killed tens of thousands of people with some estimates as high as 150,000, according to United States envoy Tom Perriello.

The United Nations says Sudan faces the world's largest internal displacement crisis, with more than 10 million forced to flee internally or abroad.

## California wildfire now fourth-largest in state history

### Hot weather offers no relief

REUTERS

More than 6,000 firefighters in California's Central Valley continued to battle the largest blaze in the US on Saturday, which burned its way into the history books as the state's fourth-largest conflagration on record.

There was barely a taste of rain on Saturday from thunderstorms that brought wind and rainfall of zero to one-tenth of an inch.

The heat of 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius) along with winds up to 25 mph or more in some spots, offered little relief to the firefighters trying to contain the Park Fire, scorching the wilderness terrain some 100 miles (161 km) north of Sacramento, the state capital.

"We had some thunderstorms that just brought us down-drafts, that's a problem," said Christopher Young, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire. "Lightning is a factor we worry about."

Blazes from the Park Fire, started by an alleged arsonist who pushed a flaming car down a 60-foot gully near Chico, California, on July 24, has since burned more than 400,000 acres or more than 600 square miles, an area larger than the city of Los Angeles. The 42-year-old man arrested had not entered a plea as of Saturday, but was charged with arson and held without bail, officials said.

More than 560 homes and other structures were destroyed since the blaze started 11 days ago, feeding off of downed timber and tinder-dry grass and brush. The fire was 27 percent contained on Saturday, officials said.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
NATORE.

E-Mail : [ee\\_nat@eedmoe.gov.bd](mailto:ee_nat@eedmoe.gov.bd)

Memo No-37.07.6900.004.13.013.24-173

Date:-04/08/2024.

### e- Tender Notice No: 05/2024-25

#### Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e- Tenders are hereby invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the Works stated as below.

SI no	Package no.	Name of Work	Tender ID no.	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
01	XEN/EED/NAT/POLYTECHNIC/WD-44	CONSTRUCTION OF 6(Six)-STORIED ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING WITH 6(Six)-STORIED FOUNDATION INCLUDING SANITARY AND WATER SUPPLY WORKS ALONG WITH ELECTRIFICATION AND OTHER WORKS AT NATORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE UNDER SADAR UPAZILLA OF NATORE DISTRICT.	1004500	04.09.2024 Time: 16.00	05.09.2024 Time: 12.00

- This is an online Tender Notice, where only e- Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Offline/Hard Copy will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender(s), 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 at any branch of registered banks.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).
- The Tender Notice will be available on the website: [www.eedmoe.gov.bd](http://www.eedmoe.gov.bd) & [www.eed.natore.gov.bd](http://www.eed.natore.gov.bd)

4-8-24  
Executive Engineer  
EED, Natore

GD-116

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Roads and Highways Department  
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer  
Gopalganj Zone, Gopalganj  
[www.rhd.gov.bd](http://www.rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.3532.016.07.016.09-2019

Date: 04-08-2024

### Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Gopalganj Zone, Gopalganj for the procurement of following works:

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Description of work	Tender publication date	Tender last selling	Closing date & opening date
1.	1007060	e-GP/04/GZ/2024-2025 PMP Road (OSTETM)	Periodic Maintenance Programme (PMP-Major Road) Providing Strengthening & DBS-Wearing Course work from Ch. 00+000 Km (Tungipara) to Ch. 18+260 Km (Majhbari) of Tungipara-Kotalipara (Majhbari) Road (Z-8430) under Gopalganj Road Division during the FY 2024-2025.	04-08-2024 14:00	04-09-2024 17:00	05-09-2024 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Shshir Kumar Baral  
ID No. 602062  
Assistant Engineer, RHD  
Gopalganj Zone, Gopalganj

Md. Sadequl Islam  
ID No. 006003  
Additional Chief Engineer (C.C) RHD  
Gopalganj Zone, Gopalganj  
Phone/Fax: 02478821071/02478821509  
[accgopalganj@gmail.com](mailto:accgopalganj@gmail.com)

GD-112



# Star BUSINESS

## Garment factories shut down for indefinite period

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Out of fear of vandalism and subsequent losses amid the current spell of violence, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday instructed all the factory owners to keep their units shut until further notice.

The garment exporters' platform circulated the message among the members through WhatsApp, said Md Ashikur Rahman Tuhin, a director of the BGMEA.

This is yet another blow to the sector as the apparel factories were shut down for four days during the first round of violence two weeks ago though this is the peak season for Christmas shipments and taking work orders for the next summer and spring seasons.

During the violence in mid-July, the exporters could not communicate properly with their business partners abroad because of an internet blackout.

Exporters now fear mounting losses as export performance had already been poor over the last two years because of the severe fallout of Covid-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war, runaway inflation in the Western world, Red Sea crisis and a labour unrest at home.

Amid violence across the country, majority of garment factories were shut down yesterday on the first day of a countrywide non-cooperation movement called by the organisers of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

At least 73 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and dozens injured yesterday as fierce clashes took place in different areas in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh.

More than 400 garment factories in Narayanganj, Narayanganj BSCIC and Fatullah areas were closed though many of the units ran for some time in the morning.

Some factories were operational in Rugganj and Arahazar areas of Narayanganj district, said Mohammad



A sign on the wall of a garments unit states that the facility is closed due to the imposition of an indefinite curfew by the government because of heightened unrest around the country on the first day of a non-cooperation movement called by students. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hatem, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

Also, almost all the factories in Ashulia, Savar, Maona, Tongi and Chattogram had started production in the morning, but after a few hours the student protests began and some factories were vandalised, leading to the closure of the units.

At least six garment factories were vandalised in Narayanganj BSCIC and its adjacent areas, Hatem said, adding that fearing further escalation of the vandalism, the other factory owners have shut down their units.

Hatem confirmed that the workers left their workplaces peacefully after the shutdown.

"We will sit in meetings soon with the owners, the government and other high-ups on how to run our factories," Hatem said, adding that they will monitor the situation at least for two days.

- Garment factories have been shut for an indefinite period
- Factories had to close for four days two weeks ago
- International retailers are concerned about timely shipment
- The sector lost Tk 6,400cr due to factory closure and shipment disruption
- The primary textile sector lost \$58.8m amid the unrest in July
- Now is the peak time for shipping ahead of Christmas
- Garment exports fell 5.2% in Jul-May FY24
- Exporters take orders for summer shipments a year in advance

Factories in Konabari and Kashipur under Gazipur district were shut down although those were opened in the morning, said Arshad Jamal Dipu, vice-president of the BGMEA.

The factories were shut down anticipating violence, he said but could not confirm how many factories were closed.

He said the factory owners are fearing a shutdown of internet again as two weeks ago they suffered a lot and lost business because of the internet blackout. Exporters could not communicate online with their foreign retailers and brands.

Moreover, this is the time for bond renewal of the export-oriented garment factories and already seven factories have complained to him that they cannot renew the bond licences

because of the current crisis, Dipu also said.

The owners are also facing trouble in garment shipment and import of raw materials, he added.

Md Towhidur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Apparel Workers Federation, confirmed that all the garment factories in Kaliakoir area have been shut down by the owners fearing escalation of unrest in the sector.

The owners announced closure to save their factories and other assets, he said. Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, a workers' platform, said that the BGMEA leaders held a meeting with the union leaders on Saturday and asked them to be more responsible during the crisis so that the garment factories could remain safe.

The owners are announcing closure of the factories fearing spread of violence in the sector, she said.

The garment exporters fear that if their workers join the ongoing movement across the country, it will further dent the sector, which was hamstrung for four days when factories were completely shuttered due to violence in mid-July.

The sector also suffered serious repercussions because of a five-day internet blackout, which hindered communications between garment suppliers and international retailers and brands, meaning they could not make business deals or hold meetings.

Last week, international retailers and brands expressed concern at a meeting with the leaders of the BGMEA, flagging the difficulties in communication with their headquarters and local suppliers.

The months of July, August and September comprise the peak season for both shipment of goods for next Christmas and also for booking the work orders from the international retailers and brands for the next summer and spring seasons.

The BGMEA has already said they have incurred losses of Tk 6,400 crore because of the shutdown and internet blackout, while the losses estimated by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association stand at \$58.8 million.

## Five textile, garment and plastic mills set on fire

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

At least five garment, textile and plastic factories have been set on fire in the Ashulia and Sreepur areas during the violence.

Rozina Islam, duty officer at the Central Control Room of the Fire Service and Civil Defence in Dhaka, said Sinha Textile, Beximco Synthetics, a warehouse of scrapped clothing items (jhoot) of Ha-Meem Group, and Bengal Plastic at Zirani in Ashulia were set on fire between 6:30pm and 7:30pm yesterday.

Another spinning mill was set on fire in Sreepur, Islam told The Daily Star over phone.

No death or injury was reported due to the fires, she also said.

Almost all garment factories were open yesterday but shut down after lunch due to fears of vandalism and labour unrest, factory owners said.

Moreover, the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association announced the closure of all its members mills for three days in line with the government's decision for three days of general holidays.

Zirani, Ashulia, Savar and Baipail areas are industrial dense areas for garment and textile industries.

## Textile units to remain closed

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Textile millers will keep their production units closed due to the prevailing volatile situation in the country.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), which represents the \$25 billion primary textile sector, announced the decision in a statement yesterday.

The decision came because of the deteriorating law and order situation in the country and the government's declaration of a three-day holiday from today, the BTMA said.

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COMMODITIES		AS OF FRIDAY
Gold ▼	Oil ▼	
\$2,441.95	\$74.13	
(per ounce)	(per barrel)	

ASIAN MARKETS				FRIDAY CLOSINGS
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
1.08%	5.81%	1.12%	0.92%	
80,981.95	35,909.70	3,381.45	2,905.34	

## Transport operators dealt a fresh blow

JAGARAN CHAKMA and MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Transport of passengers and export-import goods began to suffer again yesterday as most vehicles avoided plying roads amid a new wave of violence surrounding the students' non-cooperation movement.

