

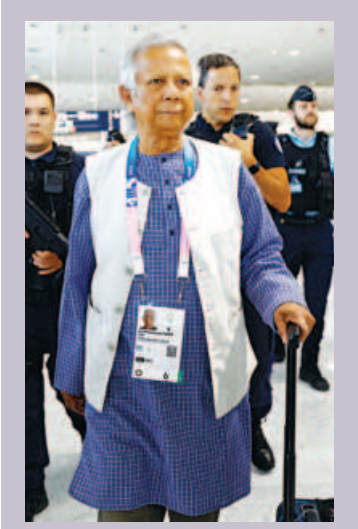
Stay calm, refrain from violence

Yunus urges people, asks the youth to be ready to build nation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the youth to stay calm and get ready to build the nation.

In a statement issued by the Yunus Centre, the Nobel peace laureate also said, "I fervently appeal to everybody to stay calm. Please refrain from all kinds of violence. I appeal to all students, members of all political parties and non-political people to stay calm. This is our beautiful country with lots of exciting possibilities. We must protect and make it a wonderful country for us and for our future generations."



"Let us not let this victory slip away because of our mistakes."

He added, "Our youth is ready to give this leadership in creating a new world. Let us not miss the chance by going into any senseless violence. Violence is our enemy. Please don't create more enemies. Be calm and get ready to build the country."

"If we take the path of violence everything will be destroyed. Please stay calm. Help those around you to stay calm."

In the statement, he congratulated the students who made the "second victory day" possible.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The VIP Road in front of BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters is full to the brim with people attending the party's first rally in over six years to be addressed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

INTERIM GOVT Swearing-in tonight

Army chief says armed forces to help Yunus in all possible ways; new govt may have 15 members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the interim government led by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus will take oath tonight, three days after the cabinet was dissolved following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina.

After sharing the information with journalists, army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday said the oath-taking ceremony is likely to be held at 8:00pm in presence of some 400 dignitaries.

He hinted that the interim government may have 15 members for now. He, however, did not disclose their names and the possible tenure of the government.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BB, NBR grapple with staff anger

Six central bank officials, including four deputy governors, depart

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was not a usual day at Bangladesh Bank and the tax authority. For hundreds of employees, it was a day to air frustration and collective rage.

At the central bank, mid-level employees erupted into wild protests yesterday, demanding the resignations of six senior officials, including Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder and four deputy governors. A video taken by a reporter showed soldiers trying to calm protesters, a rare scene in the banking sector.

As the chaos unfolded at Bangladesh Bank, the governor was nowhere to be seen. He stayed away from work for the second day.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BNP calls for unity, polls at the soonest

Khaleda, Tarique address huge rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday called for calm and unity and ensuring the safety of all irrespective of religion, race and identity as well as immediate election.

"Let's not indulge in destruction, revenge, vengeance—let us build a society based on love, peace, and knowledge," BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said in a three-minute long video message played out at a mammoth rally at the capital's Nayapaltan.

Tens of thousands of leaders, activists and supporters, who began convening at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters in the morning, burst into loud cheers when Khaleda's video message played out, her first speech in six and a half years.

She thanked the youth for getting rid of the "fascist illegal government" through an extended movement centring on quota reforms for government jobs.

"I want to sincerely thank our brave children who made this possible through their desperate struggle. I pay respect to the hundreds of martyrs. This victory has brought a new possibility for the nation."

Khaleda, a three-time prime minister, called for building a "knowledge-based, democratic Bangladesh with merit and competence" and "free from exploitation".

"We have to build a prosperous Bangladesh from unprecedented corruption and ruins of destroyed democracy. The dream for which the youth have shed their blood must be realised. Students and youth are our future. Let's strengthen the hands of our youth to build tomorrow's Bangladesh based on peace, progress and equality."

The rights of all religions and communities must be ensured, said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Students wiping off the anti-government slogans and pictures drawn during the protests on a wall of the Government College of Physical Education in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday while their parents watch.

'Whom do we turn to for help?'

Robberies rampant in Mohammadpur, other neighbourhoods in city; locals and students keep vigil in absence of law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents in the capital's Mohammadpur and several other areas are in a state of panic as gangs of criminals have been looting and robbing homes in the absence of law enforcers over the last two days.

The same is happening in several other parts of the country.

From Tuesday night to early yesterday, many families in Mohammadpur had been sleepless from fear of robberies.

Locals made loudspeaker announcements from mosques and took to the streets around midnight to confront the criminals.

Some residents had also turned to social media to seek help, which prompted many people, including

students, to stand guard at various intersections and keep vigil.

The fear of robberies spread through Naboday Housing, Mohammadia Housing, Chan Mia Housing, Chand Udyan, Dhaka Udyan and Chandrima Housing areas—all in Mohammadpur.

Upon information, an army team patrolled the Naboday Housing and Bashbari areas.

It also detained a group of men on a truck in Bashbari. The men, however, claimed to be sand workers and were later released.

A resident of Naboday Housing area said, "Last night, a group of people carrying local weapons came and attacked a neighbouring house. They forcefully opened the main gate and looted cash and jewelry."

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Take stern actions to stop anarchy, looting

President asks cops; IGP tells them to return to post in 24hr

STAR REPORT

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday asked the police force to take stringent action to control looting and the anarchic situation in the country.

He gave the directive to the police when newly appointed Inspector General of Police Md Mainul Islam called on him at the Bangabhaban, reports UNB.

Congratulating the new IGP, the president said the role of police is very important in maintaining law and order and ensuring



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

FOR HELP



STUDENTS STEP UP TO FILL THE VACUUM—PAGE 3

Today with great admiration we observe the 6th death anniversary of

Late *Afzalur Rahman Sinha*

A charismatic personality, successful entrepreneur, great freedom fighter and a devoted philanthropist.

Late Afzalur Rahman Sinha was the Chairman of The ACME Laboratories Ltd. and President of Dhaka Club Limited. Moreover, he was one of the key sports personalities and apprehended respectable positions in the country's sports arena namely, Director, Bangladesh Cricket Board; Chairman, Bangladesh Premier League; Director, Abahani Ltd.; and Vice President, Bangladesh Hockey Federation. As a result of his outstanding and extraordinary contribution towards Sports in Bangladesh, he has been awarded the prestigious National Sports Award (posthumous), 2020 from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. We the ACME family remember him with utmost admiration and profound honor on his 6th death anniversary.



Afzalur Rahman Sinha
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AUGUST 5 VIOLENCE Death toll in Savar rises to 36

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The death toll centring the violence on August 5, the day Sheikh Hasina resigned from office, rose to 36, according to hospital sources.

On that day, violent clashes between police-backed Awami League activists and protesters broke out.

Most of the deaths were caused by gunshot wounds, they said.

Yusuf, duty manager of Enam Medical College Hospital, said that 27-year-old Sadek succumbed to his bullet injuries while undergoing treatment yesterday.

With this, the authorities reported 16 deaths, including those brought dead there and who died in the hospital.

Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vitik Medical College Hospital in Ashulia reported 10 bullet-riddled bodies, including one unknown victim.

Earlier, Ashulia Women and Children Hospital confirmed the death of three people while another victim died in Habib Clinic in Ashulia.



The house of Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, was ransacked and set on fire in the capital's upscale neighbourhood of Gulshan. Locals said the house was torched on Monday, the day Hasina resigned and fled the country.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Over 300 inmates flee Kashimpur, Kushtia jails

STAR REPORT

At least six bodies of prisoners were recovered from Kashimpur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur early yesterday, hours after a group of prisoners escaped following demonstrations by some inmates and attack from outside by their "relatives".

Gazipur Deputy Commissioner Abul Fateh Mohammad Safiqul Islam yesterday said, "We are yet to ascertain how many prisoners fled."

The bodies were taken to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital around 4:00am, said Abul Fazal, officer at the hospital's emergency department.

This newspaper could not confirm how the six prisoners died as the jail's senior superintendent, Subrata Kumar Pal, could not be reached over the phone despite repeated attempts.

Quoting jail officials, Bangla daily Prothom Alo reported that at least 209 prisoners fled.

A group of prisoners started demonstrating around noon on Tuesday demanding release. They tried to flee by breaking a wall and scaling it using a ladder. Jail guards tried to quell the trouble. At

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Stay calm, refrain from violence

FROM PAGE 1

"I congratulate the brave students who took the lead in making our 'Second Victory Day' possible and to the people for giving your total support to them. Let us make the best use of our new victory. Let us not let this slip away because of our mistakes."

THE ACQUITTAL

Later in the day, a Dhaka tribunal acquitted Prof Yunus in a labour law violation case.

Three other top officials of

Grameen Telecom were also acquitted.

MA Awal, chairman (in-charge) of the Labour Appellate Tribunal, delivered the verdict, Khaja Tanvir Ahmed, a lawyer for Yunus, told 'The Daily Star'.

On January 1, the Labour Court-3 of Dhaka sentenced Yunus, also chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its directors Ashraf Hassan, M Shahjahan and Nurjahan Begum to six months' imprisonment each for violating labour laws.

The four were also fined Tk 30,000 each, in default of which they would have to serve 25 more days in prison.

On January 28, Prof Yunus and his colleagues filed appeals with the Labour Appellate Tribunal against the sentence.

On September 9, 2021, Labour Inspector (General) SM Arifuzzaman filed the case with the labour court against the four.

The court framed the charges in the case on June 6 last year. It also

recorded four prosecution witnesses' statements.

The sections of the labour law under which the case was filed carry a maximum of six months' imprisonment.

According to the case documents, Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments officials inspected the Grameen Telecom office in the capital's Mirpur on August 16, 2021, and found several violations of labour laws.

BB, NBR grapple with staff anger

FROM PAGE 1

Employees started agitating at the central bank in the commercial district of Motijheel right after they arrived at work in the morning, demanding the resignation of officials who are serving contractually. The governor, deputy governors, and the banking adviser are hired contractually.

In the face of protests, Deputy Governor Kazi Sayedur Rahman resigned, while two deputy governors - Habibur Rahman and Md Khurshid Alam - decided to step down. Banking adviser Md Abu Farah Naser also decided to go, according to officials. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit chief Masud Biswas was forced to leave his office. He then decided to quit.

At a hurried press briefing, BB spokesperson Mezbaur Haque said some deputy governors decided to resign amid protests and some were forced to step down.

Widespread protests came two days after Sheikh Hasina's sudden exit from Bangladesh amid a popular uprising. The collapse of her government created a power vacuum

that led to further violence, alongside the joy and relief on the streets of Dhaka.

Partisan decisions and corruption weakened the financial system, once controlled by Awami League loyalists, during the party's 15-year iron grip on power.

A similar scene of anger played out at the National Board of Revenue, as officials called for the resignation of its chairman, Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem.

Economists say unruly protests are not the way to reform the regulatory bodies and can upend the financial sector.

Another powerful regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission, passed two days without its boss - Shibli Rubayat-Ul Islam. The chairman stayed away from work fearing reprisals from colleagues, an official said, asking not to be named.

These activities are not very uncommon during a mass uprising as people vent anger on the high-ups, according to Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute. "There should be a planned

process of streamlining the financial institutions and regulatory bodies. The officials involved in malpractices will face consequences. No one should take the law into their own hands," he said.

"What we saw at the central bank was very disturbing. The central bank's top officials are now completely inactive, which will make the institution inactive," Ahsan Mansur said.

The interim government, which is being installed with Professor Muhammad Yunus as its head, will now decide on the resignations of the deputy governors.

The new government should be formed without delay because it needs time to find eligible people to run institutions, according to Ahsan Mansur.

On top of these protests, a gloomy report came from S&P Global Ratings. It said Bangladesh's political crisis has further undermined sovereign credit support since it lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating on July 30 this year. However, credit metrics may still support the ratings at the current level if the situation

stabilises soon.

The protests that led to the abrupt resignation of Hasina on August 5 have exacerbated downside risks to economic growth, fiscal performance, and external metrics, S&P said.

The week was rife with commotions in the corporate world. On Tuesday, employees of Islami Bank Bangladesh staged a demonstration against alleged plundering from the bank by S Alam Group, a corporate giant with ties to Hasina. They also briefly barred some officials from the bank's head office in Motijheel.

The demonstrators alleged that they were deprived of various benefits for over a decade, following changes in the bank's ownership and board. Some employees also demonstrated at the bank's headquarters, demanding the resignation of deputy managing directors and other officials appointed by S Alam Group.

A group of officials at Sonali Bank yesterday called for the state-run lender's managing director to provide incentives and promotions to the officials who were "deprived" of benefits in the past several years.

Gaza City braces for fresh offensive Israel orders residents to evacuate Beit Hanoon, Beit Lahiya areas

AGENCIES

Israel ordered residents and displaced Palestinians to evacuate the Beit Hanoon and Beit Lahiya areas of Gaza City yesterday, as reports said a "large scale" Israeli army operation is expected to begin there soon.

"For your own safety, evacuate immediately to the known shelters in the centre of Gaza City," Israeli army spokesman Avichay Adraee said.

In a nearby Gaza City neighbourhood, Al-Tuffah, an Israeli airstrike on a house killed three Palestinians, medics said.

Later yesterday, 10 Palestinians were killed in two separate Israeli strikes in Khan Younis in southern Gaza. Medics said one strike killed three people on a motorcycle west of Khan Younis, while seven others were killed in tank shelling that hit a tent encampment in Abassan town, east of the city.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said that at least 39,677 people have been killed in the offensive, which entered its 11th month yesterday. The toll includes 24 deaths in the past 24 hours, according to ministry figures.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday evening that both Iran and Israel should avoid escalating conflict, in his most direct wording towards US ally Israel on the Middle East's spiralling tensions.

"No one should escalate this conflict. We've been engaged in intense diplomacy with allies and partners, communicating that message directly to Iran. We communicated that message directly to Israel," Blinken told reporters.

Swearing-in tonight

FROM PAGE 1

General Waker-Uz Zaman hoped that normalcy would return within three to four days as the situation across the country is improving significantly.

Those involved in the crimes committed over the past few days will not be spared and legal action will be taken against them, he said.

The army chief briefed the media at the Army Headquarters yesterday, two days after Hasina resigned and fled the country amid an uprising.

On Tuesday night, President Mohammed Shahabuddin gave his consent to the proposal of the key student protest organisers for making Prof Yunus the interim government chief.

Since then, the people waited to know when the government would take charge and bring the prevailing situation under its control.

Yesterday, General Waker-Uz Zaman said he had talked to Prof Yunus.

"I felt very good talking to him. It seemed to me that he is very eager to take up the responsibility. I'm certain that he will be successful in taking us to a democratic process, and that we will benefit from it."

General Waker-Uz Zaman said they have discussed with political parties and protest organisers about making Prof Yunus the interim government chief.

He said they talked to the president about it and made the proposal.

He added that Prof Yunus will reach Bangladesh today.

General Waker-Uz Zaman hoped that Prof Yunus would get support from all political parties and students, and he would be successful in discharging his duties.

"The navy chief, the air force chief and I ... We all will support him," he

said.

He praised students and volunteers working to maintain traffic on the city streets in the absence of traffic police and to clean different vandalised sites and requested them to continue the good work.

He said students, following his request, also worked to prevent looting and other criminal activities committed outside Dhaka.

The army chief said he talked to commanders and general officers commanding (GOC) yesterday and came to know that the situation was improving significantly.

He urged people not to believe any rumors involving the army.

General Waker-Uz Zaman said work is on to revamp the police force as a new inspector general of police has already been appointed and hoped that police personnel would start performing their duties soon.

"I want to assure that the army, navy, and air force were with the people and will be with them," he said.

Responding to a query of a reporter when the interim government members can take the oath, the army chief said they were trying their best to hold the event today.

He said there was a proposal to hold the programme in the evening, but it would be tight given that Prof Yunus will reach Dhaka around 2:10pm.

"In that case, we may hold the programme at 8:00pm."

When his comment was sought about the people's concern over the recent incidents of looting and vandalism, General Waker-Uz Zaman said he has taken responsibility of all people and sought cooperation from political leaders in this regard as there were possibilities of such incidents during the transition of power.

"They [political leaders] assured me

of their best possible cooperation. Even though some incidents took place and there are some reasons behind it. The situation, however, is getting normal."

He said police personnel were not on the ground and it was not possible to fill the void with the army personnel.

However, the army personnel have been trying their best and they rescued thousands of people, police personnel and are guarding different important establishments like the airport, and the secretariat, said General Waker-Uz Zaman.

"I'm very sorry and embarrassed for what has taken place in the first one or two days."

Apart from army personnel, navy and air force personnel are working, he said.

"We have tried our best. But still some incidents happened. It is simply because we did not have enough strength. But I'm sure when the police force gets revamped, the void will easily be filled," he said.

"But I want to say that we will try our best to bring those involved in such [criminal] activities to book," he added.

Asked whether he had any plan to increase the number of the force on the ground, the army chief said, "All the personnel we have in the military have already been deployed and they are working."

Responding to another question, he said, "Politicians asked me to take the responsibility [of people's safety]."

"Somebody has to take it [responsibility]. There was no one to take it and thus I shouldered the responsibility. I have to take the responsibility if there is any failure here. I have tried my best and normalcy will return within a very short time," he said.

"But we have a lot to do. Give me some more time."

BNP calls for unity, polls at the soonest

FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda, who landed in jail in a corruption case in February 2018.

At the beginning of her speech, Khaleda, who was released from house arrest on Monday, said she was grateful to the Almighty for being able to speak after being ill for a long time.

"During my imprisonment, you struggled and prayed for my release and recovery. For that, I thank you all," she added.

Her son Tarique Rahman, the acting chairman of BNP, addressed the rally virtually to a thunderous applause too.

He urged everyone not to take the law into their own hands and not to engage in revenge.

He called upon his party's leaders and activists and other democratic political parties to ensure the security of every person irrespective of religious identity and not indulge in violence.

"Stop attacking the police or religious minority communities from today. Even if someone tries to commit a crime using the name of BNP, hand them over to the law. Stand as a shield and set an example by ensuring the safety of everyone, regardless of their religion, race or identity."

Stressing the significance of the role of police, he said: "In a civilised and democratic state, the police are indispensable. The police are not the enemies of the people."

Democratic parties, including BNP, believe that except for a certain clique within the police, most officers are trying to perform their duties by adhering to job regulations and laws, he said.

"After Hasina fled the country, a clique is now conspiring to demoralise police. If the police can be rendered ineffective, it will become easy to destabilise the country. It will be easy to create insecurity among

religious minorities."

Speaking about the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, he said the day was akin to a second independence for Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh has been imprisoned for the past 15 years. On August 5, Bangladesh witnessed another victory through the united revolution of students and the people. Today, the door to democracy has opened. Today, our beloved Bangladesh is free and independent."

No evil force can suppress Bangladesh if the pro-Bangladesh forces stay united, he said.

"In the Liberation War of 1971 and the Liberation War of 2024, the people's message was only one: independence cannot be conditional."

Tarique emphasised making the administration competent, with highest priority given to merit recruitment and promotion.

The BNP has proposed establishing an upper house in the national parliament to include knowledgeable and distinguished people residing abroad in state administration and policymaking, said Tarique, who has been living in London since 2008.

"The national election must be held immediately and power must be handed over to the elected representatives," he added.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir urged the president to form an interim government without any delay.

"This government will arrange national elections within three months. The people will fully support them in this process," he said.

Before the speakers commenced their speeches, the gathering observed a minute's silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the quota reform movement.

Six members of the party's standing committee addressed the crowd, expressing their gratitude to the students for their contributions.

Take stern actions to stop anarchy, looting

FROM PAGE 1

the safety of people's lives and property.

Restoring law and order in the country is the most important thing, Shahabuddin said, adding that the police should focus on improving the current situation.

He also asked the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to ensure that every member of the police force can perform their duties with high morale and courage maintaining the chain of command.

'JOIN WORK WITHIN 24 HOURS'

IGP Mainul yesterday instructed all police personnel to return to their respective police lines, offices, and barracks to secure public order.

"We want to start anew to ensure the safety of people's lives. Therefore, all are instructed to return to their respective workplaces within the next 24 hours ... by Thursday evening [August 8]," he said at his first briefing at the Police Headquarters.

Mainul said officers and staffers of all metropolitan, district, river police, railway, and highway police stations have been asked to join work within 24 hours.

A directive has been sent to all police units in this regard, he added.

"The metropolitan police commissioners and the superintendents of police will form citizen security committees for each police station's jurisdiction area, comprising senior citizens, professionals, student representatives, political figures, and media personnel.

"The committees will play an emergency role in ensuring the security of police stations and police station areas and its final outline will be determined later," he said.

He directed his colleagues at all levels to refrain from making any demand, comment or reply through social media personally or under the banner of any batch or association in the interest of maintaining discipline in the police force.

Mainul replaced Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun as IGP. A circular was issued in this regard on Tuesday night by the Public Security Division of the home ministry.

Mamun's removal came in the wake of a breakdown of law and order across the country after the fall of the Awami League government on Monday.

At least 142 people have died across the country in mob violence and rioting since then.

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For the second day in a row, students manage traffic and clean streets in the capital and elsewhere to maintain order. They also cleaned key establishments, including the Central Shaheed Minar. The photos were taken in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Sylhet and Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

JP ready to support Dr Yunus

Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Party has expressed joy and relief as Noble Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has been named as chief adviser of the interim government.

The party chairman, GM Quader, also congratulated Prof Yunus and wished him success in a statement yesterday.

The JP chief thanked the leaders of the anti-discrimination student movement for suggesting Yunus' name as head of the interim government.

"Prof Yunus is our pride. He introduced the concept of microcredit and social business to alleviate hunger and poverty as a unique model for the whole world. All of his activities are for the welfare of the people," said GM Quader.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Students step up to fill the vacuum

Remain vigilant to restore order in Dhaka, Ctg and beyond

ARAFAT RAHAMAN and MASHFIQ MIZAN

"Is this a place to ply a rickshaw?"

A student was seen telling a rickshaw puller at Hatirjheel intersection.

"Please turn the rickshaw around," he added.

This scene was just a snapshot of the measures taken by students to maintain order during an unprecedented power vacuum in the country.

Across the city at Panthapath intersection, a group of college goers was seen stopping another rickshaw for moving in the wrong direction.

The rickshaw passenger, a middle-aged man, was taken aback for a moment. But instead of irritation, his face broke into a warm smile.

He stepped out of the rickshaw, extending a hand to the young men and women.

"Thank you," he said, "You're doing a great job. Carry on."

Then, he bought water bottles for the students.

For over 48 hours, with no police presence and absence of an existing government, students have taken it upon themselves to prevent chaos and untoward incidents.

Armed with sticks and proudly displaying

the national flag on their foreheads, they have stood guard in the capital and other parts of the country. The sight brings back memories of the 2018 road safety movement, which coincidentally also took place in August.

These students, with their ID cards hanging around their necks, have created separate lanes for emergency vehicles, and

This is our country. Our brothers gave lives for this country. We won't let Bangladesh descend into chaos as long as we have life in our body.

ALI WASIF, a college student

have also made sure everyone follows traffic rules. They are also cleaning the city streets as wastes piled up in absence of city corporation workers.

There are reports of students guarding homes, establishments, and businesses of minority communities in different parts of the country.

Meanwhile, they have stood guard and cleaned various state establishments following the vandalism on August 5.

Students have been actively managing traffic at major intersections in Dhaka, including Gono Bhaban, TSC, Agargaon, Mirpur 10, and ECB intersection. They are also present in heavily congested areas like Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Mirpur Road, Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, and Rampura, ensuring smooth vehicle flow.

Ali Wasif, a college student, said, "This is our country. Our brothers gave lives for this country. We won't let this country descend into chaos as long as we have life in our body." He was managing traffic at Panthapath intersection.

Commuters were gladly following their directions. Nahidul Islam, a private job holder, said, "It's heartwarming that these young people took the duty into their hands in the absence of traffic personnel. They proved themselves; they are the guardians of this country."

In Agargaon, students stood with placards reading, "Ajker Shikkha Hok Protidiner Obhbash" (Let today's learning be a daily habit).

Sabbir, a student of Sher-e-Bangla

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Torching of Dhanmondi-32 a blot on our history

Says Kader Siddique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abdul Kader Siddique, chief of Krishak Sramik Janata League, has lamented the arson attack on Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, saying it would have been better had he died before witnessing the gutted house of the independence hero at Dhanmondi 32 in Dhaka.

Kader, decorated with the Bir Uttom title and called Bangabir for his valiant role in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

What's the point in destroying history?

Asks Sohel Taj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Former state minister for home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj, in a video message, yesterday protested the countrywide destruction, including the attack on the historic Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32.

"I am in pain witnessing the countrywide destruction caused by opportunists. Did students

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

HSC exams postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has once again postponed the HSC and equivalent examinations that were scheduled to start on August 11, citing "unavoidable reasons".

In a press release issued yesterday, the Inter Education Board Coordination Committee announced that the exams, which were to resume on August 11, have been postponed. The revised schedule for the exams will be announced later, according to the release.

Earlier, on August 1, the chairman of the committee, Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, stated that the exams would take place from August 11 according to a new schedule.

According to multiple officials from the Secondary and Higher

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Cultural heritage under attack

Sculptures, memorials vandalised across country; aviary, eco-park destroyed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Within two and a half days since the fall of Sheikh Hasina, the country has witnessed widespread violence, ransacking, and the vandalism of archaeological sculptures, statues, and murals of Hasina and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On Monday, a mob vandalised and set fire to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mural and Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, the structure of Themis at the Supreme Court premises, Shadhinata Sangram Bhashkarjo at Fuller Road, the sculpture of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin in Mymensingh, and the Mujibnagar Liberation War Memorial Complex in Meherpur.

On Wednesday night, miscreants vandalised part of the "Madhusudan De

Smriti Sculpture" in front of Madhu's Canteen on the Dhaka University premises.

In Mymensingh's Zainul Park area, the sculpture of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin in front of the Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) was damaged by a mob on Monday afternoon.

Additionally, miscreants also broke down the 144-year-old Venus sculpture in front of Shashi Lodge the same day.

Md Saiful Islam, an employee of the lodge, said the mob broke down the gate in the afternoon and later destroyed the sculpture.

Maharaja Suryakanta Acharya Chowdhury, one of the Muktagacha zamindars, built the lodge in 1880 after his adopted son Maharaja Shashikanta Acharya Chowdhury, at a cost of Tk 11 lakh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Three students carry a bust for preservation after the Shadhinata Sangram Bhashkarjo on Fuller Road was vandalised on Monday. The photo was taken at Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

He never came back

FROM PAGE 5
Biplob's story is one of hope and hardship. A student at Mozaffar Ali Fakir High School and College, he had appeared for his SSC exams earlier this year but had failed in Bangla. Determined to succeed, he was preparing to retake the exams next year.

But Biplob wasn't just a student; he was the backbone of his family.

With his father, Babul Mia, unable to work due to an orthopedic issue, Biplob took on the responsibility of supporting his family and helped his two younger sisters, Farjana Akter Babi and Jannatul Ferdous, continue their education.

He started working at a local oil mill while preparing for the exams.

His mother, Bilkis Akter, said on July 20, Biplob left the house in the morning after getting a phone call. He told his mother that he would join a protest rally and then come back home for lunch.

"I was cooking lunch when I heard the

commotion from nearby Kaltapara Bazar," Bilkis said. "I cooked Pangas fish, his favourite. He was supposed to come back for lunch before heading to work."

As Biplob did not return, Bilkis started to panic.

"My heart kept telling me something was wrong. As I went outside, I saw a human haulier carrying the injured, and then I saw his legs. I knew it was Biplob. I screamed and lost consciousness."

Biplob's father, Babul Mia, was away in Sylhet for work when the incident occurred. "We have no land, just our home on two decimals of land," Babul said. "We lost our son, our support, and now the future of my daughters is in jeopardy."

Babul said his wife is now bedridden and has lost the ability to communicate properly. Biplob's grandmother, Rokeya Begum, said, "Biplob earned about Tk 8,000 a month and supported all of us."



Students along with Ansar members stand guard in front of the Jatrabari Police Station after a mob set it on fire. Several vehicles, furniture and valuables were burnt in the arson attack on Monday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

He went outside

FROM PAGE 5
Rakib was 21 and got married seven months ago.

His wife, Sadia Akter, 18, is beyond consolation. "After losing her husband, Sadia is unable to mourn; she only gazes blankly at those who come to console her," said Rakib's father Abdul Halim.

He said she is now living with her parents in the adjacent Ishwarganj upazila.

"Recounting the events of that day, Halim said he, along with his wife Nurunnahar Begum and their eldest daughter Mastura Akter, had left their home to attend a relative's wedding in the Kandulia area of Gouripur on July 19.

Rakib and Sadia remained at home.

Around 10:00am the next day, Rakib left the house to buy medicine and never returned, he said.

Rakib's grief-stricken mother said, "We relied

heavily on Rakib; he was a sincere and honest boy, our hope in every sense. But now, who will take care of us?"

"He used to encourage us to strive for the betterment of our family. He often motivated his sister Mastura to focus on her studies to secure a better future. But now, who will guide us? My only son is gone," Nurunnahar added.

His father added, "My son's lifeless body was brought home in the afternoon, and the local union parishad chairman urged us to bury him quickly to prevent further violence. Following his advice, we laid him to rest, but my wife, Nurunnahar, never got to see her beloved son's face one last time."

The family demanded proper investigation into the killing to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

How will we survive

FROM PAGE 5
daughter, as well as my in-laws."

Atiqul's body was taken to their village home Panpatti village of Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila that night. He was buried in their family graveyard the next day at noon.

Visiting the village home last week, this correspondent saw Atiqul's

mother Mumtaz Begum wailing on the floor.

Shah Alam Howladar, his father, said, "Atiqul was my youngest son. He worked hard and continued his education, funding it with the money he earned from tuitions. Who will care for us now? How will we survive without him? I want a fair trial to bring his murderers to justice."

Don't believe

FROM PAGE 5
Cantonment reached near Ashulia Police Station on that day, the release said.

When the patrol team left for the cantonment with the injured, the policemen stationed in and around the police station started firing in the opposite direction with a hope to get assistance from the army patrol team.

The policemen were quickly identified and disarmed, said the ISPR release.

On information that some policemen had taken shelter in the cantonment, a mob gathered in front of the Dendabar Military Police Check Post in Savar Cantonment and demanded that the police personnel be handed over to them, the press release said.

When the crowd was assured of police personnel's disarmament, their identities and legal actions against them, the mob left the place, the ISPR said.

BGB on alert

FROM PAGE 5
to India through Benapole around 2:00pm.

He was the president of Dhaka Nawabganj Bandar union Chhatra League unit.

BGB's Jashore 49 and Khulna 21 battalions have strengthened the security system to prevent infiltration on various border routes of Benapole. The border troops also increased surveillance at key border points along with ports, land and

railways.

The bordering routes include Benapole's Putkhal, Goga, Agrabulot, Rudrapur, Daulatpur, Gatipara, Ghiba, Sadipur, Bara Achhra, Kashipur, Dhanyakhola, Raghunathpur, Shikarpur and Harishchandrapur.