The students took the measure against the government to protest the deaths of over 204 people and nationwide arrests by the police.

The latest disruption comes just over a week after vehicular movement on the highways was severely restricted due to violence centring the quota reform movement.

"No trucks, covered vans, or prime movers are operating on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway as the owners are afraid of violence," said Chowdhury Zafar Ahmed, general secretary of the Bangladesh Covered Van-Truck-Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association.

Compared to normal times, only one-fourth of the covered vans and prime movers operated on the road on Saturday night, he added.

Data from the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) shows that around 35,000 to 40,000 vehicles use the four-lane highway daily, with 35 to 40 percent being goods-laden ones.

The highway is the main route for around 90 percent of Bangladesh's international trade. Any disruption means that export-import activities, as well as production in factories, will suffer.

An official of the RHD said the movement of vehicles on the key highway connecting the capital to the port city slumped yesterday.

Apart from goods-laden vehicles, the



Transport operators were dealt a fresh blow as they are again being unable to ply the roads due to safety concerns. Although some are keen to make up losses of previous weeks and risk the journey, there are virtually no customers. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

unrest has also affected the movement of inter-district passenger buses.

Md Abdus Sattar, general manager of Green Line, said they are not operating buses due to a lack of passengers.

"No passenger has bought any tickets today (Sunday), though we were ready to run our buses," he said, adding that Green

Line operated buses on almost all routes on Saturday night despite having very few passengers.

"Not only us, but all bus operators are facing the same situation," he added.

Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Enterprise, said they stopped operating all their long distance buses since yesterday

morning.

On July 23, Khandker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, had told The Daily Star that around 30,000 buses ply inter-district routes daily under around 200 companies. Each bus is losing at least Tk 6,000 in revenue daily.

The loss is even greater if fixed expenditures are factored in, he said.

Bangladesh has over 83,000 registered buses, with private investment in the business growing in line with the expansion of national and regional highways.

Buses carry roughly 70 percent of passengers, followed by inland waterways, rail and air.

Export and import activities at Chattogram port were disrupted yesterday. Though assessment activities of import-export goods were normal, clearance of imported goods was slow.

Officials from customs and the port authority reported that, until 3pm yesterday, approximately 200 trucks were cleared from the port though, on average, the port sees the departure of around 7,000-8,000 trucks daily during usual times.

However, the shipment of cargo containers bound for the Kamalapur inland container depot (ICD) was halted due to the closure of railway wagons, as per port officials.

Mohammad Fyzur Rahman, commissioner of Chattogram customs house, said customs activities related to import and export consignments continued as usual, but there was a noticeable decrease in the release of goods due to a shortage of long route vehicles.

"Transportation of containers carrying imported goods from Chattogram to Dhaka, and vice versa, was disrupted due to the closure of railway wagons," said Akbar Hossain, commissioner of Kamalapur ICD.

Nonetheless, the clearance and customs procedures for goods previously located in Dhaka were proceeding as usual, he said.



# Stock indices nosedive amid unrest

## STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Major indices of the stock market in Bangladesh took a steep dive yesterday, hitting a three-year low as investors started offloading shares in fear that the country's economy may deteriorate further amid the ongoing unrest.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), plunged by about 1.96 percent from the previous session to close at 5,229 points.

This was its steepest fall since May 2022, when the main index of the country's premier bourse dropped 135 points, or over 2 percent of its total at the time.

After speaking with the officials of at least five brokerage houses, The Daily Star found that their offices were open albeit with limited staff while the doors were practically shuttered.

Still, almost no investors came while the few that did were mostly there to sell.

"As political instability is growing, investors are worried that the market could close again due to another internet blackout. So, they are selling their shares," said a senior official of a leading brokerage house.

Following weeks of unrest, the protestors called for a countrywide non-cooperation movement starting yesterday.

will improve anytime soon," he said.

This is because investments may lose value or even become a loss if the performance of listed companies is badly hit for having to halt production amid the political instability.

"So, they are selling their shares," the merchant banker added.

He also informed that people are preferring to keep cash in hand rather than invest as they fear another internet outage could disrupt trading activities.

Turnover, which measures the total value of shares traded during the session, fell by 63 points to Tk 207 crore. Of the stocks to witness trade, only six advanced, 372 declined and 19 remained the same.

Unilever Consumer Care saw the most trade, with Tk 48 crore worth of its shares transacted, followed by Heidelberg Materials, Square Pharmaceuticals, Express Insurance, and British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh.

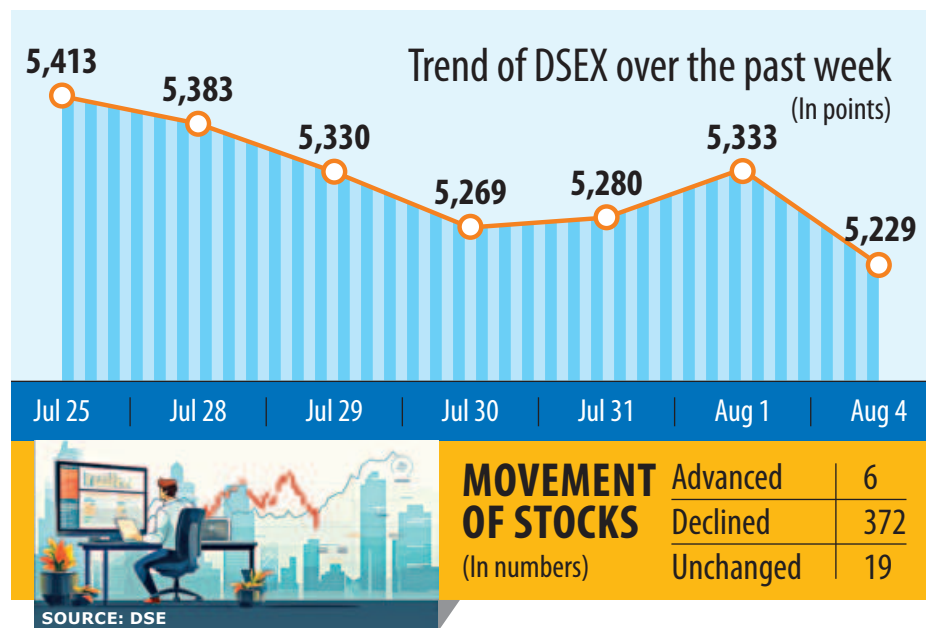
However, the performance of BAT Bangladesh dragged down the DSEX the most, claiming around 7 points, while Renata took away 6 points, Brac Bank 5 points, Grameenphone 5 points and Beximco Pharmaceuticals 4 points, according to LankaBangla Securities.

Shyampur Sugar Mills, a junk stock, was



Rows of shops on Elephant Road that remained closed yesterday amidst a non-cooperation movement called by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



The DS30, an index comprising blue-chip stocks, fell by 2.2 percent to 1,859 points while the DSES, which measures the performance of shariah-compliant companies, dipped by 1.84 percent to 1,413 points.

A merchant banker informed that while he did not receive any buying orders, at least 25 selling orders were placed yesterday.

"It is understandable that people are panicked about the political situation as there is no indication that the situation

the day's top gainer with a rise of about 5 percent while Unilever Consumer Care advanced 2 percent.

However, Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills dropped the most, with its share value eroding by 3 percent, followed by Monno Agro and General Machinery and Eastern Lubricants with 2.9 percent each.

The trend was similar at the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) as the Caspi, the broad index of the port city bourse, shed 1.27 percent to close at 14,926 points.

# Retailers fear immense losses for political crisis

## SUKANTA HALDER

The owners of retail outlets in Bangladesh fear they could incur massive losses due to the ongoing unrest stemming from a student movement seeking the resignation of the government.

Shops and malls all over the country were closed yesterday, the first day of a non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement aimed at driving home their one point demand.

However, businesspeople said the subsequent declaration of an indefinite curfew that started yesterday and yet another three-day general holiday from today will cause unimaginable losses.

Consumers are panicking about the economic uncertainties considering the country's current state. So, people are being more careful with their spending, they added.

At least 73 people were killed and dozens injured as fierce clashes took place across the country yesterday. The government imposed a curfew for an indefinite period from 6:00pm.

Besides, the government also announced a three-day general holiday starting today for ensuring public safety amid the ongoing protests across the country.

Dewan Aminul Islam Shaheen, president

of the Dhaka New Market Business Owners' Association, said that four to five traders from their New Market area opened their shops yesterday morning.

"But due to the serious deterioration of the situation, they later closed up and went home," he said, adding that all shops in the Science Laboratory and Elephant Road area did the same.

Shaheen also said the business situation has been very bad for the last two weeks while sales practically hit zero yesterday.

"In the current situation, traders will have to face bigger losses," he added.

While visiting shopping centres in the Dhanmondi, Jigatola and other commercial areas of Dhaka, it was found that all of them were closed.

Mozammel Haque, general secretary of the Sanmar Ocean City Shop Owners' Association in Chattogram, told The Daily Star that all the shops in their market were closed yesterday.

"We are facing a lot of losses due to the unstable situation for more than two weeks. We will have to suffer more losses in the coming days because of closure and indefinite curfew," he added.

Customers began to shy away from shopping as the overall environment worsened since violence flared in the middle of last

month. The situation had led the authorities to impose a curfew and a three-day general holiday beginning on July 20.

Retailers were dealt the blow in less than a year after they contended with losses for more than a month in the face of hartal and a countrywide blockade enforced by the BNP and its allies in the run-up to the parliamentary elections in January this year.

Helal Uddin, president of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association, said all shops and malls across the country were closed yesterday. However, some opened in the morning but later closed.

"There is loss of business now and what will happen in the coming days is unimaginable," he added.

Students launched the quota reform movement on July 1 citing that it discriminated against general students seeking to secure public jobs.

The demonstrators started to stage sit-ins on the roads in different areas, blocking traffic since July 15, and law enforcers later tried to disperse them by force, causing the movement to turn violent.