Benapole Checkpost Immigration Police Officer-in-Charge Azaharul Islam said passengers' traveling through the land port has decreased.

JP ready to support

FROM PAGE 3
In the current reality of the country, there is no alternative to Prof Yunus, he said, adding that JP is ready to support Yunus' leadership.

He expressed hope that Dr Yunus will be able to restore the country's peace, prosperity, and stability while establishing a society based on justice.

In the statement, the JP chairman also said the country's law and order

situation has become very fragile.

Reports of murders, thefts, robberies, and hijacks are coming from different parts of the country, he said.

"The people of the country are scared. Why fear still persists in the country after freeing it from the grip of dictatorship?" he questioned.

He drew the attention of those concerned about controlling the law and order situation in the country.

Students step up to fill the vacuum

FROM PAGE 3
Agriculture University, said, "We want our countrymen to abide by the law and order. Not only general citizens but all those in government positions must follow the law. This is what we fought for."

Beyond traffic management, students have taken on cleaning tasks, sweeping roads and removing debris. They are painting over the graffiti on the walls of the city, in an attempt to restore Dhaka's pre-turmoil appearance.

Sharif Md Rafi from Daffodil International University shared that 40 students from his university have been working tirelessly, managing traffic and cleaning the city.

Students were also seen cleaning the Central Shaheed Minar, where recent anti-government

movements had left significant waste.

Student volunteers of Red Crescent and Bangladesh Scouts were also present in the streets, assuming the role of police.

Similar scenes were also observed across the country in Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet.

In Chattogram, students took position at key intersections like Wasa, Agrabad, and Tigerpass, among others. They held posters which read, "Follow the traffic rules."

While some managed traffic, others collected waste, diligently cleaning their city.

The iconic tiger sculpture at Tigerpass was also cleaned. Local residents have expressed their appreciation for the students' efforts and responsibility.

In Barishal, students

with sticks in hand and ID cards displayed on their necks maintained traffic flow and collected waste to clean the city. With brooms and bags, they worked to ensure Barishal remained orderly and clean.

In Khulna, students managed traffic at Shibbari Intersection, stopping bikers who were not wearing helmets.

In Sylhet, at Chouhatta, students managed traffic, instructing people to use crosswalks for their safety. A platform of students called Save Sylhet was seen collecting waste in the Rikabi Bazar area.

Meanwhile, Md Mainul Islam, newly-appointed inspector general of police (IGP), during a briefing at the police headquarters yesterday expressed his gratitude to the students for cleaning the city streets and controlling traffic system.

HSC exams

FROM PAGE 3
Secondary Education Board, confidential exam materials, including question papers, were stored in various police stations and other facilities for safekeeping.

Several of these locations were attacked on Monday following the resignation and departure of the former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. During the attacks, question papers in many areas were burned or destroyed, sources said.

The Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent exams began on June 30.

PRAYER TIMING	
AUGUST 8	
Fazr	Zohr
4:20	12:45
Asr	Maghrib
5:00	6:47
Esha	JAMAAT
8:15	4:55
6:50	1:15
8:45	5:15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

Torching of

FROM PAGE 3
Liberation War, spoke to reporters after visiting the museum yesterday, two days after the attack following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina.

"Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina are not the same thing. Bangabandhu is the Father of the Nation and the great hero of independence. Today, I saw the charred house of Dhanmondi 32. It would have been better if I had died before that," Kader remarked.

He blamed the Awami League for many wrongdoings.

"But Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did nothing wrong. He has brought honour to the Bengali nation. The destruction will remain as a blot on the history of the Bengali nation if live for ages. His honour will remain intact for ages.

Those who committed this crime will be brought to book one day."

He also urged the student leaders to establish and maintain peace instead of seeking revenge. "There is nothing wrong if anyone supports the Awami League, do not assault them."

Besides the students, the administration and the army need to take steps to protect the Hindus and other minority groups, he said.

Asked what would happen to the leaders and activists of the AL as Hasina left the country, he said, "This disaster is not bigger than the catastrophe that came through the assassination of Bangabandhu. Yes, for some time, they will be afraid, and they will suffer. But the party is not completely doomed."

What's the point

FROM PAGE 3
and people take to the streets for such killings and destruction? What message are we sending to our young generation by damaging these assets and our history? As a concerned citizen, I strongly condemn these," Sohel Taj, also a son of former prime minister Taj Uddin Ahmad, said.

"What benefit did they gain from burning the Dhanmondi 32 house and damaging Bangabandhu's sculptures?" he asked.

"We all want an impartial investigation on those cops who were involved in unjust activities. But why are we putting everyone against us? We need to remember that it is impossible to run a country without law

enforcement agencies," he said.

He also made several demands regarding the upcoming interim government.

They include protecting lives and properties from ongoing destruction, holding accountable the Awami League leaders and activists involved in wrongdoings and ensuring the safety of innocent leaders and activists, giving space to dissent, restoring the right to vote, establishing good governance and the rule of law, freeing the judicial system, administration, and police forces from political influence, and ensuring communal harmony and fundamental rights.

Cultural heritage

FROM PAGE 3
The white stone statue was in the middle of a fountain in front of the lodge.

In Chattogram, the Sheikh Russel Aviary and Eco-Park at Rangunia upazila was vandalised and looted for two consecutive days by miscreants following Hasina's resignation.

"Around 500 miscreants entered the park on Monday evening and vandalised everything in several phases till Tuesday night," said Nahid Hasan, in charge of the park and a forester of Chattogram South Forest Division.

They took away around 350 birds and two deer. Hasan said the miscreants also beat up six employees of the park and looted cable cars, tables, chairs,

computers, electronic items, and documents. They set fire to various structures within the park.

Videos and photos showed some looters taking away a deer tied with ropes.

They vandalised the control box of the cable car and set fire to the office room of the park.

"We returned to the park on Wednesday with Army shelter. Currently, we have closed the park as per higher official directive," Hasan said. The park was opened for tourists in 2013.

Abdullah Al Mamun, divisional forest officer of the Chattogram South Forest Division, told this newspaper that they are yet to estimate the amount of damage.

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সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর।
ফোন: ০২৫৮৮৮৭১২৭০ ফ্যাক্স: ০২৫৮৮৮৭৩৮১০
e-mail: rhdnatore@gmail.com/ eenat@rhd.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৬৯০০.৪৫৩.০৭.০০২.২৩-১৮৩৪(১৯) তারিখ: ০৭/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি (সংশোধনী-১)

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (সাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে অভ্যন্তরীণ ক্রয়কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২, নাটোর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/চালান নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর এর অনুকূলে জমা প্রদান করে অথবা মানি রিসিটের মাধ্যমে ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা পরিশোধ করত: আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পূরণ পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ নিম্নে বর্ণিত (সেক-০১) সময়ের মধ্যে নাটোর সড়ক বিভাগে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি-৬৩ ও ৬৪ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এই তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহ্বান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিপূর্বে অত্র দপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণ ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের লাইসেন্স নবায়ন (Renewal) ফি বাবদ টাকা-২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) মাত্র + ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ নিম্ন বর্ণিত (সেক-০২) তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা পূর্বক লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সেক-০১ (সংশোধিত)			
বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম সংগ্রহের সময়সীমা	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০/-	০৭/০৭/২০২৪ হতে ১৩/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত	০৭/০৭/২০২৪ হতে ১৪/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত

সেক-০২				
বিবরণ	নবায়ন ফি	বিনা জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা	৫০% জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা	১০০% জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার লাইসেন্স নবায়ন	২০০০/- টাকা + ১৫% ভ্যাট	০৭/০৭/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ১৪/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত	১৬/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ২৫/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত	১৬/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ২৫/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত

(মোঃ কামরুল হাসান সরকার)
পরিচিতি নং- ৬০২৩২
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চরদায়), সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর।

GD- 126

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Munshiganj Road Division
Dashkani, Panchasar (Mukterpur), Munshiganj.
Phone & Fax 02-998847019
E-mail: eemunrhd@gmail.com

Memo No-35.01.5900.447.04.008.23-1932 **Date. 06/08/2024**

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

It is notified for all concerned that the following amendments are hereby made against Tender Package-01-LTM/e-GP/Mundiv/2024-2025, TID No-1005262, 02-LTM/e-GP/Mundiv/2024-2025, TID No-1005263 notice published vide memo 35.01.5900.447.04.008.23-1886 dt. 29/07/2024.

Field Name	Old Value	New Value
Last Selling date & Time	11-08-2024 16:00	25.08.2024 16:00
Closing Date & Time	12-08-2024 09:00	26.08.2024 09:00
Opening Date & Time	12-08-2024 09:00	26.08.2024 09:00
Brief Description of Goods, Works of Service		
1005262,	Emergency Repair by Base Type-II, DBS-Wearing Course, Clearing and Grubbing, Sand Filling, Banner Placing at "Jatir Pita Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mohasarak" (N-8) (Mawa End Service Road) for VVIP Movement under Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj During the year of 2024-2025.	
01-LTM/e-GP/Mundiv/2024-2025	Last Selling date & Time	11-08-2024 16:00
	Closing Date & Time	12-08-2024 09:05
	Opening Date & Time	12-08-2024 09:05
Brief Description of Goods, Works of Service		
1005263,	Earth Filling for Munshiganj Division Office Compound under Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj During the year of 2024-2025.	
02-LTM/e-GP/Mundiv/2024-2025		

Others terms and conditions of the tender notice will remain unchanged. This amendment will be treated as part of the tender documents.

(মোঃ আবুল কাশেম মোহাম্মদ নাহিন রেজা)
0৬-০৮-২০২৪
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Munshiganj.

GD-124

CCC at a standstill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

With the mayor remaining absent from his office, the activities of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) have come to a standstill.

CCC officials also haven't been very active, with many being absent from work. Those who came to the office declined to talk to the media.

"Amid the current situation, we are feeling very insecure," said a CCC official, preferring anonymity.

According to sources, miscreants vandalised the offices of at least 12 ward councillors of CCC in different areas of the port city on Monday.

Several vehicles under the CCC conservancy department were also set on fire.

Since then, most CCC ward councillors have gone to hideouts, and CCC conservancy workers have not been going to localities for waste removal, fearing attacks.

Residents of the port city are suffering due to the waste removal activities being stopped for three days.

Waste was found to be piled up while visiting different areas of the city, including Katalganj, Askar Dighir Par, Chatteshwari Road, and Chawk Bazar.

"We cannot walk through the

road due to the stink from the garbage piled up by the side of the road," said Masud Haider, a resident of Katalganj area.

CCC chief conservancy officer Commander Latiful Haque Kazmi could not be contacted, as his cell phone was found switched off.

Contacted, CCC Chief Executive Officer Sheikh Md Tauhidul Islam said all the officials and staffers were feeling insecure.

"We have taken some security measures on our own, as we are not getting any support from police," he said.

"A total of 12 ward councillors' offices have been vandalised on Monday, while miscreants destroyed all equipment for waste management kept in those offices," he said, adding that valuables worth Tk 1.57 crore have been destroyed in CCC ward 41.

They also vandalised some 12 vehicles of the CCC, of which, four were of the conservancy department, he said.

Asked why the mayor has been absent from office, Tauhidul said as police are providing no security, the mayor is not coming to office.

"I hope the situation will return to normalcy within the next week," he added.



A group of students not only cleaned the graffiti drawn on the sculpture of a tiger in the port city but also painted it anew. The photo was taken in the Tigerpass area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

'Don't believe in misleading information'

ISPR on Ashulia incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has requested all not to believe the "misleading and false information" spread through social media.

A deputy commander of an army patrol team, and an unidentified person were shot by police in Ashulia on August 5 "due to misunderstanding", ISPR cited in the release today.

"It is to be noted that the incident was exaggerated through social media, which created confusion among people," the ISPR said in a press release yesterday.

Some army personnel were also injured by rubber bullets during the incident that took place when a patrol team from Savar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Indian visa centres closed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Visa Application Centers in Bangladesh will remain closed till further notice. The next application date will be informed through SMS and people are asked to pick up their passports the next working day, said a press release.

Meanwhile, non-essential staffers at the Indian High Commission and their family members returned to India on commercial flights, PTI reported yesterday.

All Indian diplomats continue to operate from Dhaka, and the mission remains functional.

BENAPOLE BORDER BGB on alert to prevent AL men from fleeing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Border Guard imposed a high alert so that former ministers, lawmakers and leaders of Awami League cannot go to India illegally through the Benapole border.

Security has been strengthened at the border, said Lt Col Saifullah Siddiqui, commanding officer of BGB's Jashore 49 Battalion.

The instruction has been given from the Dhaka headquarters so that no one can escape through the border, he said.

According to BGB, a Chhatra League leader Sajib Halder, 25, was arrested while he was going

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

AG Amin Uddin resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AM Amin Uddin, who was appointed attorney general by Sheikh Hasina-led government, resigned from his post citing personal difficulties yesterday.

"I have sent my resignation letter to the president. I mentioned personal difficulties as the reason for resignation in the letter," he said.

He refused to give any further details. He was appointed on October 8, 2020 after the death of the then AG Mahbubey Alam.

On Tuesday, additional attorney general Sk Md Morshed also resigned.

More than just NUMBERS

A textile engineer shot dead in Dhaka. A student died of bullet wounds in Gouripur. A 21-year-old fatally shot in Mymensingh. At least 204 lives (the actual number could be much higher) were lost when law enforcers opened fire on protesters during the recent unrest. But these victims are not just statistics; they are children, parents, and friends. In this report, we try to know the stories of three such names among these tragic numbers.



He never came back home for lunch Family mourns loss of Biplob who was shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Biplob Hasan will never sit for his SSC examinations.

The 17-year-old's dreams of changing his family's fortune were shattered on July 20 when he got shot during a clash between protesters and law enforcers at Kaltapara Bazar, along the Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Gouripur.

He was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College



Hospital where he died, leaving behind a void that no words can fill.

He now rests in his family's graveyard.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

How will we survive without him?

Asks father of Atiqul who died after being shot in Mirpur

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Textile engineer Atiqul Islam, 32, worked at a buying house in the capital's Mirpur. On the evening of July 19, he returned home from work around 5:00pm. After leaving his motorcycle at home, he went to the Mirpur 10 intersection to see what was happening outside.

Atiqul was observing from a distance as a clash broke out between protesters and law enforcers.

However, within a moment, he was shot. He fell to the ground and died on the spot.

Atiqul lived in Mirpur along with his wife Tamanna and their one-and-a-half-year-old daughter Farista. Along with his wife and daughter, Atiqul was also responsible for looking after his elderly parents who reside in Patuakhali.

Tamanna Akhter, Atiqul's wife, said, "My husband was not involved in any politics. He was the sole earning member in the family. With his income, he supported me and my

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

He went outside to buy medicine for me Says wife of Rakib who died after getting shot in chest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

On July 20, Noor-E-Alam Siddique Rakib went out of his home in Mymensingh to buy

medicine for his four-month pregnant wife.

He was worried about his wife's health and did not realise there were clashes going on outside between protesters and law enforcers.