The government then slapped the curfew for an indefinite period from midnight of July 19 and deployed the armed forces to contain the unrest.

## Banks to remain closed for three days from today

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banks and financial institutions will remain closed for three days beginning from today during the general holidays, said a top official of the Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

The announcement comes after the government declared an indefinite curfew from 6 pm yesterday in the face of a new wave of violence and deaths of people across the country.

At least 73 people were killed and dozens injured because of fierce clashes in different areas in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh on the first day of the non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement on Saturday.

Banks and financial institutions will remain closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the general holidays, said BB Spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque.

Earlier, banks were shut for three days from July 21 in line with a three-day general holiday following the imposition of a curfew from July 20. On July 24 and 25, the banking hour was 11am to 3pm and it was 10am to 3pm on July 28 and 29 respectively.

Since July 31, banks had been open from 10am to 6pm and the banking transaction hour was between 10am and 4pm.

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Banking activities were heavily disrupted yesterday, particularly in Dhaka, amidst violence flaring up on the first day of a non-cooperation movement declared by protesters.

Private offices and businesses also faced difficulties in carrying out their activities commuting inside the city because of clashes between ruling party activists, law enforcement agencies, and demonstrating students that led to the killing of at least 50 people and injuries for scores of others.

The presence of customers at banks was significantly low. Clients, except for emergencies such as for cash withdrawals, avoided visiting branches. Several banks kept shutters of their branches down amid security concerns, according to bankers.

"We have never seen such a low presence of clients," said a senior official of a private bank in Motijheel, the city's commercial district, adding that about a dozen customers took service from the branch until noon yesterday.

"Most of the customers came at the beginning of office hours. Literally, there was no customer after midday," said an official of another bank.

Ahmed Ali, a resident in the Indira Road area in Dhaka, said he tried to go to a branch of Standard Chartered Bank at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka at about 1:30pm but was compelled to return home as Karwan Bazar turned into a battleground between protesters and ruling party activists.

As the situation became tense in the second half of the day, many officials of the central bank and commercial banks were seen leaving office.

An official of Dutch-Bangla Bank, seeking anonymity, said there was no formal instruction to leave their

# Clashes disrupt services in banks, other sectors



There were little to no banking activities yesterday amidst a non-cooperation movement called by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. The photo was taken at a bank in the capital's Motijheel.

PHOTO: MD MEHEDI HASAN

workstations before office hours, but most officials have left for homes as customer presence was significantly low.

Many bankers were also seen absent from their duties as they could not commute from their residences because of a lack of transports in the city.

Md Shaiful Islam, manager of a branch of Sonali Bank in Motijheel, said officials, who completed their work early, left office early.

He said, as the government announced

a fresh curfew from 6:00pm, the officials who live quite a distance away have left early.

Like the bankers, very little activities were carried out at private offices in the capital yesterday.

Sabbir Ahmed, an official of a travel agency in Dhaka, said they did not get a single client yesterday. So only two officials were on duty out of 20.

Hasibur Rahman, a resident in Raja Bazar area in Dhaka, said a water tap in

the house was broken but he could not find any plumber.

"As this type of shop remained closed, I have collected mobile numbers and called two of the plumbers but none wanted to come for security reasons," he added.

Foissal Hossain, an official of Delta Life Insurance in Gulshan, said he went to the office on time but left for home along with his colleagues early on safety concerns.

## China issues plan to boost household consumption

### AFP, Beijing, China

China has issued a set of directives aimed at boosting household consumption, a weakness weighing on growth in the world's second-largest economy, with the plan targeting sectors including child and elder care, and food and beverage.

Leaders including President Xi Jinping pledged last month to help boost domestic consumption and ease pressure on China's ailing property sector, following a gathering of the ruling Communist Party's top brass.

The State Council, China's cabinet, published a list of 20 general directives on its website on Saturday evening, constituting a general roadmap for ministries and local authorities as the economy recovers after the lifting of strict pandemic measures at the end of 2022 that had hindered growth.

The plan, which does not include proposed budgets, urges authorities to "increase the supply of care services for the elderly", a sector with growth potential in a country with an ageing population.

It also calls for the development of childcare services, as fewer young people opt to have babies due to the high cost of education and lack of social benefits.



## We must turn back from further violence

### Country heading towards a dangerous path

The continuation and, indeed, re-escalation of violence, which led to around 70 people getting killed yesterday, is pushing the country towards greater danger. Violence first broke out in mid July when the student wing of the ruling party attacked student protesters of the quota reform movement. Then we saw law enforcers being used to suppress the protests. Even though such incidents declined after a few days, and the government indicated its willingness to pursue a path of dialogue, yesterday's events suggest that it has decided to return to the path of force. In addition to the killing of ordinary people, the killing of police personnel and attacks on ruling party members' houses indicate that the violence is taking on a different colour. This may escalate into a civic conflict with very ominous consequences.

We believe the prime minister's invitation for dialogue, even though it was initially declined, was the wiser path to try and resolve the crisis. But yesterday's events indicate a complete U-turn from that and towards the use of force on both sides. We strongly believe this is the wrong approach. This violent reaction will only lead to more resentment, destruction, injuries and deaths. Therefore, the ruling party's decision to resort back to the use of brute force, particularly using its student wings, is not only illegal, but also a mistake.

On August 3, we saw the most massive number of people protesting. In the biggest rallies that took place in Dhaka, protesters were fully peaceful. The very next day, we saw ruling party affiliated men taking to the streets with sticks, rods, machetes and, in some cases, firearms. And it seemed they were intentionally placed to face off against the protesters.

The ruling party has full right to peacefully demonstrate its strength. But under no circumstances should that show of strength be done with the use of violence. If it truly wants to reduce tensions, why create a situation where there is a face-off between its supporters armed with deadly weapons and the protesters? And why would they fire live ammunition? Its supporters could have easily gathered somewhere else, instead of taking position where the protesters were and attacking them. Such tactics raise questions regarding the government's declaration that it does not want conflict but would rather have a peaceful resolution. From what we witnessed yesterday, it is the presence of ruling party members that created this confrontation, leading to conflicts.

The events of yesterday show that the country is becoming a battleground between ruling party men and the protesters. This will create much deeper divisions that could prove impossible to mend. Right now, the entire country is heading towards an extremely dangerous path. At this point, the use of force would be most detrimental for the whole nation. We strongly call on the ruling party to withdraw its members, and for both sides to avoid a head-on collision that serves no one and, instead, come to the negotiating table for a peaceful settlement. That is the only way to prevent further deaths and injuries.

## How long must we wait for justice?

### As bodies pile up, govt yet to show sincerity about fair investigations

The bloodstains from July's unprecedented violence haven't faded yet, with the wounds of survivors far from healed. But already new blood is being spilled. Sunday marked the start of the second wave of violence in under two weeks, claiming about 60 lives across the country. As we brace for more uncertainties and possibly further bloodshed in the coming days, harrowing details are still emerging about the first wave, which serve as a grim reminder of the severe repercussions when state power is wielded without accountability.

After analysing the injuries sustained by the deceased during the first wave of violence, *The Daily Star* has found that 195 victims—or 95 percent—were killed by bullets, including live rounds, rubber bullets, and shotgun pellets. Of them, 113 were shot by live rounds that mostly hit in the head, chest, abdomen, etc. Even a single gunshot to these vital body parts can kill in minutes. As a security expert told this daily, under the rules of engagement for civilian protests, security forces are supposed to crouch in a lying position and shoot below the hip to incapacitate the opponent. If they are standing or aiming upwards—as they did during the first wave—then it indicates an intent to kill rather than disperse. Moreover, fatal shots were also fired from close range in many cases. For example, more than two dozen people died from rubber bullets, meaning that they were likely shot at point-blank range. These targeted and lethal shootings show how far the government was—and still is—willing to go to suppress the demands for justice.

But such heavy-handed tactics do not work, as it should have been abundantly clear by now. If the Awami League government is unsure about how to handle the present crisis, it is partly because it has never faced anything like it in its 15-plus years of uninterrupted rule, and partly because of its unwillingness to adapt and learn and engage with citizens in a democratic way. But this is not a war that the deaths of civilians caught in the middle of clashes can be accepted as collateral damage. There are no winners in this. We have all lost as a nation when at least 204 people—including 43 students and 32 children—died during the first wave. If the protesters now feel that fair justice is not possible under the present government, it is precisely because the latter has given no hint yet of its sincerity in that regard.

We, therefore, urge the government to change its uncompromising stance, stop continued crackdown on protesters, and immediately make way for a fully-fledged investigation by the UN. The government must be able to convince the protesters that it will not try to protect members of security forces and its own party cadres responsible for the killings. This may be the only way left for it to come out of this unprecedented crisis.

# We must step back from the precipice



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at BRAC University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), and adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MANZOOR AHMED

Awami League leaders including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plaintively ask, "All job quota demands have been met; why, then, are the students protesting?" If the ruling party leaders don't understand or pretend not to understand why students are not staying back at home (their campuses and dormitories remain shuttered), we are in much deeper trouble than one could imagine. We are already at the precipice.

July 2024 will surely be marked as the blood-drenched July and will find its place in history with other milestones of student movement, such as 1952 (Language Movement), 1969 (Mass Uprising), and 1990 (anti-Ershad movement), which turned the tide of history.

The question frequently raised is how a demand for quota reform in government job recruitment by university students in Dhaka has been allowed to spread nationwide

Corruption and cronyism affected every citizen who came in contact with any government agency; obscene amassing of wealth by those favoured by the regime reached a new height; and the daily struggle of families to make ends meet in the face of inflation and price hikes of daily necessities was aggravated by syndicates of hoarders and extortionists nurtured and tolerated by the authorities.

They did not feel the people's pain and grief caused by more than 200 deaths of students and citizens of all ages, including children, some of whom were killed and injured in the safety of their homes by firing from helicopters roaming over residential neighbourhoods, according to the victim families' accounts.

It is very difficult to understand why student coordinators of the protest were not reached out early, in order to come to an understanding about the outcome and about a process to

**There is no reason why the prime minister cannot offer an unconditional apology for the mayhem caused, lives lost and how the situation has been handled by her government, despite whatever blame can be apportioned to opportunist mischief-makers.**

and to turn into a bloodbath. The common answer is that the regime has totally failed to sense the public pulse. Incompetence, arrogance, and mockery of protesters by supposedly responsible people were combined with a belief that it would be controlled by applying force and by unleashing the student arm of the ruling party. They failed to realise the depth of grief and pain of the people when Abu Sayed of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur was gunned down by police on July 16, at close range and in public view, as he stood alone with a stick in hand. The government failed to realise that it was fast going out of hand. It failed to sit back, take stock and change its game plan.

The regime failed to see that the movement wasn't just about quotas, and the longer it continued, it conflated and merged into all the grievances and pains of the people.

be followed, including handling the judicial process. The public does not understand why and how the police, Rab and border forces called in to the cities became so reckless and vengeful as to aim at the protesters' eyes and heads using not just rubber bullets, but also shotgun ammunitions and lethal bullets. In the fray, they themselves suffered attacks and loss of life. Have the rules of engagement, operational procedures and command and control broken down completely, or has this been part of the plan to subdue protest by terrorising the protesters and citizens?

The usual playbook of large-scale arrests casting a wide net and alleging vague criminal acts, picking up the people at the dead of night, not informing families of the whereabouts of those picked up, not allowing families to visit those in custody—all illegal under our constitution and

laws—have continued. The regime's game plan does not require that the charges are properly framed and allegations are proven in the court. The hapless people taken into custody under any excuse would suffer harassment, physical abuse, long incarceration, material loss and mental agony, no matter what verdict the slow process of justice eventually hands

There is no reason why the prime minister cannot offer an unconditional apology for the mayhem caused, lives lost and how the situation has been handled by her government, despite whatever blame can be apportioned to opportunist mischief-makers.

The prime minister should demonstrate her bona fides by offering



A protester holding a placard that states, 'Merit behind bars while the killers roam free.'

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

down. And none are held answerable for this cruel travesty.

Considering past experiences, it is difficult to have any faith in government enquiries and the possibility of real perpetrators being punished. As the sister of 19-year-old Mahmudur Rahman Shoikot of Nurjahan Road in Mohammadpur, shot in the head as he was looking for his injured friend, asked, "Police killed my brother; should we go to them for justice?"

Students have now called for a non-cooperation movement. It is a deep expression of their frustrations. As of this writing, the prime minister has said the doors of Gono Bhaban are open to students. She has been holding meetings with university heads. These are moves that should have come much earlier.

There is no reason why the prime minister should not declare the acceptance of the nine-point demand of the students for accountability and justice regarding the government's handling of the quota reform movement and the deaths and injuries, restoring academic peace on campuses, and allowing legitimate channels of expressing students' views and complaints through elected student unions.

full cooperation to the Eminent Citizens' Enquiry Commission headed by Justice MA Matin and Sultana Kamal, and vow to give due consideration to its findings and recommendations.

The prime minister should ask the ministers involved in aspects of the quota reform movement to accept their share of the responsibility. Officials of law enforcement agencies need to be placed on suspension pending appropriate investigation. A process should begin to bring those respected for academic feat and personal integrity into university management.

As a gesture of good faith, the prime minister should pledge to negotiate with the UAE authorities about deporting back to Bangladesh the 57 Bangladeshis who have been sentenced to prison for holding a rally in the UAE supporting the students' movement.

The words, actions and gestures must reflect a good faith effort, signal a change of plans and strategies, and a change of heart and mind. And a willingness and openness should be demonstrated to consult and dialogue with all about overcoming the hurdles to build a just and democratic society.

No sane person can believe or declare that it is too late.

## Will India learn anything from the Wayanad Tragedy?



Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for *The Daily Star*. He writes from New Delhi, India.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

The deadly waves of landslides, triggered by incessant heavy rains in the hills of southern Indian state of Kerala's Wayanad district, has once again brought to sharp focus the debate over development and ecology.

Following the first day of the landslides on July 23, the Indian Environment Ministry issued a fresh draft notification declaring over 56,800 square km of the Western Ghats as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) spanning six states, including the devastated Wayanad villages. This was the sixth such notification by the Environment Ministry in a decade since 2014, but the final notification has never seen the light of the day after running into objections from political parties and governments.

The Western Ghats, among the world's eight most important biodiversity hot spots, runs between India's south to west through Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. What is at stake is the life of more than 50 million people living in the region, most of them dependent on agriculture and plantations.

According to official documents,

the significance of the Western Ghats as a global biodiversity area and a treasure trove of biological diversity has been repeatedly emphasised. It is also the origin of Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, and a number of other rivers of peninsular India, on which depends much of the economy of the region.

Environmental scientists have attributed the landslides to a combination of loss of forest cover due to unregulated infrastructure development, quarrying, mining in the fragile terrain, and climate change. The increase in the rainfall on Kerala in recent years is seen by environmentalists as the result of warming of the south eastern part of the Arabian Sea, causing heightened precipitation.

In 2011, an expert panel set up by the Indian government, led by ecologist-academic Madhav Gadgil, had submitted a report, recommending a ban on these activities and designating 75 percent of the entire Western Ghats region as an ecologically sensitive zone (ESZ), a graded zonation approach to regulating industrial and agricultural activities and creation of an overarching ecological authority for the region.

The expert report is gathering dust following resistance by political parties, which opposed cutting down the ESZ areas for industries and other development activities. The opposition has largely stemmed from fears that any move to ban certain activities and the demarcation of whole villages as ESAs will deprive the local people of economic growth opportunities.

Another government-appointed committee, headed by leading scientist K Kasturirangan, had suggested in 2013 that the Meppadi Panchayat in Wayanad, one of the most severely affected places by the July 23 landslide, be included in the larger eco-sensitive zone being demarcated in the state. The Kasturirangan panel proposed 37 percent of the Western Ghats be demarcated as ESA because the previously proposed 75 percent figure was considered too high. However, the Kasturirangan committee recommendations also remain unimplemented.

Maharashtra's Congress-NCP coalition government submitted to the federal Environment Ministry in 2012 that the creation of an overarching Western Ghats Ecological Authority would run parallel to existing government agencies and opposed the idea. Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu opposed a proposed ban on new hydropower projects in the region.

In 2022, the BJP government had issued a notification of ESAs in the Western Ghats but the party's government in Karnataka opposed the move. The then Karnataka Home Minister, Aranga Jnanendra, had said, if the draft notification was accepted as

it was, "it will affect the lives of people in rural areas."

The Indian Express quoted Pandurang Hegde, an environmental activist associated with the Save Western Ghats Movement in Karnataka, as saying that irrespective of which political party is in power, they have always projected protection of Western Ghats as an "anti-people issue."

Hegde added, "Those with vested interests desiring to exploit natural resources do not want the demarcation of ESAs and politicians have used local people as a shield to justify the delays."

In an article in *The Indian Express*, Amitbah Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, says a 2022 study on depleting forest cover in Wayanad showed 62 percent of the district's green cover disappeared between 1950 and 2018, while rubber plantation cover rose by around 1,800 percent.

The intensity of the landslide increased because rubber trees are less effective in holding soil compared to the dense forest cover of pre-plantation times. Besides, the sharp rise in eco-tourism in Wayanad, one of the most scenic spots in India, has gone on unchecked in the last so many years with the construction of hotels, resorts, and roads through the hills.

The main challenge is aligning the biodiversity of the Western Ghats region with adequate opportunities for the local people in the broad framework of ESA. It is not merely an issue of development regulation, but is intimately linked to positive promotion of environment-friendly and socially inclusive growth.



# That thing on your neck



**Abak Hussain**  
is a writer and journalist, currently contributing editor at MW Bangladesh, and formerly editor of editorial and op ed at Dhaka Tribune.

ABAK HUSSAIN

Every time you try to write, you feel those jeers ring in your ears, from your, shall we say, *self*—no no, not this self, but that other one; you know which one—the troll, the dark comedian, the eternal cynic who says: give it up, your words never have and never will change a damn thing. You counter by saying that's perfectly fine, that it's not the role of the writer to turn the wheels of history like an action hero, but to simply put pen to paper and describe what they see. But even as you say this, your protestations appear feeble and vacuous. Because sure, you can write about how we are living in an undemocratic situation where human rights and rule of law have been tossed out the window, where the authoritarian playbook is being deployed in clear daylight, where curfews and internet blackouts and extrajudicial disappearances are being normalised as tools to keep citizens under control, but... *everybody knows that already!*

Still, the facts pile up with nowhere to go. Over 200 killed, 11,000 arrested, many of them minors. A lady who works near your house says her son got picked up by the police on his way to work, simply for identifying himself as a student. Your university student friends say they live in fear but refuse to back down from the struggle. Undeniable video evidence of police violence filters through to your computer screen, and these videos have been examined and authenticated by foreign agencies with the expertise to do so.

That ill sensation you already feel is compounded by the reactions of the government—lies heaped upon lies, a pretty picture utterly disconnected from reality. An

**This dark feeling threatens to become all-engulfing, but now news trickles in, story after story from here and there of bravery, resistance, humanity. Students who flung themselves in front of their peers to protect them, friends and allies who offered shelter, lawyers who stood in front of police cars daring the jackboots to make a rash move. And you realise, in that a-ha moment that no, it's not you, nothing is broken within you, it is simply that boot, that weight of the regime, that thing on your neck that has caused this feeling.**

official throws out a barrage of contradictions: protesters destroyed the internet lines, no no we shut it off to enforce law and order, no no we are working to restore internet, it's back but no no, not social media just yet. This is reminiscent of what Jacques Derrida called "kettle logic," based on a reading of Sigmund Freud's exchange with a man who tosses out



Burdened by the standard pessimism that comes with dreary middle age, you know that tyrants never go gentle into that good night.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

all kinds of arguments in his own defence. The man has returned a damaged kettle to his neighbour, and when accused, he says 1) it was damaged when I got it, 2) there is no damage, 3) I never borrowed your kettle. Derrida uses a keen and close reading to tease out, among other things, such kettle logic in a given discourse, where a writer's or philosopher's own inconsistencies cause the argument to self-deconstruct. But here in Bangladesh, no Derrida is needed, because the contradictions are deafening, and the regime-sanctioned-gaslighting loud enough to drive one up the walls.