Rakib, son of Abdul Halim of Damgoan village in Gouripur upazila, got hit by a bullet in his chest. Locals took him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Road Transport & Bridges

Road Transport & Highways Division

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)

DTCA Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208

Website: www.dtca.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.02.0000.003.14.005.24-215

Date: 07/08/2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER

for
Outsourcing Staff for Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA) (Re-Tender)

1	Ministry / Division	: Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges / Road Transport and Highways Division.
2	Agency	: Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA)
3	Name of procuring entity	: Project Director Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA) Project.
4	The procuring entity code	: N/A
5	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka
6	Invitation for	: Physical Service (Outsourcing Staff)
7	Invitation Ref No.	: 35.02.0000.003.14.005.24-215
8	Invitation date	: 07 August 2024

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement method	: Open Tender Method (OTM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and source of funds	: Development Budget of GoB
11	Development partner	: N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/program code	: 223048300
13	Project/program name	: Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA).
14	Tender Package No.	: NSD-1
15	Tender package name	: Outsourcing Staff for Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA).
16	Tender publishing date	: 08 August 2024.
17	Tender last selling date	: 27 August, 2024 during office hours
18	Tender closing date & time	: 28 August, 2024 at 12:00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	: 28 August, 2024 at 12:30pm

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE

Selling of tender document	: Office of the Project Director Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA). Room No. 511, DTCA Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
Receiving tender document	: Office of the Project Director Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA). Room No. 511, DTCA Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
Opening of tender document	: Office of the Project Director Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA). Room No. 511, DTCA Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

21	Eligibility of tenderer	: a) Tenderer must have the experience of supplying manpower for 5 years in any Ministry/Division/Authority/Agency/Government Company/ Government Organization /Government Project/Consultant's Organization of the foreign aided project. Certificates of relevant experiences are to be attested by first class gazetted officer. b) Tenderer must have specific experience as a prime contractor of a single contract completed valued at least of Taka 14 (Fourteen) lacs in last 5 years [years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in newspaper] c) Tenderer shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable Law. d) Tenderer shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. e) Tenderer shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. f) Other eligibility criteria as mentioned in the Tender Document.
22	Brief description of the service to be provided	: To provide staffs input for the positions of Junior Engineer, Sub-Assistant Engineer, Office Assistant Cum Computer Operator, Office Assistant (MLSS) for the office of the Project Director.
23	Price of the tender document	: Tk 1000.00 (one thousand) (non-refundable)

24	Package No.	Identification of package	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
	NSD-1	Outsourcing Staff for Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA).	BDT 45,000.00 (forty-five thousand only)	11 months

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

25	Name of official inviting tender	: Mir Muhammad Kamrul Hasan
26	Designation of official inviting tender	: Project Director
27	Address of official inviting tender	: Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA). Room No. 511, DTCA Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Phone: +88 01709271084 Website: www.dtca.gov.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders and the whole process.

Mir Muhammad Kamrul Hasan
07/08/24
Mir Muhammad Kamrul Hasan
Project Director
Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study
for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram
Metropolitan Area (CMA)

GD-125

Thai court bans popular politician Dissolves his Move Forward Party

AFP, Bangkok
Thailand's most popular politician was banned from politics for 10 years and his party dissolved yesterday over his attempt to reform the kingdom's archaic royal defamation laws.

The Constitutional Court in Bangkok voted "unanimously" to dissolve the Move Forward Party (MFP) and ban its executive board, which includes its former leader Pita Limjaroenrat, for 10 years, judge Punya Udchachon said.

Pita, 43, led the reformist MFP to a shock first place in a general election last year.

He struck a chord with young and urban voters with his pledge to reform Thailand's strict royal defamation law, which rights groups say has been misused to stifle pro-democracy groups.



Supporters at the Move Forward Party (MFP) headquarters react after Thailand's Constitutional Court ruled that former MFP leader Pita Limjaroenrat was to receive a decade-long ban and dissolve his party after challenging royal defamation laws, in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Harris, Walz debut White House ticket

Vow to 'fight for future' in Philadelphia rally

AFP, Philadelphia
Kamala Harris made her debut Tuesday evening with new White House running mate Tim Walz, who unleashed a stinging rebuke of their Republican rival Donald Trump, questioning his commitment to the country and skewering his record in office.

Hours after being announced on the Democratic ticket, the Minnesota governor took the stage with Vice President Harris in the crucial swing state of Pennsylvania, and signaled his intent to press the case aggressively against Trump.

election day, most Americans don't know who Walz is - and he gave voters a glimpse of his personal story, describing his military service, his experiences as a public school teacher and his record in politics.

He spoke of his upbringing in the small town of Butte, Nebraska where he worked on the family farm and where community was a "way of life" with neighbors striving together "for the common good." In their first campaign appearance together, Harris and Walz offered a glimpse of how they might appeal to voters as a duo - one a trailblazing Black and South Asian former senator from California, the other



"Donald Trump - he sees the world differently. He doesn't know the first thing about service because he's too busy serving himself," Walz told a crowd of around 10,000 wildly cheering supporters in Philadelphia.

He accused Trump of deliberately weakening the economy for his own ends, mocking law and order, and sowing "chaos and division"

"He drove our economy into the ground, and make no mistake: violent crime was up under Donald Trump. That's not even counting the crimes he committed," Walz added, earning roars of laughter and boisterous applause.

With less than three months to go until

a white ex-congressman from the blue-collar US heartland. Harris, 59, described Walz as "a leader who will help unite our nation and move us forward, a fighter for the middle class, a patriot who believes, as I do, in the extraordinary promise of America."

A former attorney general of California, Harris has sought to draw a contrast between her past as a prosecutor and Trump's criminal record, which extends to 34 felonies, with over a dozen more charges pending. But she told the crowd: "This campaign - our campaign - is not just a fight against Donald Trump. Our campaign - this campaign - is a fight for the future."

Harris draws more support among Black voters

Says analysis of Reuters polling; Trump up slightly among white voters

REUTERS, Washington

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris is drawing more support from Black voters than President Joe Biden did when he was in the race this year, while Republican Donald Trump's support among white voters has risen somewhat in recent months, according to an analysis of Reuters/Ipsos polling.

The analysis, which examined more than 10,000 responses from seven nationwide Reuters/Ipsos polls conducted since May, points to significant strengths and vulnerabilities for Harris, the US vice president who took over Biden's campaign when the president dropped his re-election bid on July 21.

Harris would be the first Black woman elected president, as well as the first Asian American, if she were to defeat Trump in the November 5 election.

Some 70 percent of Black voters polled in July picked Harris over Trump on a hypothetical ballot, up from 59 percent who backed Biden in May and June polls. Trump's share of the Black vote rose marginally to 12 percent in July from 9 percent in May and June.

Trump, meanwhile, is seeing increased support from white voters. Some 50% picked Trump in July polls, up from 46% in May and June. Harris had the support of 38% of white voters in July, compared to 36% in May and June.

The race remains essentially tied, with Harris and Trump each getting 43% support in an aggregate of last month's polls. Biden and Trump each had 40% in the polls conducted in the previous two months.

The analysis examined poll responses gathered throughout July on a hypothetical Harris-Trump contest and included responses from before Biden, 81, ended his bid. All responses on Harris, however, were gathered after Biden's June 27 debate against Trump, when the president's faltering performance led Democrats to call on him to end his campaign.

White voters make up the biggest racial bloc, accounting for 72% of all voters in the 2020 election, according to the Pew Research Center, though their share of the electorate has dropped sharply in recent decades.

Ukraine now opening '2nd front' in Africa: Russia

AFP, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine is now opening a "second front" in Africa after Mali and Niger broke off diplomatic relations with Kyiv, accusing it of support for "terrorist groups".

"Unable to defeat Russia on the battlefield, the criminal regime of Volodymyr Zelensky has opened a second front in Africa," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the RIA Novosti news agency.

Zakharova accused Ukraine of "pandering to terrorist groups in countries on the continent friendly to Moscow".

Tuareg-led separatists have said they killed 84 fighters from Russia's Wagner mercenary group and 47 Malian soldiers in an attack last month in northern Mali.

Mali accused a senior Ukrainian official of having admitted Kyiv's role in the attack and broke off diplomatic relations on August 5.

Major shakeup

FROM PAGE 16

night and yesterday.

The new IGP is a BCS 12th batch officer. Before becoming IGP, he served as the commandant of the Traffic and Driving School. He is from Panchagarh.

Additional IGP AKM Shahidur Rahman, also a 12th BCS police cadre officer, was serving in the police headquarters. He is from Barishal. Mainul Hasan who is from Kishoreganj and is a 17th BCS Batch officer was serving in the Criminal Investigation Department.

The changes came days after Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign as the prime minister and fled the country amid an unprecedented mass upsurge following student protests that saw over 400 people (as far as this newspaper could confirm) killed in violent clashes since July 16. Many of the deaths have been blamed on the indiscriminate firing of police, Rab and BGB to quell the protest.

Since the ouster, many police establishments came under attack by angry mobs across the country that left dozens of policemen killed, leaving the force's chain of command in disarray. The attacks also forced many policemen to flee for safety leaving their routine work and police establishments unguarded.

The newly appointed IGP yesterday instructed all policemen to return to their respective police lines, offices, and barracks to manage public order in the next 24 hours.

The IGP said many police officials were killed, injured and tortured because of some unprofessional and overly ambitious officials who did not follow the accepted principles of applying force and violated human rights.

Meanwhile, lower-ranked police personnel from constables to inspectors staged separate demonstrations at Dampara Police Lines in Chattogram yesterday and Barishal Police Lines on Tuesday afternoon. They also announced work abstention until their 11-point demand including the safety of every member of the police is ensured.

They brought out processions and held rallies demanding realisation of their demands which also included bringing those involved in the killings of police members to justice, forming an independent police commission to ensure that any political party cannot use police to implement its political agenda, ensuring eight hour working hours, increasing risk allowance, and the appointment of sergeant and sub-inspector through public service commission.

During the demonstration in Barishal, the agitating policemen said that they were the victims of some corrupt police officers and wanted those officials to be removed from the force.

In a written statement, the demonstrating policemen pointed out that the chain of command of police has broken down. "Our guardians (superiors) went into hiding abandoning us, leaving us insecure. The houses of the police forces are also being attacked. Many members of the police force have been brutally killed," it reads.

During a briefing yesterday, the IGP issued a warning to policemen on using social media, "I am directing my colleagues at all levels to refrain from making any demand, comment or reply through any kind of personal, association, batch, association on social media."

Civil admin

FROM PAGE 16

orphans. Even the former IGP, who went into hiding, gave direction to the police force in a video message. But there was no such message for us, not even from the cabinet division," said the deputy commissioner of a district in Mymensingh division.

The officer added that DCs across the country were shocked that no one even asked how they were doing even after their officers were vandalised.

The residence of Mymensingh DC, and many offices of upazila nirbahi officers and assistant commissioners were vandalised in Cumilla, Bhola, Sunamganj, Narsingdi and Chuadanga, officials said.

A secretary said the void in general administration leadership was unprecedented. "These top officials only thought about their own safety, setting a bad example."

An employee of the Mymensingh DC office said, "We have never heard of the general administration falling apart like this." Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain did not pick up the phone.

Senior Secretary Mezbah said, "We talked with all the divisional commissioners and are taking information from the field officials."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Cumilla
E-mail: eecom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.07.001.24-5160

Date: 07-08-2024

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No. 01


of

Contract No. e-GP/CRD/ADP/EMRB/WP-02/2023-2024,
Tender ID No. 1004890

invited by this Office will be as follows:

SL. No.	Field name	Old value	New value
1.	Document last selling date & time	12/08/2024 16:00	27/08/2024 16:00
2.	Opening date & time	13/08/2024 12:00	28/08/2024 12:00
3.	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	12/08/2024 17:00	27/08/2024 17:00
4.	Closing date & time	13/08/2024 12:00	28/08/2024 12:00

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the Tender Document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the Tender Document. For further information please visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.


Suniti Chakma
ID No. 602147
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Cumilla
☎ : 01730-782641

GD-127

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Education
National Curriculum and Textbook Board
69-70, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.nctb.gov.bd

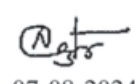
Record Number: 37.06.0000.303.07.001.23.1 Date: 07 Aug 2024

Subject: Invitation for Corrigendum e-Tender (OTM)

This is to notify to all concerned tenderers that the following tenders have been published by National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) through the e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) regarding textbook Secondary Class-8 printing, binding and supplying for the Academic Year 2025.

Tender Date and Time		Corrigendum Date and Time	
Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening:	06/08/2024; 14:00pm	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening:	12/08/2024; 14:00pm

Interested tenderers may visit www.eprocure.gov.bd website 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 copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, you are requested to go through the www.eprocure.gov.bd web Portal.


07-08-2024
Moss. Nazma Akther
Secretary

GD-128

AL not dead

FROM PAGE 16

period of chaos. Our Awami League leaders outside the city are being murdered. The Awami League is the largest democratic political party. It is not dead. The Awami League has liberated Bangladesh. It will not be easy to wipe it out."

"A new democratic Bangladesh is not possible without the Awami League," said Joy.

"I call upon all the leaders of Awami League to stand tall, knowing that we are with you. We will do everything needed to save the country and save the Awami League. Sheikh Hasina is not dead. We have not gone anywhere."

Hours after Hasina's departure on Monday, Joy told BBC that there will be no political comeback for her. Following that Joy gave an interview to DW Bangla, stating neither his mother, nor him nor any of their family members will enter politics.

Meanwhile, AL leaders and activists in Gopalganj yesterday vowed to bring back Hasina, who resigned following a massive uprising.

They marched through Tungipara and took the oath at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Mahabub Ali Khan, president of Gopalganj Awami League, administered the oath.

Speaking at the programme, GM Sahab Uddin Azam, general secretary of Gopalganj AL, said they would fight politically and continue their movement until they could bring Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana back to the country.

Helicopter crashes in Nepali forest

All 5 on board killed

REUTERS, Kathmandu

A helicopter crashed in a forest outside Nepal's capital Kathmandu shortly after takeoff yesterday, killing all five people on board, an official said, the latest of more than a dozen air crashes in the mountainous region since 2000.

The helicopter, operated by Dynasty air crashed into a Himalayan forest in Shivapuri National Park of Nuwakot district, 57 km from the capital, deputy Chief District Officer Krishna Prasad said.

Police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki confirmed all four passengers were Chinese nationals, three men and one woman, while the pilot was a Nepali male.

Local residents saw a fire emanating from forest and alerted authorities, he said.

The helicopter lost contact with air traffic control three minutes after takeoff, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal said.



Security force personnel search for the victims amidst the debris at the site of a helicopter crash on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday. All five people aboard including the pilot and four Chinese tourists were killed in the crash.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UK braces for more riots

Thousands of riot police on standby

AFP, London

Thousands of riot police stood ready yesterday as Britain remained on alert for disturbances during far-right protests across the country.

Nightly riots, during which mosques and migrant targets have been attacked, erupted after three children were murdered on July 29.

Police said they were investigating several racially-motivated hate crimes in Belfast on Tuesday, including an attack on a young boy that left him with minor facial injuries.

And far-right groups plan demonstrations yesterday in more than 30 locations, with immigration lawyers and buildings hosting asylum seekers primary targets, according to posts on messaging app Telegram leaked to the British media.

The government has said 6,000 specialist police are on standby to deal with the disorder, which has seen over 425 people arrested and at least 120 charged.

The violence broke out after girls aged nine, seven and six were killed and five more children critically injured during a knife attack at a Taylor Swift dance class in Southport.

Gaza prisoners subject to systematic abuse

Says rights group; Israeli army, prison service deny allegations, say law upheld

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel has conducted a systematic policy of prisoner abuse and torture since the start of the Gaza offensive, subjecting Palestinian detainees to acts ranging from arbitrary violence to sexual abuse, Israeli rights group B'Tselem said in a report.

It said the report, issued on Monday, was based on interviews with 55 Palestinians from Gaza, the West Bank and Israel detained in Israeli prisons since Hamas' attack on Israel that set off the offensive, most of them without being tried.

Palestinian prisoners were subjected to arbitrary beatings, humiliating treatment and sleep deprivation.

"The testimonies clearly indicate a systematic, institutional policy focused on the continual abuse and torture of all Palestinian prisoners held by Israel," the report said.