And so you fall into a sort of malaise. Your lived self feels misaligned from your true self and despair becomes you—this, you recognise, is what Soren Kierkegaard would have called "the sickness unto death." Your therapist can do little other than offer platitudes of well-being—stay positive, try gratitude journaling... that sort of hokum. Sometimes you wonder if something is wrong with you, and in the midst of the blackout and curfew, with no human contact, sometimes you wonder if you are the only one feeling this way, everyone else being happy and well-adjusted. You split off from yourself and hover near the ceiling, and start thinking of yourself in the second-person singular. Rhetorical flourishes can be a way of coping.

This dark feeling threatens to become all-engulfing, but now news trickles in, story

feeling. Anxiety, depression, and helplessness are a natural, logical reaction to it, and in fact, happily prancing around as if everything is fine—now *that* would be the mental illness.

When the internet is back, you see the social media profiles all bleeding red in unshakable solidarity for those who demand nothing but justice and refuse to be cowed. A new generation, one with a conscience and a fresh pair of eyes is saying to the regime: *I'm hip to all your tricks, your algebra, your politics.*

**That thing—that jackboot—on your neck is still there, and you know it probably will remain there for a good while to come. You have, after all, danced this dance many times before and your capacity for youthful idealism—that spontaneous, romantic, revolutionary energy that says change is at hand!—is diminished. You have seen, read, and heard too much. Internet memes likening protesters to Marvel superheroes leave you cold, because you are all too aware that life is not a comic book or a meme, and real-world violence is not fun or exciting.**

For a long time, it was enough to call someone a razzakar to send a nervous chill down their spine and make them back down. For a long time, the older generation patronisingly lectured the youth with the good old "but you kids haven't seen the war like we have have!" as if our lives in Bangladesh post-1971 have been nothing but gravy. Many kept quiet and

endured such evasion of responsibility from our elders. But no more! The unity and heart online are visible for all to see—no wonder the powers that be are scared of the internet.

And just like that, life flows back into your veins, a thirst you didn't know you had feels quenched bit by bit, and a gust of hope lifts you up and places you on your writing desk, telling you to get to work.

You are now in debt to the fighters out

shoulders—all you can do is act in line with your ethics and stay straight with your maker, align yourself with your true self, and continue to speak truth to power even if your voice shakes.

That thing—that jackboot—on your neck is still there, and you know it probably will remain there for a good while to come. You have, after all, danced this dance many times before and your capacity for youthful

there—so many of them unjustly killed, maimed, imprisoned. They and their families have been failed completely by a government that was duty-bound to serve and protect. Any government official responsible with a shred of a conscience upon learning of the events that have transpired over the last few days would turn red with shame, resign their post, and beg the nation for forgiveness. But not here in Bangladesh, because apology is not the way of the *jackboot*.

idealism—that spontaneous, romantic, revolutionary energy that says *change is at hand!*—is diminished. You have seen, read, and heard too much. Internet memes likening protesters to Marvel superheroes leave you cold, because you are all too aware that life is not a comic book or a meme, and real-world violence is not fun or exciting.

Nor is the fight of good versus evil as simple as you would like it to be. Burdened by the standard pessimism that comes with dreary middle age, you know that tyrants never go gentle into that good night, and when they do, it is often tyrants who replace other has-been tyrants—think the departure of Ershad or the Shah of Iran or the last Tsar of Russia or Hosni Mubarak—and escape from the cycle seems impossible. And yet, and yet, and yet. The contagion of courage changes something in you—because that icy shudder of loneliness is now gone, that nonsensical jumble of thoughts has transformed into a more articulate stream, and now, wind in your sails from a rush of solidarity, you do that one thing that you are still able to do—write about it all. You know very well your words can't change a thing, but if there's even a sliver of a possibility that these words might travel out into the ether and let another oppressed, depressed, repressed soul know that they are not alone, then this debt of yours—of *mine*—is paid forward.

## Why cancel prisoners' right to visitation?



**Tabarak Hussain**  
is an advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

TABARAK HUSSAIN

It is unacceptable that prisoners are being denied visitations from their families for over two weeks. On August 3, when we went to see our clients at the Dhaka Central Jail, we were stopped at the jail gate by a security guard named Halim and some other female guards. They tried to turn us away along with other visitors who had gathered at the gate. After learning that we were lawyers from the Supreme Court, they calmed down a bit. We told them that we wanted to see our clients, who were in the prison, but they said they could not allow the visitation. When we asked for the reason, they responded that it was an order from above. We asked if they had received the order in writing. They said they did not receive anything in writing, but were verbally instructed.

We then gave the security guard our card and asked him to take it to the jailer and requested a meeting with him instead. We learnt from the other guards that visits had been stopped since July 20. No one has been able to see the students who have been sent to jail over the last few weeks due to mass arrests. Even other prisoners, in unrelated cases, are unable to meet anyone anymore.

At one point, a prison official came to

the gate to meet us. He reiterated that no prisoners would be allowed to meet anyone. When we asked for the reason, he said they did not have any answers. He advised us to meet someone of a higher rank to get more details or to learn the reason behind this restriction. He gave us the phone number of the deputy superintendent of jail. Barrister Sara Hossain called the person and asked why visitors were barred from visiting detainees. He informed us that the direction had come

**The problem with this order is that two kinds of people are sent to jail: those who are convicted and sentenced with imprisonment, and those who are sent to jail while their cases are still on trial. The jail code clearly states that all of them have the right to visitation by their families once a week for one hour. They are now being deprived of this legal right.**



Suspects arrested during the block raids by law enforcement agencies are taken to a Dhaka court on July 23, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

from the home ministry. He said a circular had been issued in this regard on the website of the Department of Prisons. We saw that the circular on the website had been issued on July 21, even though we had learnt from people at the jail gate that visits had been stopped since July 20. It is possible that the instructions were given on July 20 and the circular was issued a day later.

The problem with this order is that two kinds of people are sent to jail: those who are convicted and sentenced with imprisonment,

and those who are sent to jail while their cases are still on trial. The jail code clearly states that all of them have the right to visitation by their families once a week for one hour. They are now being deprived of this legal right.

Another concerning fact is that ordinary people do not know about the suspension of visits. Some people are looking for their sons or brothers. They are coming to the central jail from Brahmanbaria, Bogura, or other places, quite far from Keraniganj. They don't know how their family members are

faring in jail. A lot of them don't even know if their family members are in this jail. I even found people who heard that a relative had been arrested. When they went to the police station, the officers informed them that the person had already been sent to jail. When they tried to visit them in jail, they couldn't. They still haven't been able to establish any form of contact with them. These people come to the jail every single day hoping to establish contact.

It was very painful for us to witness this suffering of the common people. The circular has been published on the prison website only, and many families are not tech savvy. If the circular had been published and publicly distributed, these people wouldn't have to travel from one district to another, making futile attempts to see their loved ones. Given the country's current situation, travelling is also difficult. The way the government ignores people's suffering disheartens us.

We believe that this circular denies people their rights. The constitution is the supreme law and clearly grants prisoners the right to visitation by their families for one hour a week. Visitors can also send them essentials such as food, clothes, and medicine. Many are now deprived of medical treatment. They can't receive or even buy their medicines due to lack of money.

The formal methods of sending food and money are also unavailable right now. We did observe some informal methods of sending money or clothes into the prison. But relatives sending anything into the prison right now have no way to confirm whether the prisoners they are sending the items to are actually receiving it.



## Protesters call for 'March to Dhaka' today

FROM PAGE 1

Three coordinators of the movement – Asif Mahmud, Sarjis Alam and Abu Baker Majumder – confirmed the developments to The Daily Star.

Addressing the protesters in the capital's Shabbagh at 3:00pm, Nahid Islam, a key organiser, said the Awami League activists were deployed on the roads to drive the country into a state of civil war.

"Our objectives, goals and destination are clear. Victory alone is our goal. We are still giving time. If the government continues to resort to violence, we want to let them know that we are looking at the Gono Bhaban.

"If my brothers are shot in the chest, if any of my sisters are injured, we will not sit idle. Form up a 'Protirodh Sangram Committee' [resistance struggle committee] in every neighbourhood, village, mohalla, and alley. Form up resistance wherever [we are] attacked."

He urged students to continue

their sit-in at Shabbagh until the fall of the government.

Meanwhile, demonstrators marching with the bodies of victims were dispersed in Shabbagh last evening.

They visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 6:00pm yesterday. From there, they marched towards the Shaheed Minar with the bodies of four people killed in yesterday's violence.

After a brief protest there, they headed towards Shabbagh through Dhaka University's Teacher Student Centre.

They chanted slogans: "Amar Bhai Morlo Keno, Sheikh Hasina Jobab Chai [Why did my brother die? Sheikh Hasina I want an answer]", "Lorai, Lorai, Lorai Chai, Lorai Kore Bachte Chai [Fight, fight, fight; we want to fight; we want to fight and live]", and "Dofa Ek Dabi Ek, Sheikh Hasinar Padatayag [One point, one demand, Sheikh Hasina's resignation]".

While crossing the Shabbagh Police Station, some protesters started throwing brickbats at it.

In retaliation, police lobbed stun grenades and teargas shells, dispersing the demonstrators. Three of the bodies were left on the street.

Among the four bodies, two have been identified – Abdullah Siddique, 23, a student of Habibullah Bahar Degree College and Touhidul.

The Daily Star could not independently verify where the bodies were later taken.

Four police officials, including an assistant sub-inspector, were injured in the incident, our staff correspondent reported from the spot.

A few minutes later, police took control of Shabbagh and the DU campus.

No protesters were found in Shabbagh, and police were seen positioned at every intersection on the campus when this report was filed at 8:00pm.



People take part in a march, as Lebanon marks the fourth anniversary of the explosion in the port of Beirut, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mobile internet

FROM PAGE 12

minister for ICT and telecom, could not be reached for comment.

The government shut down mobile internet service on July 17 to 'control the situation and counter fake news'.

A day later, broadband internet was blocked, severely affecting public life and a wide range of economic

activities, including utility bill payment, online banking, international communications, digital commerce and clearance of goods from ports.

The government restored broadband internet on a limited scale on July 23. However, social media platforms like Facebook, TikTok, WhatsApp and YouTube, remained

blocked.

Mobile internet was resumed on July 28, while social media restrictions were lifted on July 31.

However, mobile internet users could not access their Facebook and Messenger accounts for approximately seven hours on August 2.

## Curfew extended indefinitely

FROM PAGE 12

place in different areas in Dhaka and other parts of Bangladesh on the first day of the non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement.

On Saturday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan relaxed the ongoing curfew, which was imposed on July 20, from 6:00am to 9:00pm.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury, senior secretary at the public administration

ministry, cited public safety as the reason behind the holiday decision.

Banks and financial institutions will remain closed during the holiday period, said a top official of the Bangladesh Bank yesterday.

Meanwhile, operations of the courts across the country, including the Supreme Court's Appellate Division and High Court Division, and their offices will remain closed until further notice.

However, one or more magistrates will work round the clock at every court under the chief judicial magistrates and the chief metropolitan magistrates for hearing and disposing of urgent cases.

Besides, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan will take necessary measures for urgent matters during the closure.

The SC administration issued three separate notifications yesterday to this effect.

## Will not allow

FROM PAGE 12

restrictions and assist the police.

He added that their actions were not directed against students but against miscreants, saboteurs, arsonists, and those responsible for killing police officers.

The DMP chief said the quota protests that initially started under the banner of "Students Against Discrimination", had later been hijacked by criminals who caused unprecedented chaos across the country.

"BNP-Jamaat-Shibir has resumed vandalism and arson attacks over the last two days nationwide. In the capital, they attacked police and civilians with local weapons, crude bombs, and firearms. They even attacked BSMMU and CMM court, and vandalised police boxes and vehicles.

"At least 11 policemen, including three with bullet wounds, were injured in these attacks today [yesterday]. Their actions prove that they are not students but saboteurs

and terrorists," he said.

The DMP has shown considerable restraint since the beginning of the movement. The commissioner asserted that the aim of these miscreants was to demoralise the police. "We want to clearly state that no miscreant can stand in the capital."

Asked about people with sharp weapons and firearms seen with police in the Karwan Bazar area, the DMP chief claimed that they had not yet seen this.

## Teachers lay out 5-point outline

FROM PAGE 3

environment for a democratic election is ensured in the country," he said, adding that such a shadow government can continue even in an elected democratic system.

"The important responsibilities that the interim government will perform after assuming office are: establishing an inquiry committee and a special tribunal with the support of the United Nations to try those responsible for the July killings and oppression of the people, withdrawing the recent false cases, and releasing all those detained in these cases," according to Prof Anu.

The proposal includes that the interim government will also hold elections to constitute a Constituent Assembly within six months of its formation. The elected Constituent Assembly will propose a democratic constitution free of autocracy, communal, anti-people, and discriminatory clauses.

Based on that constitution, the interim government will immediately organise the next general election. A declaration should be finalised based on dialogue between the students and citizens, guiding the progress of Bangladesh through a combination of diversity." The Bangladesh University Teachers' Network is ready to play any role in the formation of the proposed interim government and the list of key stakeholders and shadow government," he added.

He also said this outline is only a preliminary proposal, and they are willing to work in the future to expand it if necessary.

Earlier, Dhaka University teacher Prof Samina Lutfa delivered a welcome speech, where DU teachers Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, Prof Giyara Nasreen, Prof Moshahida Sultana Ritu, and BUET teacher Prof Abdul Hasib Chowdhury read out the written statement in the press conference.

## Take back armed forces

FROM PAGE 3

associated with these untimely demises of hundreds of children, teens, and young brave souls."

He noted, "The Bangladeshi armed forces have never faced off with the masses or trained their guns at the chests of their fellow citizens."

Bangladesh's armed forces have worked tirelessly and made many sacrifices towards establishing global peace over the last three decades. "But that respect, status, and pride are being questioned today," he said.

Addressing the army, he said, "You must stand beside the people of the country ensuring full adherence to universal human rights. We cannot let our motherland be destroyed in front of our eyes."

"Our border is unprotected at the moment. BGB members have been withdrawn in significant numbers from the border belt to quell the student movement. Not surprisingly the border is now open to parties who wish to exploit the internal turmoil the country is going through."

"Time is ripe to immediately take the soldiers to barracks to prepare themselves for any eventuality as the time taken to transition from internal security mode to operational mode takes quite some time. On the same

## It's a clear violation

FROM PAGE 3

centring the protests.

A large number of students and citizens were killed during the nonpolitical movement while thousands of others were injured or detained, he said, expressing deep concern over a "mass detention" campaign by the law enforcement agencies.

He also expressed solidarity with the peaceful movement of students.

However, he said, state properties

note, we also urge the government to undertake political initiatives aiming at resolving the ongoing crisis. Do not destroy the good standing of our armed forces by keeping them engaged in a disgraceful campaign," he said.

He further urged for an investigation of all the killings, injuries, shootings, attacks, vandalisms, abductions, arrests, and acts of violence that have to be carried out by the United Nations under its full authority.

Iqbal Karim, who served as the chief of army staff from 2012 to 2015, said those who are responsible for pushing the people to a state of such extreme misery will have to be brought to justice.

The briefing was attended by the former Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Nuruddin Khan, former Maj Gen M Azizur Rahman, Maj Gen Abu Kaiser Fazlul Kabir, Maj Gen Jamil D Ahsan, Bir Protik, Maj Gen Rezaqul Haider, Maj Gen Muhammad Abdul Matin, Maj Gen Mujahid Uddin, Maj Gen Abul Kalam Humayun Kabir, Maj Gen Mahbubul Alam, Maj Gen Ruhul Amin, Maj Gen ATM Shahidul Islam, Brig Gen M Sakhawat Hossain and Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan among 48 retired officers.

He called for punishment for culprits of subversive activities. He also called upon the government to end harassment of students and mass detention, release all the detainees including students, and resume educational activities across the country to bring back respite in people's mind.

were damaged in violent activities centring the movement, which is not supportable.

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## Djokovic beats Alcaraz

FROM PAGE 12

Open and Wimbledon titles he has already pocketed this summer.

An emotional Djokovic celebrated by holding aloft the Serbian flag on court before clambering into the players' box to embrace his wife and children.

"We almost played three hours, the final shot was the only moment when I was sure I could win the match," said Djokovic, who had lost heavily to Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final last month.

"I put my body, my family on the line to win gold and finally I did it."

Alcaraz was distraught and wept as he attempted to conduct a TV

interview.

"Three hours, a big battle with tough moments," said the 21-year old after a final in which neither player dropped serve. "It's very painful to lose."

Djokovic carved out a break point in the second game of the opener and three more in the fourth, all saved by the Spaniard.

Then it was the Serb's turn to demonstrate his famed powers of resilience, fighting off three break points in the fifth game and another five in a marathon ninth game.

In a rollercoaster duel, Alcaraz saved a set point in the 12th game but his veteran opponent dominated

the tiebreak to claim the opener after a breathless 93 minutes on Court Philippe Chatrier.

There was no let-up in the second set, scintillating shot-making alongside rousing defence with Alcaraz fighting off the final's 14th break point in the third game.

Again the set was decided by a tie-break and it was Djokovic with history on the line again sweeping through to take victory after two hours and 50 minutes.

Lorenzo Musetti defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime in three sets on Saturday to claim the bronze medal, giving Italy its first men's tennis medal in 100 years.

## Journo killed

FROM PAGE 12

Amran Hossain was assaulted near Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University around 11:30am.

Around 4:00pm, a group of unidentified people threw brick chunks and stones at The Daily Star Centre on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, breaking the glass doors and windowpanes on the ground floor.

The incident took place during a clash between protesters and law enforcers aided by ruling party men.

This newspaper's country desk in-charge Mahmud Hassan Shanto, was assaulted at Karwan Bazar while he was on his way to work on a motorcycle.

FM Mizanur Rahman, staff

reporter of this newspaper, was beaten up by protesters in the New Market area of Chattogram city.

In Thakurgaon, Prothom Alo correspondent Mozibur Rahman was attacked near the Judge Court.

Ekattor TV Senior Reporter Habib Rahman was assaulted in Hatiirheel, and its correspondents in Chandpur, Sylhet, and Munshiganj were also attacked.

Two reporters of The Business Standard – Jahidul Islam and Naimul Islam Miraz – were injured in an attack by what they said were AL men.

Dhaka Tribune reporter Nawaz Farhin Antara was assaulted around 11:30am.

Channel24's reporter Shamima

Sultana was attacked in Shabbagh area. Two reporters of bdnews24.com – Mahmud Hasan and Masum Billah – were also assaulted when they tried to protect Shamima.

Two journalists of Jai Jai Din – Nahid Hasan and Amirul Islam – were attacked in Zigatola area.

SomoyTV reporter Morsalin Jonaed and cameraperson Md Murad were injured in Uttara. In Manikganj, reporters of Independent TV's Manjur Rahman, ATN Bangla's Shahidul Islam, Amar News' staff correspondent Dewan Sadman were injured in clashes.

Since July 16, a total of five journalists have been killed in violence centring the quota reform movement.

## Violence rocks Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3

police, ruling party men, and protesters in Shabbagh. At one point, AL men chased protesters, and both groups entered Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where they hurled brickbats at each other. Several hospital vehicles and private cars of doctors were set ablaze.