The Israeli military, which runs some detention facilities where Palestinian prisoners have been held, said that it operated according to the rule of law and any specific claims of abuse were investigated.

"The IDF categorically rejects



allegations of systematic abuse, including sexual abuse, in its detention facilities," it said, adding that monitoring mechanisms were in place to ensure facilities were run in accordance with the law.

A spokesperson for the Israel Prison Service said that all prisoners were treated according to the law and all basic rights were fully applied by professionally trained guards.

"We are not aware of the claims you described and as far as we know, no such events have occurred under IPS responsibility," the spokesperson said, adding that detainees had the right to file complaints that would be fully examined and investigated.

The B'Tselem report was issued

days after the Israeli military detained nine soldiers accused of severe abuse of a prisoner in a military facility in the Negev desert. Israeli press reports said the soldiers were accused of sexually abusing a member of an elite Hamas unit.

The report detailed allegations that Palestinian prisoners were subjected to arbitrary beatings, degrading and humiliating treatment and sleep deprivation, as well as "the repeated use of sexual violence, in varying degrees of severity."

"The overall picture indicates abuse and torture carried out under orders, in utter defiance of Israel's obligations both under domestic law and international law," it said.

UK TOP COURT

Former 'IS bride' loses citizenship removal appeal bid

AFP, London

A woman stripped of her British citizenship after leaving the country as a teenager to marry an Islamic State group fighter lost a bid yesterday to take her case to the UK's top court.

Shamima Begum, 24, had hoped to challenge an earlier ruling in which she lost an appeal against the removal of her citizenship.

But UK Supreme Court justices said she could not appeal again following her defeat at the Court of Appeal in February.

The justices found that her proposed grounds for appeal "do not raise an arguable point of law".

Begum, whose family is of Bangladeshi origin, was 15 years old when she left her east London home for Syria with two school friends in 2015.

While there, she married an IS fighter and had three children, none of whom survived. She said she was left stateless in February 2019 when Britain's then-interior minister revoked her citizenship on national security grounds after she was found in a Syrian refugee camp.

'Whom do we turn to for help?'

FROM PAGE 1

A house owner of the area told this correspondent that Alamgir, son of another resident name Siraj, banged on the main entrance.

"When I opened the gate, they [Alamgir and others] held a machete to my throat and demanded Tk 5 lakh." He said, adding that they also beat him up.

"At one point, the attackers took cash worth Tk 2 lakh, including Saudi riyals."

Alamgir and the rest fled the scene on motorbikes later, witnesses said.

Imran Hossain, a security guard of a house in Bashbari, said some young people were moving around the neighbourhood on a truck, while several others were on motorbikes.

Meanwhile, locals, mostly students, in Mohammadpur and Shyamoli areas, have formed groups to stay vigilant in their respective neighborhoods.

Last night, a group of residents was seen in Shyamoli Housing area, ready to alert others if any threats were detected, encouraging neighbours to band together and confront miscreants.

Apart from Mohammadpur, such incidents of robberies have also been reported from other areas of the capital, including Jatrabari, Demra, Badda, Rampura and Vatara.

Mahbubur Rahman, a resident on Hashem Khan Road in Rayerbazar and a trader by profession, said they usually leave for home late into the night but their house owner has demanded that everyone be back by 10:00pm due to the ongoing situation.

"Around 11:00-12:00 at night, multiple groups roam around the area to commit robbery and looting, taking advantage of the absence of law enforcers on the streets. This has been going on for the last two days. Who are we supposed to go to for help?"

People have also reported that shops were broken into and looted. They are in fear that such incidents will increase if police stations are not operational soon.

With stations unmanned and arms and ammunition looted from many, a grave sense of insecurity has been prevailing in the capital and elsewhere.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Indrajit Barua, a resident of Mohammadpur's Jafrabad, said a group of at least 15 teenagers armed with sharp weapons attacked his neighbouring house in

Ityadi Mor around 10:00pm.

An army team later arrived and apprehended some of them, he said.

"There were so many screams we heard during the attack. We were so scared, we switched off the lights in our house and stayed inside."

Like Tuesday, locals of Mohammadpur around 11:00pm last night began alerting residents through loudspeakers from mosques to potential attacks. Similar loudspeaker alerts were reported in Dhanmondi, Uttara, Shekerteek and Adabor last night.

Masum Basher, actor and resident of Dhanmondi 13/A near the 32no bridge, said, "There is a group of around 100 civilians mobilised from the nearby Taqwa Masjid. They are stationed at different parts of Dhanmondi trying to provide security."

Mahmuda Dipa, resident of Arshinagar in the capital's Bosila, around 1:00am early today told The Daily Star that an announcement was made last evening regarding possible attacks. "Around 11:00pm, some locals reported an attack and by 12:50pm, residents of all surrounding buildings gathered and chased the miscreants away."

According to a video footage on social media, the army detained one person with sharp weapons from that area.

In Mirpur's ECB Chattar, witnesses said that around 11:45pm a group of over 100 people carrying sharp weapons and firearms came there. At that time, locals called upon the army, who detained some of the attackers. Gunshots were heard during that time.

In the wave of violent mob attacks since Sheikh Hasina's fall on Monday, many police stations have been vandalised and set ablaze.

Amid this spate of criminal activities, the army yesterday requested the citizens to contact the nearest army camps in emergency, said a press release issued by the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate.

It said the army will remain deployed to ensure the safety of the public, property and important government installations.

People were, however, requested to refrain from misleading the army with false information and rumours.

The ISPR also provided some mobile phone numbers of designate army control rooms.

Over 300 inmates flee Kashimpur, Kushtia jails

FROM PAGE 2

one stage, the guards opened fire, leading to the deaths of the six prisoners, reads the Prothom Alo report.

Contacted, the jail's Deputy Jailer Md Farhad Sarkar said multiple attacks were carried out from inside and outside the prison on Tuesday.

He said some relatives of the prisoners tried to break the jail gate to release the prisoners.

There are about 3,000 prisoners in the jail, according to jail sources.

In Kushtia, at least 104 prisoners fled from the district jail around 2:00pm yesterday, said Jailer Abu Musa.

Seeking anonymity, several jail guards said a group of BNP men were scheduled to be released on bail around noon.

When the BNP men were walking out of the jail, several hundreds prisoners created chaos at the gate to get out. At one stage, the jail guards opened fire to foil their attempt.

In Pirojpur, a group of jail guards yesterday kept Pirojpur District Jail

Super Debdulal Karmakar confined to his office for about three hours from 12:15pm alleging that he was involved in irregularities and corruption.

On information, Pirojpur Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Aminur Islam went to the jail and got Debdulal and his family members out of the jail compound.

On Monday evening, an unidentified number of prisoners escaped from the Sathkhira District Jail. However, at least 200 of them surrendered to the jail authorities a day later, according to jail sources.

On the same evening, a mob stormed the Sherpur District Jail, leading to the escape of 518 inmates.

On July 19, at least 826 prisoners fled the Narsingdi District Jail. During the jailbreak, around 85 arms and 9,000 bullets were looted.

However, around 598 prisoners surrendered later, and 51 arms and 1,085 bullets were recovered.

Our district correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.

China launches air, sea patrols near flashpoint reef

US holds joint drills

AFP, Beijing

China carried out a combat patrol to test "strike capabilities" near a flashpoint reef in the South China Sea yesterday, as the United States and its allies held joint military drills in the same waters.

Tensions in the disputed waterway have spiked following a series of escalating confrontations between Chinese and Philippine vessels that have fanned fears of a wider conflict that could draw in the United States due to its mutual defence treaty with Manila.

Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea, brushing off rival claims of several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, and an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Its claims include the waters around Scarborough Shoal - which Beijing seized from Manila in 2012 - where the Chinese military's Southern Theater Command said yesterday it had held joint sea and air patrols.

The triangular chain of reefs and rocks is 240 kilometres (150 miles) west of the Philippines' main island of Luzon and nearly 900 kilometres from the nearest major Chinese land mass of Hainan.

Beijing said the manoeuvres tested "the reconnaissance and early warning, rapid mobility, and joint strike capabilities of theatre troops".



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Local Press Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Manufacturers/ Importers/ Suppliers/ Authorized dealers (engaged in related Business) for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of following item for EDCL, Dhaka, on urgent basis :

S.I. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	EDCL(Dhaka)/PUR/LT/2024/330 Dt. 07/08/2024 Work Site: EDCL, Dhaka	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Radiator- 01 set	Tk. 750.00/set Non-refundable	Closing :19/08/2024 at 12.00PM Opening :19/08/2024 at 12.30 PM

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

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

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

General Manager
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

(Size: 6 Inch. x 4 column)

Star BUSINESS

Islami Bank rejects cheque seeking to withdraw Tk 548cr

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Islami Bank Bangladesh yesterday rejected a cheque of a little-known company seeking to withdraw Tk 548 crore.

An official of the Shariah-based bank, requesting anonymity, said their Khatunganj corporate branch in Chattogram received the cheque issued by Top Ten Trading Company.

The contact number which the company kept with the bank was found switched off yesterday.

The attempt to withdraw such a large amount amidst the countrywide turmoil raised suspicions, he said, adding, "We have rejected the bid to withdraw the money kept with us as deposits against loans."

The official also alleged that Md Akiz Uddin, deputy managing director (DMD) of Islami Bank, and his associates were behind the fund withdrawal attempt.

Md Akiz Uddin did not receive calls from this newspaper yesterday. He has not come to work since Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post of prime minister and fled the country on Monday in the face of spiralling protests.

Another DMD, Miftah Uddin, has also been absent.

Md Akiz Uddin was the personal secretary of Mohammed Saiful Alam, chairman of Chattogram-based S Alam Group, which holds a majority stake in the bank.

The group has been in the public discourse in recent times for its alleged excessive borrowing from the banking system in violation of rules.

On Tuesday, Islami Bank's Agrabad corporate branch in Chattogram rejected another cheque of a company with alleged links with S Alam Group seeking to withdraw Tk 325 crore.

The Daily Star tried to reach Islami Bank's Managing Director Mohammed Monirul Molla over the phone for comment but he did not receive calls.

A group of officials and staff of the bank staged demonstrations on Tuesday alleging that they were deprived of official benefits and promotions over the last seven years.

They demanded investigations into the activities of top officials of S Alam Group and into their appointment of officials at the bank.

The demonstrators said the officials appointed since 2017, when the group bought the stakes, have to be sacked while those whose jobs were illegally terminated have to be reinstated.

A source of Islami Bank told The Daily Star that Muhammad Qaisar Ali, additional managing director of the bank, was forced to resign yesterday.

Afterwards, he left with the help of army officials, as per the source.



Employees are engaged in their work inside a garment factory at the BSCIC Hosiery Industrial Estate in Fatullah of Narayanganj. Although many factories reopened around the country yesterday, businesses continue to be apprehensive following arson attacks at production units in many areas.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

Businesses worried about law and order situation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Top businessmen and leaders of different business and trade bodies yesterday demanded the immediate restoration of law and order to ensure safety at their production units.

Numerous factories have been targeted by arson attacks in the past three days after Sheikh Hasina handed in her resignation from the position of prime minister on August 5 in the face of a mass uprising.

Business leaders urged the army chief to form an interim government soon and said immediate steps should be taken to restore law and order, protect the lives of workers, and ensure safety at industrial units.

They added that production in mills and factories is being hampered since they cannot transport goods from the port to factories.

Garment and textile mills were supposed to reopen yesterday, but many had to shut down and many others could not even reopen, particularly in Ashulia, where unidentified outsiders were preventing them from operating their units.

Across Ashulia, all garment units remained shuttered.

The International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICC-B) called a press conference at the Platinum Grand Hotel in Dhaka, outlining fears of unrest and vandalism.

At the event, Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals, said the biggest concern is the safety of workers and owners.

At the same time, international retailers and brands are asking for quick delivery of goods and have sought updates several times.

AK Azad, chairman and chief executive officer of Ha-Meem Group, said a group of businessmen met the president and army chief on August 6 to be briefed about the situation.

He said the businesses told the president and army chief that the main target at present is to improve the law and order

situation, reopen factories, ensure safety and reactivate the police.

It will take two to three days for the chief of the interim government to be sworn in. By this time, shipments will face a challenge, Azad added.

"They will also face problems regarding payment to workers. Many factories may even be unable to pay workers on time," he lamented.

Many mills and factories of Ha-Meem and Beximco as well as the head office of Square Group were vandalised and looted alongside others, he added.

Businessmen have sought protection

in factory vandalism. Instead, he blamed unidentified miscreants.

ICC-B President Mahbubur Rahman said if steps are not taken immediately to restore law and order, the garment sector may lose work orders to competitor countries.

The reputation of Bangladesh as an exporting country is important now, he stressed.

A Matin Chowdhury, former president of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, said all textile and garment mills and factories have been severely affected over the last five months and the latest chaos has only deepened their woes.

Some international companies have cut back on work orders from big garment groups by 30 percent, seeking to de-risk their businesses.

MA Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group, said buyers were now inquiring more often about their shipments as their confidence has been dented by the spate of unrest.

Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, said restoration of law and order is imperative alongside rebuilding the country's image.

"Reforms can be carried out gradually. The priority is restoration of law and order," he said.

Md Amin Helaly, senior vice-president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said it was a critical time.

The current situation needs to improve for the economy's sake as the private sector accounts for around 85 percent of economic activities, he said.

Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury Parvez, a former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said the garment sector and remittances are the main sources of US dollars so these sectors should run smoothly.

In a statement issued yesterday, the MCCI expressed deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation. The chamber said it knew through media reports that police have been abstaining from their duties.

Factories yet to start running in full swing for a lack of security

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Factories are yet to start running in full swing for a lack of law and order since Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post of prime minister three days ago in the face of a mass uprising.

A subsequent spate of looting and vandalism, especially on establishments related to the Awami League and homes and places of worship of religious minorities, has created panic among businesses and workers.

Between July 16 and yesterday, more than 535 people have been killed in violence that had its origins in a student movement demanding reforms to a quota system in public service jobs.

"Now, law and order should be established. This should be the top priority," said a leader of a platform for businesses on condition of anonymity.

"One of the most important tasks for the nation now is to ensure that the economic activities, particularly manufacturing and service sectors, return to business as usual," said Asif Ibrahim, chairman of Chattogram Stock Exchange.

"We must give assurance to our trading partners abroad that the private sector is back in business and will fulfil all commitments to them," he said.

A senior official of a top steel manufacturer said they ran their factories on a limited scale but could not deliver any products due to security concerns.

"We will start transporting steel after normalcy returns," he said.

Kamruzzaman Kamal, marketing director at Pran-RFL Group, said both production and distribution of products were being hampered immensely due to uncertainty and a lack of security.

"We are not operating our factories fully as the workers are in panic and many were absent from work," he said.

"At the same time, our deliveries are stuck as there is no security in the absence of law enforcement agencies," he added. He said the army comes to help when they are informed of any security risk.

"But it is not sufficient," he said. "Miscreants have attacked and vandalised outlets of our distributors and owners of the rented outlets because of their involvement with a particular political party," he said.

Besides, export activities have remained suspended for over two weeks because of impediments to deliveries and shipments from ports, he added.

M Mohibuz Zaman, managing director of ACI Healthcare, said they have started running their factory partially with a small number of workers who live close to the plant.

Most workers were absent from work due to the ongoing volatility.

"However, delivery of medicine to pharmacies has been normal," he added.



and the deployment of more army and police personnel to ensure safety in industrial areas like Ashulia, the main garments hub.

Simeen Rahman, vice-president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), said restoration of law and order is paramount, not just for industries but also for everyday life.