Around 2:00pm, five injured protesters received treatment at BIRDEM hospital, two of them with bullet wounds. At 4:15pm, an armored police vehicle emerged from Shabbagh Police Station but had to return inside as protesters blocked the area. Around 6:40pm, hundreds of protesters carried the four bodies of the deceased to Shabbagh intersection from Central Shaheed Minar. They later threw brickbats at Shabbagh Police Station, and policemen opened fire to retaliate and disperse the protesters.

SCIENCE LAB

At least 41 people were shot in the Science Lab area during a clash between AL men and protesters that ensued around 12:30pm and continued till 4:30pm. Of them, three were bullet-hit while the others were injured by pellets, according to sources at LabAid Hospital. Sounds of gunshots and stun grenades were reported from the scene.

Meanwhile, a showroom of the clothing brand "Yellow" in Dhanmondi was set ablaze at around 3:30pm. According to eyewitnesses, firefighters tried to reach the spot to extinguish the blaze but failed in the face of protesters. However, they later went again and were trying to douse the fire till last reported at 8:30pm.

AZAMPUR

In Azampur, AL leaders and activists gathered in Azampur area around 11:00am, and opened fire at protesters in presence of police when the students went there around 11:30am.

The two groups engaged in clashes and counter-chases till 5:30pm.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Anwarul Islam, president of Uttara Ward-1 unit of AL, was killed during the violence, said his cousin and former AL lawmaker Habib Hasan.

RAMPURA

Several thousand students of different private universities, colleges and schools blocked the road in Merul, Badda, Rampura bridge and Banasree area at around 10:15am, chanting slogans demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down, and justice for the deaths of their fellow students.

Some parents were also seen accompanying their children.

Around 3:30pm, the students left the spot and marched towards Shabbagh.

MIRPUR-10

Clashes, chases and counter-chases took place at Mirpur-10 between protesters and activists of ruling AL and its affiliates.

The AL men started gathering at Mirpur-10 crossing at 10:30am, armed with canes and firearms, and chased away protesters when they started gathering at Kazipara bus stand later.

The AL men left the scene as Army

personnel took position there with several vehicles at around 3:00pm.

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY

The Dhaka Chattogram Highway was left largely deserted as almost no vehicles carrying passengers or export-import goods used the road yesterday.

"No trucks, covered vans, or prime movers are operating on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway as the vehicle owners are afraid of violence," said Chowdhury Zafar Ahmed, general secretary of Bangladesh Covered Van-Truck-Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association.

Only one-fourth of the goods-laden vehicles dedicated to the route operated in the previous night, he added.

Around 90 percent of Bangladesh's over US \$100 billion worth international trade uses the highway as main route.

No inter-district passenger-buses operated yesterday either.

Md Abdus Sattar, general manager of Green Line Paribahan, said, "No passenger bought tickets today [yesterday], even though we were ready to run our buses."



### TODAY'S GOLD RUSH

- TRIATHLON**  
Mixed Relay  
12:00 pm
- SHOOTING**  
25m Rapid Fire Pistol (Men's)  
1:30 pm
- ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS**  
Men's Parallel Bars  
3:45 pm  
Women's Balance Beam  
4:38 pm  
Men's Horizontal Bar  
5:33 pm  
Women's Floor Exercise  
6:23 pm  
Men's Kayak Cross  
9:00 pm
- ATHLETICS**  
Men's Pole Vault  
11:00 pm  
Women's 5000m  
1:15 am (Tuesday)  
Women's 800m  
1:47 am (Tuesday)
- CYCLING TRACK**  
11:46 pm
- 3V3 BASKETBALL**  
Women: 2:00 am (Tuesday)
- 3V3 BASKETBALL**  
Men: 2:30 am (Tuesday)



Yesterday was a great day for Caribbean people as they saw two of their athletes bring in glory for their nations in the Paris Olympics. Just 10 minutes after Julien Alfred stunned American world champion Sha'Carri Richardson to win the women's 100 metres final and claim Saint Lucia's first-ever Olympic medal, [bottom middle] Thea LaFond made history for Dominica by winning gold in the triple jump to earn the country's first-ever Olympic medal. Jamaica's Shanieka Ricketts took silver and American Jasmine Moore claimed bronze in the triple jump event.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## France eye Olympic men's football final

### Morocco fancy chances against Spain

AFP, LYON

Thierry Henry's France have their sights set on a place in the gold medal match in the Olympic men's football as they face Egypt in the semifinals on Monday, while Spain take on an impressive Morocco in the other last four game.

France are dreaming of a second men's football gold – 40 years after their first – on home soil and will be overwhelming favourites against the Egyptians in Lyon.

Henry's team have not conceded a goal on their way to the semis, having eased through the group stage with three wins from three before edging out two-time Olympic champions Argentina 1-0 on Friday.

"I call my players the crazy guys, in a good way," said Henry, an all-time France great who won the World Cup and a European Championship as a player.

"I have had the opportunity to play in a lot of competitions. I am not saying I haven't enjoyed what I have done, but the Olympics are different."

Meanwhile, the winner of men's football gold will come from outside Latin America for the first time since 2000, and there is the possibility of an all North African final.

Morocco have been outstanding in reaching the semis, topping their group ahead of Argentina and hammering the United States 4-0.

They may fancy their chances in Marseille against Spain, who are hoping to follow their senior national team's triumph at Euro 2024 by winning football gold for the second time, 32 years on from victory at the Barcelona Games.

## McIntosh makes Canadian history

REUTERS, Paris

Summer McIntosh became the first Canadian athlete to take three golds from a single Olympics when she won the 200 metres individual medley at the Paris Games on Saturday.

The 17-year-old swimmer did it in an Olympic record time of two minutes 06.56 seconds, taking down the 2016 record of 2:06.58 set by Hungary's K a t i n k a Hosszu, to complete a medley double after winning the 400 last Monday.



Kate Douglass of the United States won the silver and Australian Kaylee McKeown was awarded the bronze after U.S. swimmer Alex Walsh, the 2021 silver medalist, was disqualified for an illegal turn at the end of the backstroke leg.

McIntosh now has four medals from Paris after also winning the 200 butterfly on Thursday and taking silver in the 400 freestyle on the opening Saturday.

"It's pretty surreal," she said. "I'm just so proud of myself for how I've been able to recover and manage these events, because it is a lot."

AFP, Paris

Julien Alfred and Thea LaFond led their two tiny Caribbean island nations to first-ever Olympic medals when they won golds in the women's 100m and triple jump at the Paris Games on Saturday.

In the 100m, St. Lucia's Alfred upstaged the much-hyped American world champion Sha'Carri Richardson, storming to a gun-to-tape victory in 10.72sec.

"It means a lot to my country. I'm sure they're celebrating right now," said Alfred.

It was a stunning success in pouring rain at the Stade de France, aided by world champion Richardson's terrible start and the withdrawal before the final of the injured Jamaican veteran Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

Richardson did fight back to claim silver in 10.87sec, but Fraser-Pryce missed out completely on her bid to become the first Olympian to medal in the same athletics event in five consecutive Games dating back to her gold in Beijing in 2008.

In any case, the evening belonged to 23-year-old Alfred, overcome with joy after realising she had bagged St. Lucia their first-ever medal of any colour at an Olympics.

"Growing up I used to be on the field struggling with no shoes running barefoot, running in my school uniform, running all over the place," said Alfred.

# Alfred leads double Caribbean delight



"I'm really hoping this gold medal will also help the youth and help St Lucia build a new stadium and really help the sport grow." In a remarkable turn of events, there was – just 10 minutes later – another gold for a second island nation in the West Indies which also began competing at the Games in 1996.

LaFond sailed out to a national record of 15.02 metres on her second effort in the triple jump. The world indoor champion held her nerve as Jamaica's Shanieka Ricketts went out to 14.87m to claim silver.

"It is absolutely beyond my wildest

dreams," said LaFond. "The rain was kind of in my favour, it came down as soon as I was done with that second jump – thank you God for working with me!"

LaFond added: "Here we are, Olympic champ. Dominica's first medal, it's gold. Indoor was the first medal, it was gold. What a year, what a life, oh my God, wow!"

"Every time I step on the track is an honour, bearing the flag is an honour, being Dominican is an honour. Representing a country with only 70,000 people and being out here and getting their first medal, a gold, is an honour."

## Tigers' preparation plans for Pak Tests remain uncertain

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's preparations for the upcoming two-match Test series in Pakistan has taken a hit with practice schedules having to be postponed due to the ongoing unrest in the country.

The team for the Pakistan series is yet to be announced but a probable contingent of players were set to begin skill training under head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and other coaching staff on Sunday. But practice had to be cancelled due to the ongoing unrest.

The government yesterday imposed a curfew for an indefinite period, leading to uncertainty over practice schedules. "Everything depends on the situation in terms of practice sessions taking place. If the situation does not permit, practice won't take place," a BCB source told The Daily Star. Bangladesh are scheduled to depart for Pakistan on August 17 with the first Test in Rawalpindi slated to begin on August 21 and the second Test in Karachi scheduled to start on August 30.

On Saturday, a scheduled physical assessment test of the players at the Bangabandhu National Stadium had to be cancelled due to poor weather. However, the Tigers did take part in strength and conditioning tests at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium the same day.

Bangladesh 'A' team are also slated to leave for Pakistan on August 6 to play two four-day games and three one-day matches. Many national team stars have been named in the 15-member squad for the first four-day match, slated to begin on August 10.

BCB sources have informed that the board is still sticking to their initial schedule regarding a team's departure but everything will depend on the circumstances at the time.

# Biles looks to join 'great' Ledecky

REUTERS, PARIS

Simone Biles could join an elite club of greatest female Olympians as she goes for titles eight and nine in the balance beam and floor exercise finals on the last day of artistic gymnastics competition at the Paris Games on Monday.

The American phenom, who won team, all-around and vault golds in Paris, is the favourite on floor but not a shoe-in on beam, the apparatus where a mere centimetre of misjudgment can separate a medallist from last place.

If Biles wins both beam and floor, her nine Olympic golds will tie her with U.S. swimmer Katie Ledecky and Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina for the most ever won by a female athlete.

Her beam challengers, teammate Sunisa Lee and Zhou Yaqin of China, are two of only three women who so far this year have performed a more difficult routine than Biles. Biles won beam bronze in the last two Olympics, including in Tokyo. She enjoys a difficulty advantage on the floor exercise with her signature tumbling, including a stratospheric double backflip with three twists, meaning the true race on the apparatus will most likely be for silver and bronze.

### LEDECKY CONFIRMS GREATNESS

Already rated one of swimming's all-time greats coming into the Paris Olympics, Katie Ledecky made

it official yesterday by storming to victory in her signature event, the 800 metres freestyle to end her work in the French capital in grand style with record-equalling ninth gold.

"I knew I just had to focus on the races, don't focus on times, just focus on getting the job done," said Ledecky, whose Paris haul also included gold in the 1,500, silver in the 4x200 freestyle relay and bronze in the 400m free.

In sharp contrast to Ledecky's runaway win in the 1,500m, the 800m freestyle was a thriller from start to finish, with Ariarne Titmus matching her stroke-for-stroke for almost the entire distance.

But with the American setting a relentless, grinding pace her great Australian rival would never get her nose in front, settling for silver, with Ledecky getting to the wall first in a time of 8 minutes, 11.04 seconds. It marked the fourth consecutive

Games Ledecky has won the 800m free, and she joins compatriot Michael Phelps as the only swimmers to win gold in four different Olympics. "Given that Michael's the only one that's ever done that, I think that just shows how difficult that is," said Ledecky. "Especially in the 800. It's just a lot of miles."

The 800m was the final event on Ledecky's Paris card and she returns home having added two golds, a silver and a bronze, bringing her Olympic stockpile to 14 medals in all – with more possible.



American swimmer Katie Ledecky celebrates on the podium after winning her ninth career Olympic gold, finishing first in the 800m freestyle in Paris on Saturday.

PHOTO: REUTERS





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## Curfew extended indefinitely Govt announces general holiday for 3 days from today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

In the wake of a sharp escalation of violence across the country, the government yesterday decided to extend the ongoing curfew for an indefinite period in the capital and all other divisional cities, city corporations, district and upazila headquarters.

The government also announced a three day general holiday starting today.

The home ministry, in a statement released in the afternoon, said the curfew would be effective from 6:00pm yesterday.

At least 90 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and several hundreds injured yesterday as fierce clashes took

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Protesters by the hundreds swarm the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday, where later a fierce clash broke out between them and ruling party supporters on the first day of the nationwide non-cooperation movement announced by the Anti-Discrimination Students' Movement. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Mobile internet, social media blocked again

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Mobile internet, along with popular social media and messaging platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp, are once again blocked in Bangladesh amid escalating violence that has cost dozens of lives.

A government agency under the home ministry instructed mobile operators to shut down 4G services, which facilitate mobile internet, around 12:40 pm yesterday, according to officials of the telecom operators.

"The authorities have shut down the mobile internet. We are in continuous communication with the relevant authorities regarding this issue," said Grameenphone regarding the government's instruction. Banglalink gave out a similar statement.

The telecom regulator ordered the international internet gateway (IIG) companies to block Meta Platforms - Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Instagram -- from broadband internet, around 1:45 pm, according to officials of IIG operators.

IIG operators supply wholesale internet to broadband internet providers. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state

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## Six AL activists beaten to death in Narsingdi

**STAR REPORT**

Six Awami League leaders and activists were beaten to death yesterday after they opened fire at protesters in Madhabdi upazila of Narsingdi, locals said.

The incident took place at a mosque near Madhabdi Municipal Building around 1:00pm, reports our correspondent, quoting Additional Superintendent of Police KM Shahidul Islam Shohag.

Police said the deceased are Delwar Hossain Shaheen, 37, chairman of Chardighaldi Union Parishad and former general secretary of Madhabdi Chhatra League; Babul Hossain, 47, councillor of Ward-12; Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan, 48, organising secretary of Madhabdi Swechchhasebok League and member of Zilla Parishad; Delwar Hossain Delu, 48, former Chhatra League activist; Kamal Mia, 45, who had no post in the ruling AL, but was known in the area as a supporter; and Anisur Rahman Sohel, 43, leader of Madhabdi Swechchhasebok League.

Witnesses said hundreds of protesters blocked the Dhaka-Sylhet highway around 12:00pm.

Around an hour later, hundreds of AL leaders and activists first asked the protesters to leave and then opened fire at them, injuring several protesters, locals said.

As the protesters chased the AL men away with sticks, some of them went inside Boro Masjid.

The protesters then caught and beat up at least 10 people inside the mosque, leaving six of them dead, locals said.

The bodies were lying there for hours.

Around 8:00pm, the dead bodies were sent to Narsinghdi Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Upazila Parishad Chairman Anwar Hossain's younger brother Jakaria Hossain said the AL men were attacked by BNP leaders and protesters without any provocation.

Of those who got shot, Alamin, 25, and Suman, 30, were admitted to Narsinghdi Sadar Hospital, and two others were taken to a private facility.

## Djokovic beats Alcaraz to win Olympic gold

**AFP, Paris**

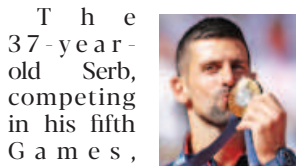
Novak Djokovic defeated Carlos Alcaraz on Sunday to claim a maiden Olympic title and become just the fifth player to complete a career Golden Slam.

The 37-year-old Serb, competing in his fifth Games, came through 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) in an enthralling final at Roland Garros to add Olympic gold to his 24 Grand Slam triumphs.

Victory allowed him to join Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf and the watching Serena Williams as the only players to win all four Grand Slam tournaments and Olympic singles gold.

He also became the oldest singles champion since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988 and shattered Alcaraz's bid to add gold to the French

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## Israel presses on with deadly raids in Gaza

**33 Palestinians killed; Hezbollah, Israel trade projectiles along Lebanon border**

**AGENCIES**

An Israeli airstrike hit a tent inside a hospital compound in central Gaza, killing at least five people, bringing the total number of Palestinians killed yesterday to 33, Gaza health officials said, after another round of talks ended without result.

The airstrike hit a tent area inside the Al-Aqsa Hospital compound, starting a fire, wounding at least 18 people in addition to the five killed, medical authorities said.

The attack came hours after a strike on two Gaza City schools-turned-shelters. At least 25 Palestinians were killed and several others were injured in the strike.

The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas member who "conducted terror activities" and that secondary explosions were identified, indicating the presence of weaponry in the hospital compound.

Its statement added it struck 50 military targets across the enclave in the last 24 hours, including Hamas cells.

The hospital compound is in the Deir Al-Balah area, which is crowded with thousands of people displaced by fighting in other parts of the enclave have sought shelter, reports Reuters.

Sirens went off in the area of Ashdod, further north than seen in recent weeks, and the Israeli military said five rockets were launched from southern Gaza. No injuries were reported.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday at least 39,583 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive. The toll includes 33 deaths in 24 hours, according to ministry figures.

- Foreign nationals told to leave Lebanon
- Gaza talks in Cairo failed to deliver progress
- Death toll in enclave rises to 39,583

Israeli forces have continued strikes and shelling in the Gaza Strip after diplomatic efforts in Cairo on Saturday ended without progress, and as Israel braces for a serious escalation in the north.

Chances of a breakthrough appear low as regional tension has soared following the assassination of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday, a day after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed Fuad Shukur, a top military commander from Lebanese armed group Hezbollah.

Meanwhile, urgent calls for foreign nationals to leave Lebanon grew yesterday with France warning of "a highly volatile" situation, reports AFP.

France, Canada and Jordan were among the latest governments to call for their citizens to leave Lebanon. The United States and Britain have issued similar warnings.



Police lob teargas canisters and fire rubber bullets to disperse protesters after they torched around 25 motorcycles in front of the residence of State Minister For Water Resources Zaheed Farooque on Nabagram Road in Barishal city yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Comply with curfew rules: army

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Bangladesh Army has urged all to comply with the rules of the curfew that was extended for an indefinite period yesterday. It also sought everyone's cooperation in this regard.

The government took the decision which will apply to the capital and all other divisional cities, city corporations, district and upazila headquarters.

The curfew came into effect at 6:00pm yesterday.

According to a statement signed by Inter-Services Public Relation Director Lt Col Sami Ud Dowl Chowdhury, the army will play its role as mandated by the constitution and laws in ensuring the security of the people and protection of the important state infrastructures.

"The curfew has been imposed for an indefinite period considering the deterioration of the country's overall law and order," said the ISPR statement yesterday.

## Journo killed in Sirajganj

**Daylong attacks leave 25 media personnel, including 3 Star journalists, injured**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A journalist was killed during clashes between protesters and local Awami League activists in Sirajganj yesterday.

At least 25 other journalists were also injured across the nation.

Three of the injured are journalists of The Daily Star.

In Sirajganj, Pradip Kumar Bhowmik, Rayganj correspondent of Daily Khoborpatra, died after he was assaulted during agitators' attack on Rayganj Press Club around noon.

His colleagues later took him to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

He was also a member of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Earlier, the protesters vandalised the local Awami League office.

In the capital, The Daily Star photographer

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## Will not allow 'March to Dhaka'

**Says DMP chief**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Habibur Rahman said yesterday that they would not allow today's "March to Dhaka" programme called by the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement to happen as it violates the curfew restrictions that have been put in place in light of the ongoing unrest in the country.

"Our instruction is clear. Since the curfew is in effect until further notice, no one is allowed to leave their homes during this period. If anyone violates the curfew, legal actions will be taken against them. We will show zero tolerance in this regard and will take lawful actions," he said.

Speaking at a press briefing last night, the DMP chief requested everyone adhere to the curfew

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