She also requested the media to create a positive image of the country by avoiding propaganda and instead highlighting positive aspects.

Mohammad Hatem, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, earlier demanded the government keep the garment sector out of the purview of curfews and other political regulations.

"If the situation improves, business will revive and the economy will run well," he said.

He added that no students, ordinary people or political entities were involved

ATMs out of cash as money supply disrupted

Bangladesh Bank asks lenders to halt suspicious transactions

AM JAHID

Nasir Hossain, a resident of the capital's Dhanmondi area, had to urgently buy daily necessities as he had not gone to the market for the past few days in the wake of the deadly protests that forced Sheikh Hasina to resign from her post as prime minister.

He usually does not keep a lot of cash and even many branches were running low on cash as money supply had been disrupted due to inadequate security over the last several days.

"Overall, I visited almost 10 booths but failed to withdraw a single penny. Either they had run out of money or restricted the use of ATM cards issued by other banks," he said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, multiple customers of different banks shared similar experiences. Bankers said most ATMs were out of cash and even many branches were running low on cash as money supply had been disrupted due to inadequate security over the last several days.

Security concerns gripped the country since August 6 as police observed a work abstention, citing

fears for their own safety amid reports of deadly attacks on policemen the previous night.

Bangladesh has been in turmoil since July, with over 535 fatalities in clashes involving protesting students, police and ruling party members.

Reports of violence and arson also flared on Monday night after Sheikh Hasina fled the country.

Apart from the limited presence of army personnel, the streets and important establishments in the capital were left without security.

Mohammad Ali, managing director and chief executive officer of Pubali Bank, said although there is no cash crisis in the banking sector, they have been unable to deliver money to booths and branches as security companies that transport money have halted services.

"The security agencies that carry our cash told us that they will not provide services in the current situation," he said.

Hence, banks are struggling to supply money, especially to remote branches and booths, he added.

"One of our advantages is that 95 percent of our ATM booths are connected to branches. So, if necessary, we can supply money to the booths from the branches. But we can't send



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

An ATM booth of Pubali Bank on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue is shuttered. Many ATMs around the country have run out of cash as money supply has been disrupted by persisting unrest and violence. The photo was taken yesterday.

money to the booths which are not connected to branches," Ali said.

At the same time, banks operated on a limited scale across the country, closing outlets and booths in areas where the risk is greater.

Similar to the past couple of days, the presence of customers was very thin as no one went to banks unless they were facing an emergency.

In the Motijheel area, most branches operated through pocket

gates while most booths were shuttered and the doors of several banks closed, hampering overall activities, including financial transactions.

Nahid Hasan, a private job holder,

said he went to Motijheel from Farmgate yesterday to collect a bank statement from Standard Chartered Bangladesh as its branches in Karwan Bazar and Dhanmondi were closed.

"I had to enter the bank through the fire exit as the main door was shuttered," he said.

Mashrur Arefin, managing director and CEO of City Bank, said they have closed 19 out of 174 branches across the country due to security reasons.

As a pre-emptive measure, branch managers have been given the authority to operate as per their own security assessment, he said.

As a result, branch managers will be able to shut their operations without consent from the headquarters if they sense security concerns, he added.

Pubali Bank's Ali further said that the security provided by the banks with their own armed guards is insufficient given the current situation.

As a result, there is a risk of untoward incidents occurring at any time, he added.

He said money supply can be ensured if security is provided by the army, Border Guard Bangladesh or Rapid Action Battalion.

Economy faces fresh risks if stability not restored soon: S&P

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's political crisis has further undermined sovereign credit support since S&P Global Ratings lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating on July 30 this year, the American credit rating agency said yesterday.

However, credit metrics may still support the ratings at the current level if the situation stabilises soon, it said.

The protests that led to the abrupt resignation of Sheikh Hasina from the post of prime minister on August 5 have exacerbated downside risks to economic growth, fiscal performance, and external metrics, it said.

The damage to credit metrics may be contained if the socio-political situation normalises soon and Bangladesh forms a new government, the S&P said in a bulletin.

"While credit buffers have diminished, we would not expect immediate strong pressures on the credit ratings," it said.

Continued disruptions to social stability could weigh more heavily on credit metrics, dampening economic growth and government revenue, it said.

"In this scenario, exports would be materially lower than our expectations, with a more prolonged impact on Bangladesh's external balance sheet," said the S&P.

"Materially lower exports could weaken the generation of foreign exchange (forex), further diminishing the central bank's usable reserves," it said. A normal flow of remittances will also be crucial for Bangladesh to avoid a more acute forex shortage, the bulletin read.



After several days of violence and unrest, trucks and covered vans began returning to ports around the country to collect goods. However, importers and exporters are still fearful of violence and theft, so the clearance of goods has only improved slightly. The photo was taken at the Chattogram port yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

India calls for trade deal among Bimstec nations

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday urged members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) to consider forming a preferential trade agreement among themselves to foster intra-regional trade and investment while also enhancing regional competitiveness.

Piyush Goyal, the commerce minister of India, said Bimstec members should re-examine their priorities with regard to trade negotiations so that the delayed free trade agreement can be finalised.

Goyal was speaking at the inaugural edition of the Bimstec Business Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry, in partnership with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Bimstec consists of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand.

Goyal said there is a need to reassess the reasons behind the delay in finalising the BIMSTEC free trade agreement.

He said the Bimstec needs to come up with a set of cogent recommendations that are acceptable to all seven member countries to this end.

"The trade negotiating committee and business community should consider a preferential trade agreement to begin fostering intra-regional trade and investment and enhance regional competitiveness," the Indian minister said.

Goyal called on the Bimstec members to introspect on their current trading relations, noting that trade among the Bimstec countries is small.

"There's a long way to go before we can achieve its full potential," he added.

Security concerns slow clearance of goods from ports

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Importers are refraining from clearing goods at the ports in Chattogram, Benapole and Mongla as well as the Kamalapur ICD due to a lack of security on major highways.

Despite port activities returning to normal, both importers and exporters highlighted the drop in clearance of goods, citing that highways are still unsafe.

The streets of Bangladesh convulsed with violence and death over the last three weeks, leaving over 535 dead, including students who were protesting for reforms.

The movement, which has been raging since July, climaxed on Monday with Sheikh Hasina handing in her resignation from the post of prime minister and fleeing the country.

However, many reports of violence and arson were reported in the aftermath.

As security concerns continue to cloud

the nation, importers and exporters called for the swift formation of an interim government to stabilise the law and order situation.

"Clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents are responsible for clearing and delivering goods to factories, but fear of theft is preventing them from retrieving products," Aktar Hossain, president of the Chattogram C&F Agents Association, told The Daily Star.

He added that goods had been stolen from trucks and covered vans along the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in recent weeks.

However, the release of goods increased since yesterday morning, according to the Chattogram Port Authority.

Around 2,238 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers were released as of 8am yesterday, with 2,958 TEUs shipped for export.

The number of released containers increased to 2,349 in the seven hours

Despite port activities returning to normal, both importers and exporters highlighted the drop in clearance of goods, citing that highways are still unsafe.

from 8am to 3pm yesterday.

However, 42,638 TEUs were still in the port yard.

"It would be better if traders wait a few more days until the law and order improves as the situation on the road is still risky," said Syed M Tanvir, managing director of Pacific Jeans Ltd.

He hoped the situation would stabilise in a day or two as government departments, including law enforcement agencies, are undergoing massive changes and import-export activities would return to normal.

"The clearance of commercial goods has been sluggish for the past few weeks. Considering the current situation, the port authority has already waived the seven-day demurrage charge for importers," said Nahid Moin, director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

He demanded an extension of the waiver for another seven days to prevent unwanted delays.

"Customs officials and C&F agents did not go to the office for a few days owing to security concerns. But the situation is improving and people are working regularly today (Wednesday). So, product clearance has also increased," said Naziur Rahman, joint commissioner of the Chattogram Customs House.

AKM Mahbubur Rahman, customs commissioner of Mongla Port, and Mohammad Akbar Hossain, customs commissioner of Kamalapur ICD, echoed those sentiments.

Stocks continue to make gains riding on large investors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Share markets in Bangladesh have continued to rise, buoyed by the ongoing movement for change, as large investors made fresh bets on blue-chip stocks yesterday, the second day of trade since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on July 5.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), soared for the second consecutive day by 192.37 points, or 3.54 percent, from that on the previous day and closed at 5,618.79.

Similarly, the DSES index for the Shariah-based companies, increased 42.53 points, or 3.61 percent, to 1,219.14.

Meanwhile, the DS30 index, which comprises blue-chip firms, surged 87.43 points, or 4.52 percent, to 2,022.17.

Stockbrokers are saying that institutional investors were buying stocks, for which the index was rising.

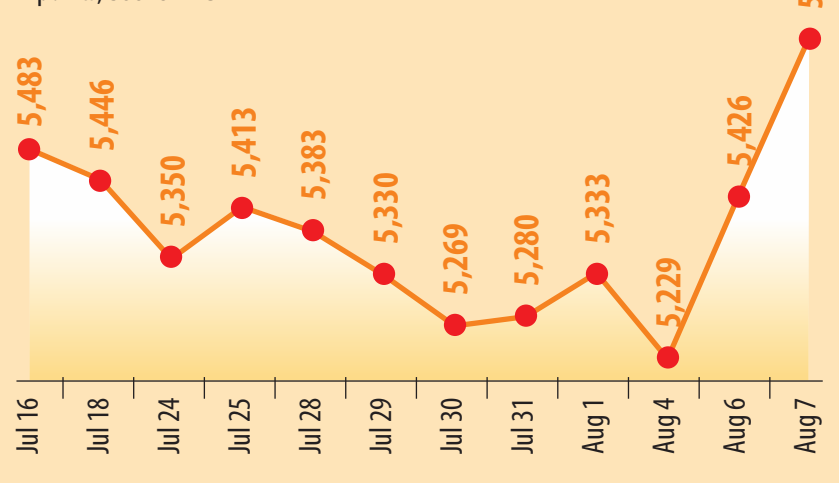
Stockbrokers are saying that institutional investors were buying stocks, for which the index was rising. They are hopeful of good governance in the market once a new government comes to office.

They are hopeful of good governance in the market once a new government comes to office, they said.

Blue chip firms such as Square Pharmaceuticals, BAT Bangladesh, BRAC Bank, Islami Bank Bangladesh, Grameenphone, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Renata, City Bank, Olympic Industries and Robi Axiata were among those that largely attracted investors.

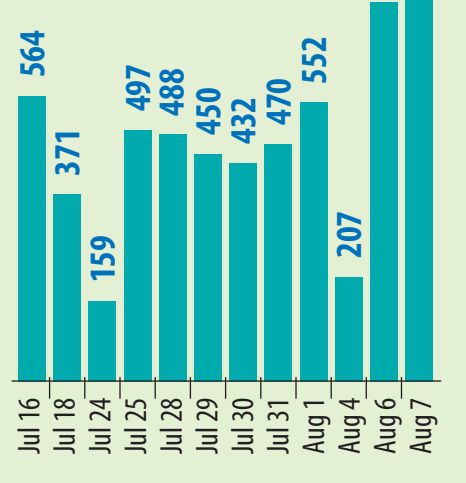
Movement of DSEX in the last two weeks

In points; SOURCE: DSE



DSE turnover in the last two weeks

In crore taka; SOURCE: DSE



The first five entities posted a double-digit growth in share prices.

Square Pharmaceuticals and BAT Bangladesh contributed 29.27 percent and 19.69 percent respectively to the day's total market turnover, according to LankaBangla Finance Portal.

A top official of a leading stock brokerage firm said it had conducted an analysis on the effect of a political crisis on the capital market last year where it found that a regime change had a minimum upside of 1,000 points.

He expects many more fundamental changes to come about in the future through increased market monitoring and a drop in market manipulation.

As a result, good stocks will regain a momentum of gains while junk stocks will stop making it to the top gainers' list, which has happened for most of

the days in the last couple of years, he added.

Turnover, which indicates the total value of shares changing hands on the trading floor of the country's premier bourse, increased 3.41 percent to Tk 776 crore, the highest in about one month.

Of the issues that changed hands on the DSE, 266 advanced, 114 declined and 16 did not witness any price fluctuation.

Non-bank financial institutions, telecom, and food and allied are the top three sectors that closed in the positive while jute, travel and leisure and paper and printing become the top three sectors that closed in the negative.

The pharmaceuticals sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 15.31 percent of the day's

total turnover.

According to a market analyst, reforms were required in most of the regulatory bodies, including the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), in order to bring good governance and transparency in the market.

Already, the BSEC's officials sat in a meeting yesterday where they planned to urge the new government to bring about the reforms.

Several BSEC sources confirmed that BSEC Chairman Prof Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam is planning to resign. He has not come to office in the last two days.

Chittagong Stock Exchange also made gains with its all-share price index, the prime index of the port city bourse, growing by 545.1 points, 3.54 percent, to settle at 15,938.25.

200 members call for reshuffle of BGMEA board

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

More than 200 garment exporters yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), seeking significant reforms within the trade body.

They demanded the dissolution of the current BGMEA board and the formation of a new one as soon as possible.

The members of the BGMEA have lost confidence in the current board as they failed to provide any specific instructions to improve the industry since being elected about seven months ago, they said.

Export, import, production and banking were all affected by the unrest stemming from the student-led protests in July, which culminated in Sheikh Hasina handing in her resignation from the post of prime minister on August 5.

Additionally, the BGMEA did not express condolences for the deaths of over 535 people, including students, amid the recent protests.

Neither did the current board work to brighten the industry's image at home or abroad, they alleged.

As a result, buyers are losing confidence, the BGMEA members said in a statement.

The statement also said some influential leaders of the Sammilito Parishad, which won the BGMEA elections in February this year, were involved in rigging the result.

So, a group of general members cast a vote of no confidence in the current BGMEA board, said Faisal Samad, who led a panel called Forum in the elections.

"The current board could not improve the business situation even six months after being elected," he added.

Acting BGMEA President Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, who is also a senior vice-president of the trade body, said he received the memorandum and the issue would be discussed at a board meeting soon.

Islam said BGMEA President SM Mannan Kochi has not been very active in his duties amid the current spell of violence, leaving him to fill the role.

He informed that more than 200 general members came to the BGMEA office in the capital's Uttara at around 2:30pm and began agitating during the submission of the memorandum.

Islam hoped they could reach a solution following consultations with the board and other leaders.

The garments sector, which accounts for over 84 percent of the country's annual exports, has been going through a tough time as exporters are facing challenges in production and logistics.

Artistes are assets, should not be blindly dedicated to power: Mamo

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actress Zakia Bari Mamo has been vocal in support of the student movement against discrimination from the very beginning. She has taken a stand in favour of the students everywhere, from posting on Facebook to even being present at Shaheed Minar and Shahbagh. She spoke to The Daily Star about the issues.

"I have always supported the students' rightful demands. I will stand by their rightful demands for my entire life. I stand against violence or division. I do not want any form of division. I urge everyone not to create any disunion."

Mamo further said, "It is our country, and as responsible citizens, we have to come forward to make the country beautiful."

The former Lux Superstar expressed her concern over the ongoing communal attacks. "What can we possibly achieve with such division? How can we accept the inhuman attack on musician Rahul Ananda's house, for instance?"

When asked what she expects from a new Bangladesh, Mamo said, "Let it be a government of the people. Corruption at all levels must be stopped and we must be concerned about the elimination of corruption at all levels."

In response to being asked what she is looking forward to from the students? She said, "They (the youth) are extremely wise and talented. I have faith in them. They will play a leading role in shaping a beautiful country."

Mamo resigned from the Actors' Equity Bangladesh. She was a member of the association for a long time. The decision stemmed from a statement that the Equity made, which



PHOTO: COLLECTED



Mamo resigned from the Actors' Equity Bangladesh. She was a member of the association for a long time. The decision stemmed from a statement that the Equity made, which directly opposed the student movement's interest and put them in the crosshairs of the british authoritative regime.

directly opposed the student movement's interest and put them in the crosshairs of the british authoritative regime. "Stepping down from my position in the association was a personal decision. However, that doesn't mean

I have severed ties with any of the artistes in the organisation. I have a good relationship with everyone, and it will remain so. My decision will not affect my friendship with them."

Regarding her opinion on some artistes, poets, and writers getting directly involved in politics, Mamo remarked, "Everyone can have their own opinions and preferences. Positions can differ. Blind dedication towards anything leads to overall deterioration. Even in love, it ends the relationship. Artistes, poets, and writers are assets of the country. Everyone loves them. They should move forward together and work accordingly."

Mamo believes that upholding ethics and controlling greed is a way to organise a beautiful country. She expressed, "May wisdom lead us to the right path."

Sharing her expectations from the interim government, Mamo concluded the conversation, saying, "Millions of students have made demands. Now, there will be an interim government. I hope this government will run the country according to those needs."



Akcent holds Bangladeshi flag up high

On August 5, the nation celebrated the end of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year regime. However, this celebration was marred by incidents of vandalism and arson, as miscreants took advantage of the situation to loot innocent civilians.

As the country strives to recover and move forward, Adrian Claudiu Sina, the lead singer of the Romanian dance-pop group Akcent, expressed his support for Bangladesh by sharing old photos from a concert he held in the country. In the pictures, he proudly displayed the Bangladeshi flag.

The singer captioned the photos, "Bangladesh, stay strong! I believe in you! More power to you all."

Don't replace one fascist regime with a greater one: Parambrata



Addressing the recent state of affairs in Bangladesh, Kolkata actor Parambrata Chattopadhyay broke his silence in an article published by Anandabazar.

The actor expressed admiration for the students' demands for the former government's resignation, acknowledging the importance of such a bold stance.

Calling the day a "day of pride" for Bangladesh's citizens, Parambrata wrote, "We, too, feel the pride! It's undoubtedly a day of celebration! But do not tarnish the joy of overthrowing tyranny! Do not replace one fascist regime with a greater one! Honour this pro-democracy movement with a democratic establishment, not by force or coercion."

NEWS

Mood in Bangladesh

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on for our colleagues who are Bangladeshis and for the people of Bangladesh," Lewis said, highlighting Bangladesh's progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Young people and people from every range of life across Bangladesh came out on the streets to celebrate," Lewis said, referencing the public response to Hasina's resignation.

She acknowledged that some celebrations turned violent, leading to destruction, attacks on police stations, and the killing of police officers deemed "aligned with the government".

Over the past weeks, more than 300 civilians have been killed and

over 20,000 injured in student-led protests, marking some of the worst bloodshed in Bangladesh's history, she added.

Relative calm returned yesterday morning, but Lewis warned that the situation remains uncertain until a transitional government is fully established.

When asked how the protests led to the demands for the prime minister to be removed, she said that political frustration had been brewing since the controversial election in January, which many believed was not free and fair.

Economic issues, such as rising food and fuel prices, further exacerbated the situation, pushing marginalised Bangladeshis deeper

into poverty, she added.

Young people, in particular, were affected by a court order in June on civil service job quotas favouring the elite, making employment prospects bleak for the two million young Bangladeshis entering the workforce annually, Lewis said.

Though the quota scheme was rescinded, protests evolved into broader calls for prime minister Hasina's resignation, with demonstrators from various societal sectors demanding change and transparency they felt were missing.

Lewis stressed the importance of inclusive dialogue and the formation of a responsive interim government to address the nation's challenges and aspirations.

Taiwan ex-soldier held in China returns home

AFP, TAIPEI
A former Taiwanese military officer held in China for nearly five months after he was rescued by Chinese authorities during a fishing trip finally returned home yesterday.

The angler, surnamed Hu, from Taiwan's outlying Kinmen islands was found with a friend on March 18 by the coast guard of China's Fujian province after the engine of their boat failed.

His friend was repatriated to Kinmen a few days later, while Hu — an active member of Taiwan's military at the time — was held as Chinese authorities accused him of intentionally concealing his identity.

Yesterday, Kinmen lawmaker Chen Yu-jen accompanied Hu's parents and daughter on the first ferry service to the Chinese city of Xiamen — located just five kilometres (three miles) away — to bring him back.

Chen live-streamed their return around noon on her Facebook page, showing Hu holding his daughter's hands as they disembarked from the ferry.

"I miss home, I miss home very much," he told reporters gathered at the dock.

"This was just an accident and it's good that it can be resolved smoothly."

Sacked Maj Gen Ziaul

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was a major. He was elevated to the rank of lieutenant colonel the same year and took charge as director of Rab's intelligence wing on August 27, 2010.

He was made Rab's additional director general (operations) on December 7, 2013 after being promoted to colonel.

Allegations of enforced disappearances, killing people in contract and crossfire started piling up against Rab when Ziaul served as its intelligence chief and additional DG.

Despite various allegations, the Awami League government promoted Ziaul to the rank of Brigadier General and made him director (internal affairs) of National Security Intelligence.

In 2017, he was later made the director of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC), an intelligence agency under the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence.

The agency is responsible for monitoring, collecting and recording information and communication data as well as for the interception of electronic communication such as phone calls, emails and social media accounts.

On July 21, 2022, a new post of director general of NTMC was created when Ziaul was promoted to the rank

of major general; he became the first DG of NTMC.

During the peak of the student protest on June 17, the NTMC closed down mobile internet. A day later, it instructed International Internet Gateway companies to stop supplying bandwidth to broadband service providers, leading to a complete internet blackout in the country.

Although the BTRC is tasked with regulating the internet in Bangladesh, NTMC overstepped its authority to suppress the protesters, according to sources.

The NTMC, which began its full-fledged operation on January 1, 2017, has been monitoring all telecommunication service providers around the clock.

Since 2019, it could also block and filter content of the social media and websites critical of the government.

Earlier, on June 1, 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Government Procurement approved the proposal for the 'Part Procurement of Integrated Lawful Interception System - Geo Location System and Related Services' at a cost of Tk 172 crore.

The geo-location system can perform intelligent analysis by examining data from various sources.

The platform covers the geographical boundaries of the entire country, enabling the NTMC to identify the exact location of any person by analysing past location data.

Stop violence against minorities

FROM PAGE 16
Rights Commission. It urged the law-enforcing agencies, civil society and students to play an effective role in maintaining communal harmony.

A statement by 29 eminent citizens said they received reports of attacks on Hindus in at least 35 districts, including Khulna, Jashore, Satkhira, Jhenaidah, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Narail, Munshiganj, Noakhali, Meherpur and Dhaka.

Ahmediyya people in Panchagarh and Rangpur, ethnic minorities in Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Patuakhali, and Hijra community people in Jamalpur also came under attack, according to the statement.

They called upon the president and the army chief to deploy troops with specific directives in all districts and upazilas to prevent violence and looting.

The signatories of the statement include Sultana Kamal, Hameeda Hossain, Khushi Kabir, Rasheda K Choudhury, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, ZI Khan Panna, Saleem Samad, Shahnaz Huda, Shireen Huq, Kajal Debnath, Tabarak Hussain, Subrata Chowdhury, Sumaiya Khair, Faustina Pereira, and Shamsul Huda.

Uphold rule of law, respect democracy

FROM PAGE 16
The US embassy also issued a security alert advising the US citizens to take shelter in safe places, and urged them to strongly consider returning to the US when safe to do so. The advisory said the situation in Bangladesh is unpredictable and volatile due to lack of law enforcers' presence.

In a statement, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, meanwhile, called on all parties to de-escalate and respect universal rights.

"We urge a full, independent

and impartial investigation into the events in recent weeks," she said on Tuesday, expressing deep concern over the violence and tragic loss of lives in Bangladesh. She offered deepest condolences to the families and friends of all those killed.

Australia continues to stand by the people of Bangladesh and supports their calls for an orderly and peaceful return to a democratic and inclusive government.

Australia also increased the level of security alert and advised Australians

not to travel to Bangladesh. It advised the Australians to move to a safe place and follow the advice of local authorities and avoid large gatherings.

Russian foreign ministry in a statement on Tuesday hoped the situation in Bangladesh will return to normalcy soon.

No detainees

FROM PAGE 16
disappearance, had a meeting with the DGFI.

The rest of the delegation included Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan, women's rights activist Shireen Huq and academic CR Abrar.

After the meeting, Shireen told the families of some victims, "DGFI said that there are no detainees in its Dhaka facility at the moment. They invited us to visit the facility. They also said that they will form a joint commission to arrange visits for rights activists to 23 other facilities across the country to see if the victims of enforced disappearance are there."

"We have sought an appointment with the army chief to discuss formation of an inquiry committee," she said.

Families who had gathered in front of the DGFI office at Dhaka Cantonment were left disappointed by this development.

Nadira Sultana, wife of Ataur Rahman who went missing on December 8, 2011, had rushed to Dhaka from Madaripur yesterday hoping to get back her husband.

"I left Dhaka after my husband went missing. I told everyone I am going to Dhaka to bring back my daughter's father. I left Madaripur at 3:00am," she said.

Another delegation of rights activists

Foundation, or MJF, expressed support for the change towards democracy, but added that they are "deeply concerned" over the violence.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said they were "delighted with the joy of liberation from the culture of a lack of democracy and misgovernance".

She congratulated the young generation on this victory and expressed "profound" respect for those who have been martyred.

Emphasising MJF's long-standing commitment to defending marginalised communities, Shaheen Anam "strongly" condemned the attacks on religious minorities and marginalised communities, and police stations, political offices, and statues as "completely unacceptable".

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh criticised the army chief for not playing a visible role in maintaining law and order even after promising to protect people.

It called on the student leaders to take a vigilant and active role so that their victory does not go astray. It also urged all leftist, progressive, secular and anti-imperialist forces to take united action to restore peace and order in the society.

After visiting the DGFI office, some of the protesters led by Sanjida Islam Tulee visited the DB detention cells on the seventh floor of an eight-storey building on the DB office premises. The building also houses the office of the DMP's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit.

"All the cells were empty, but it was evident that those were used until recently. There were some bottles of water and bedding," said Tulee.

Another delegation of rights activists had visited the DGFI headquarters on Tuesday but they were told that the authorities would give an update on the victims of enforced disappearance the following day.

According to the Russian embassy in Dhaka, no injuries of Russian citizens were reported.

CONCERT FOR BANGLADESH

Madison Square Garden, New York City, August 1, 1971

It launched a geopolitical issue into America's collective psyche in a way that no concert ever had before. Harrison closed the show with a brand-new song. He called it "Bangla Desh." The lyrics were a simple plea to his millions of fans to help a suffering people.

JASON MIKLIAN AND SCOTT CARNEY

Ravi Shankar methodically plucked the seven top strings on his sitar, drawing twanged melodies out of the four-foot-long instrument. Surrounded by marigolds and burning incense, Shankar paired the heavy top strings with notes from the airy twelve bottom strings, making complex sounds that a guitar could never attain. Barefoot, sitting cross-legged on a large antique rug, and draped in an exquisite white kurta, he was the world's best known sitar player and a musical deity in his home of India.

Shankar paused for a moment; the packed Madison Square Garden crowd cheered wildly. He smirked like he was remembering a joke. He'd toured the United States for a few years now and gotten used to the flower-power hippie crowd trying to find God by mixing his live music with drugs.

He finished adjusting his instrument and took the microphone. "If you appreciate the tuning so much, I hope you'll enjoy the playing more."

To be fair, a sports arena was a pretty odd place to showcase an instrument best suited for intimate rooms or beneath banyan trees. Still, Shankar couldn't resist gently mocking their musical ignorance. They cheered again, their marijuana haze easily deflecting his barb. Shankar played on as his sharp,



George Harrison and Bob Dylan perform at 'The concert for Bangladesh' in Madison Square Garden on 1 August 1971.

John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and Ringo Starr soaked in the subcontinent like typical tourists, hitting up spiritual hotspots to taste transcendent religious bliss, only to have it evaporate by the time their plane touched down in London. But Harrison was different. He spent the next four years diving ever deeper into Indian mysticism. He flew around the world to seek out temples and ashrams, rereading the *Bhagavad Gita* and *Autobiography of a Yogi*, and studying at the feet of gurus, babas, and swamis. With music part and parcel of his spiritual journey (not to mention copious amounts of LSD, weed, and cocaine), he'd sought out India's most famous musician.

The moment Harrison heard Shankar play, he said, "I felt I wanted to walk out of my home that day and buy a one-way ticket to Calcutta. I would even have left my wife behind." The feeling wasn't exactly mutual. Shankar had never heard a Beatles song in his life. Harrison told the Bengali musician he played sitar on their megahit "Norwegian Wood." When Shankar listened to it later, he told a Rolling Stone journalist: "To tell you the truth, I had to keep my mouth shut. I couldn't believe it. It sounded so terrible." Still, Shankar loved Harrison's earnestness. Harrison loved that Shankar was one of the only people who never asked him for anything. They became fast friends.

And when Harrison came by Shankar's house that summer day in 1971, Shankar asked his first-ever favor. "George, this is the situation, I

know it doesn't concern you, I know you can't possibly identify . . . but would you help me?"

Shankar mailed Harrison newspaper clippings of the atrocities that had been written by journalists who snuck back into Dacca to document Yahya and Tikka's genocidal path, but he didn't know if Harrison cared enough to read them. Shankar hoped they could do a fund-raiser together. With luck they might get \$25,000. Harrison sat back and squinted, calculating the request. Maybe I went too far, Shankar thought. Now he looked like just another hanger-on hoping to

swayed along in the front row. Behind them, 19,500 fans itched for Shankar's long set to wrap while they waited for the main event.

Shankar tore through the last few dozen notes at 140 beats per minute, grinning from ear to ear. The crowd broke into wild applause. Then Shankar bowed, picked up his ten-pound sitar, and strolled backstage as the audio-visual team flicked on a documentary. The movie aimed to shock. Thousands of screaming fans hushed themselves to silence while absorbing nauseating images of crows picking at rotting corpses on the outskirts of Calcutta, Bengali

mothers wiping biting flies off toddlers too weak to protest, and cholera victims dying in ditches. The film's credits rolled with a plea to give to UNICEF and Harrison took the stage. He scanned the crowd nervously, white electric guitar in hand. The cord got wrapped around his foot. He had no idea if the show was going to be legendary—or just a legendary debacle. He wore a white suit with a red Om embroidered on the lapel in Sanskrit, a red button-up shirt, and a full Jesus beard and hair. He shook off the cord and strummed the opening bars of one of his biggest post-Beatles hits, "Wah-Wah." Ringo delivered drums right on cue.

Emotions rose as they played a series of massive hits, one after another, including "Jumpin' Jack Flash" to honor Mick Jagger, as well as some Beatles' tunes sung live by a Beatle for the first time in several years. A mustachioed Clapton floated his way onstage, dressed in a navy blue sports coat and jeans. He accessorized the outfit with a bloodstream packed to the gills with opioids. Clapton wedged his lit cigarette into his guitar's headstock and launched into a duet with Harrison. Together, they did the first ever live performance of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." Clapton later said he was ashamed because he was so high he could barely walk, let alone play. The crowd was too enthralled at the sight of George Harrison and Eric Clapton riffing together to care. Now they were rolling. Harrison wrapped up "Here Comes the Sun," then took a quick sip from

through his song selections.

The concert was just one of dozens of public outpourings in support of the Bengali cause during that summer and fall. West Pakistan imprisoned a pregnant woman from Philadelphia for illegally crossing from India to East Pakistan to deliver saris. A Dutch man stole a famous Vermeer painting and tried to fence it for millions of dollars in order to give the sum in relief aid. Children in thirty thousand schools across America fasted for a day so that they could donate their lunch money to the cause. Activists built a refugee camp out of sewer pipes in front of the UN, about a mile and a half northeast of Madison Square Garden. They tried to shock the diplomats and ate the same single daily meal of rice and lentils that refugees did, while Allen Ginsberg read poetry.

In Paris, a former French special forces officer took a pistol and a briefcase bursting with colorful wires up to the cockpit of a Pakistan International Airways plane bound for Karachi. He hijacked it, demanding twenty tons of medical supplies for the Calcutta refugee camps. During the tense standoff, the French Red Cross brought the supplies as requested. Commandos disguised as airport workers loaded the crates, then captured the skyjacker. Though he only carried a toy gun and some wires, he still got five years in jail for the stunt. Nevertheless, the French Red Cross delivered the goods to the refugee camps as promised.

Yet none of those protests captured the imagination quite like the Concert for Bangladesh. It launched a geopolitical issue into America's collective psyche in a way that no concert ever had before. Harrison closed the show with a brand-new song. He called it "Bangla Desh." The lyrics were a simple plea to his millions of fans to help a suffering people. Harrison and the rest of rock's biggest stars left the stage, pumping their fists to raucous whistles and whoops. Clapton said, "This will always be remembered as a time that we could be proud of being musicians. We just weren't thinking of ourselves for five minutes."

Shankar agreed: "It was a miracle, really."

At the after-party, Keith Moon demolished a drum set and hotel room in celebration, as they all reveled in a job well done. The live concert album sold millions of copies and won a Grammy.

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Scott Carney, is an investigative journalist and New York Times bestselling author.

The above-mentioned writers are the authors of the book, titled *The Vortex: The True Story of History's Deadliest Storm and the Liberation of Bangladesh*, HarperCollins India(2022). This article is an excerpt from the book.



A poster for the Concert for Bangladesh

lingering notes reverberated through the cavernous steel rafters and echoed away into oblivion. Backstage, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, and Ringo Starr waited their turns to perform.

This was the birth of a new phenomenon in American music: the rock-and-roll charity benefit concert. The idea was as simple as it was unorthodox: leverage the power of celebrity musicians to draw attention to an under-recognized human rights issue and raise money for organizations working in the field.

Two months earlier, Shankar paced around his Spanish-style villa in the heart of Hollywood. He'd followed the horrors in Pakistan, like every other overseas Bengali, and felt a kinship with the Pakistani Bengalis from just across the border of his own home in Calcutta. As the most famous living Bengali in the world, friends, gurus, and countrymen all asked him to help. Could he play a benefit at the local temple? And one at a high school too? Shankar agreed time and again, but the pitiful handfuls of money, one three-hour show at a time, couldn't possibly move the needle when ten million were starving to death.

Then Shankar's friend George Harrison called. He was coming to Los Angeles to work on a film score and would love to get in a sitar lesson or two. Shankar and Harrison had been friends ever since the Beatles ventured to India in 1966.



A poster for the Concert for Bangladesh

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Shankar and Harrison at the press conference for the concert.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Public safety is paramount

Formation of interim govt vital to resume regular police activities

We are worried about the law-and-order situation which continues to be in a fluid state after deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country on Monday. Even though there have been signs of improvement over the last three days, there is still a sense of fear and disorientation following widespread attacks on Awami League-linked establishments, minority communities, public properties and infrastructure including key symbols of power and nationhood, etc. What's at stake here is not just security, but also the functioning of regular activities and services, which cannot resume in full swing without an interim government.

That it couldn't still be formed, despite the efforts of all involved in the process, speaks to the complications related to such sensitive undertakings. The appointment of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus as chief adviser of the interim government is reassuring. But we are yet to know about other appointees who will work alongside him, or when the government will be sworn in. Yunus will reportedly land in Bangladesh on Thursday afternoon, so things are expected to be fast-tracked after that. But as things stand, the country continues to stagger in a power vacuum.

The biggest worry in such a vacuum is the state of law and order. With the entire police force still missing from the scene, people are right to worry. Even though army and Ansar forces have stepped up in providing security, it hasn't calmed frayed nerves. According to an estimate, over 450 police stations across the country were destroyed or damaged on Monday alone. Arms and ammunition were looted from many of the stations. Over the last few days, many police officers were killed or injured in such attacks. Clearly, the morale among officers is extremely low. If the police don't feel protected themselves, how can they provide protection to others? With the non-cadre officers staging work abstention, and cadre officers largely in hiding, it may take some time to restore order among the force.

This is bad news. Students who led the movement that brought down the Awami League government are trying to do the best they can to help fill the vacuum. They are managing traffic, guarding at-risk police stations, churches and temples, helping clean up garbage, etc. This is commendable indeed. But it can hardly make up for the services provided by professionals in the police, fire service, customs, and other relevant bodies. In fact, the events of the last few days have had a disruptive effect across all government-linked institutions, leading to major reshuffles in some key institutions. Many long-suppressed issues among public employees are also coming to the fore.

While we hope these will be resolved sooner than later, ensuring the security of citizens is something that cannot wait. We understand that given how entrenched corruption was in police force—and how politicised it became—overhauling the force and restoring people's faith in it will not be easy. This is something the incoming administration must work on. But right now, we urge the authorities to step up their efforts to ensure safety. That means further involvement of the military forces in law enforcement activities across the country, especially in risky areas. The police authorities also must do whatever necessary to put officers back on the field, and operationalise all police stations as soon as possible.

Time to bring back smuggled money

Those involved in stealing funds must be held accountable

With the hush-hush policy gone now that the reign of Sheikh Hasina's government is over, the true extent of our economic crisis is coming to light. According to a report by Bonik Barta, over the last 15 years of her rule, nearly \$150 billion, equivalent to around Tk 17.6 lakh crore, was syphoned out of the country. That's more than double the amount of the current national budget—Tk 7.97 lakh crore—which happens to be the biggest in our history.

The report is based on the findings of US-based think tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI). Most of the stolen funds apparently came from big loans taken from banks, mostly by politically influential people and businesses. Those who stole the money included politicians, businessmen, bureaucrats, police officials, high-ups of banks, NBFIs, insurance companies, etc. Even mid-level officials of these institutions were involved. Money was also stolen from various government projects, through inflated prices and orchestrated cost overruns.

Money laundering and trade mis-invoicing were among the popular means for smuggling money, with some of the funds stored in offshore accounts in Switzerland, the UK, the US, Canada, the UAE, Southeast Asian countries like Singapore, and East European countries, among others. Some of the funds were also invested in properties in Malaysia, the UAE, Canada, and the UK. One notable example was the former Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury who amassed enough money illegally to buy 260 properties in the UK, worth Tk 1,888 crore.

This shows how those who were entrusted with the responsibility of protecting our money were often the ones to embezzle it. The massive pilfering was only possible because relevant state institutions became virtually ineffective because of rampant corruption and irregularities. Several Bangladesh Bank high-ups admitted they were forced to disregard regulations in the face of political pressure. A culture of impunity and lack of accountability let corrupt elements like former police chief Benazir Ahmed get away with amassing illegal wealth.

Awami League was not the first ruling party to facilitate money laundering, nor might it be the last. To ensure this doesn't happen again, we must overhaul and strengthen relevant institutions so that they can do their job properly. Reforms in the banking sector are also long overdue. We must not waste the opportunity for reforms created by the recent student-led mass movement. The interim government, likely to be sworn in later today, must make it a priority to hold accountable those who laundered money and recover the funds to help rebuild our economy.

'No political decision should be taken without students' input'

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolon, talks with The Daily Star about the current political situation, the formation of the interim government, and other challenges facing the country.

What are your thoughts on the new interim government proposed by the students with Dr Yunus as its head?

In the meeting on August 5 with the president and the army chief at the Bangabhaban, we have specifically mentioned that no political decision should be taken without taking the opinions and inputs from students, because it is the students who organised this movement; it is the students and the mass people who sacrificed their lives which led to the Sheikh Hasina regime's fall. The organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement have already proposed the names for the interim government. Now it should be formed without further delay—by today (Wednesday).

Do you think the leaders of the political parties who were present there at the Bangabhaban on



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Zonayed Saki PHOTO: STAR

August 5 represent the students' and the mass people's aspirations for a new Bangladesh? Besides you, we saw leaders of only right-wing political parties, including Jamaat and Hefazat.

When they invited me, they didn't tell me who the other invitees were. As a political party, we thought that it was important to present our views and so we went there. Seeing the other participants in the meeting, we proposed that the other political parties who were actively involved with the movement should also be invited for discussion. They told us that the discussions were not over, that they would also invite others. I would like to make it clear that we were not there to form any political alliance. We were called in for discussion on the formation of the interim

government, so were other political parties and individuals.

Student organisers have categorically said they are against any form of fascism. Can we really say that the parties that were invited for the discussion have been above this? What can people really expect from them?

If the people cannot expect anything from these political parties, they have other choices and alternatives in a democratic system. Democracy means people have the absolute power and freedom to choose their candidates. This must be ensured. We have seen how people have revolted against the fascist Hasina regime. Likewise, people can also reject any other political party who exhibited their fascist nature in the past. There are other alternatives from whom they can choose their candidates. We have been fighting for a long time to restore people's voting rights. I think after this student revolution, no party will ever dare to rule the country in the same fascist manner, people will not tolerate it. We think new political forces will emerge in the country who will eradicate all kinds of discrimination among people and ensure economic freedom for our people. Our aim should be to inculcate a culture of tolerance and harmony in spite of all our differences.

It seems the BNP is already in an election mood. With Khaleda Zia and the party's other senior leaders and activists released, they

already held a political programme today, at a time when the law-and-order situation in the country is still volatile and when an interim government is yet to be formed. Is this not somewhat opportunistic?

We have been saying all along that at this moment it is our responsibility to uphold the spirit of the mass uprising and ensure stability, peace, safety and security of the people and always remain vigilant to stop any attacks and violence on the minorities. Looting and destroying of public properties must stop. We have already directed all our activists to form voluntary organisations to ensure safety and security of the people, particularly the minority communities, so that the opportunists cannot tarnish the image of this student revolution through carrying out violence. After the interim government is formed, the political parties of the country should also give their opinions on how this government can carry out its mandated duties. All the political parties must also assist the new interim government to ensure that there is no lawlessness and anarchy in the country. Ensuring the safety of people should be our key priority at this moment. The political parties should play the role expected from them for transitioning into a true democracy. It would be expected that the BNP's programme will also be aimed at these goals.

What will be the major challenges for the soon-to-be-formed interim government in fulfilling the dreams

and aspirations of the students? What should be the priorities for this government?

Under the Hasina regime, people were killed, tortured and arrested indiscriminately and they are still living in insecurity and fear. All these incidents must be investigated on a priority basis and those involved must face justice. In our talks with the president and the army chief, we also asked them to take responsibility for the families of the martyrs and compensate them adequately. We also demanded immediate release of those detained unlawfully during this movement.

Ensuring safety of people's lives and property should be a key priority for the interim government. They must also reconstruct the administration, particularly the police administration and the civil administration, so that they can serve the people and not become their enemies. This should be done immediately. Thirdly, we are currently facing an economic crisis and the interim government must take the necessary measures to overcome the challenges. We would urge our brothers and sisters living abroad to send us more remittance now to avoid the impending economic crisis. Finally, this government must work sincerely to establish and strengthen democracy in the country by making the necessary institutional changes and constitutional reforms. Our political parties must come to a consensus on this.

How do we clear this economic mess?



Mamun Rashid is the founding managing partner of PwC Bangladesh and chairman at the Financial Excellence Ltd.

MAMUN RASHID

We extend our sincerest congratulations to the young students and individuals in our community who demanded for a just and more equitable social order in Bangladesh. They have achieved the seemingly unachievable. Their courageous deeds have not only converted the quota reform movement into a powerful popular revolt for political transformation, but also resonated with the aspirations of every individual in the nation. Their resonant voices have deeply moved and inspired the entire nation, paving the path towards aspired progress. Credit also goes to whatever little is left in our civil society, including some important stakeholders of change in the media.

For the last 15 years, individuals as well as institutions have been denied economic advantages as a result of persistent corruption and prejudice. The government's exclusive preoccupation was with infrastructural development in the name of GDP growth, which failed to significantly impact the lives of broader segments of the populace, putting the inclusion agenda in the backyard with very little investment in social infrastructure building. Hence, it only favoured dishonest politicians, bureaucrats, and businessmen.

The regime has methodically destroyed institutions. The scarcity of employment prospects and the

practice of preferential treatment via the quota system are indicative of the marginalisation experienced by the youth in the country. More so, the scenario in education, from the primary level to tertiary educational institutions, has become very pathetic and dismal. The lower level of the judiciary, and education and health systems have been politicised,

being done by some exchange houses owned by interest groups in the gulf, resulting in rampant rise in trade-based money laundering. The six and nine percent caps on interest rates only favoured a rogue few, not the honest and small entrepreneurs. An almost fixed exchange rate regime discouraged exporters and remitters. It neither helped foreign investors, nor the local ones. Favouritism in identifying the public interest projects as well as selection of project drivers also remained a big question for the development partners.

There is no doubt that the state and its dysfunctional systems must be rebuilt. The economy must be salvaged from the turmoil caused by the despotic administration and its supporters. Rectifying the chaos

resulting in poor service delivery. Despite loud discussions over it, the revenue expansion agenda was not acted upon due to individual officials prioritising personal gain. The overall size of the possible inward remittance is estimated to be more than \$40 billion annually, but actual remittance has never exceeded \$24 billion in a year because of an ever engulfing hundi business. Even our regulator lent a blind eye towards what was

Individuals are experiencing the adverse effects of significant inflationary pressure and insufficient money in the ecosystem. The economic foundations have been severely compromised. Consequently, all economic indices are under strain. Every institution has been methodically dismantled to enable corruption and maintain an undemocratic grip on power as well as simple decision making.

The heads of regulatory agencies responsible for governing the economy exhibited complete susceptibility to a single "decision maker" and made erroneous and detrimental choices in order to appease political seniors and those with connections to those in power. Some examples are Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue, and the capital market watchdog. Consequently, these entities have implemented various discriminatory and erroneous policies. Some of these actions involve amending the Banking Company Act to benefit the few board directors, refraining from taking any measures against willful bank loan defaulters, altering the definition of classified loans, maintaining fixed interest rate caps and exchange rate for an extended period, and neglecting to make autonomous decisions to manage inflation.

Hence the desired laundry list to reboot the economy is quite extensive. Significant exertion and unwavering commitment will be required to effectively guide the trajectory. Decision makers need to be very cautious regarding who they put up to dispassionately clear the mess. Relevant credentials and the ability to remain above any controversy should be the minimum threshold. Along with these, implementation with precision can never be underestimated.

Regime change in Bangladesh: The fallout for India



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SALIMULLAH KHAN

Vladimir Lenin, after all, was right. Sometimes, there are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen. Glory to the martyrs and vanguards of Bangladesh who made it to a possible democracy once more!

In Bangladesh, August is apparently a month when decades happen. Karl Marx famously said, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce." If the fall of the BAKSAL (Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League) regime in August 1975 was a tragedy, the boisterous exit of the regime this August is a repetition, this time as a farce. The free fall of the regime is a relief for many; however, there are also darker clouds around in the horizon.

The odds are no less apparent. One of these concerns India, the nation state's largest neighbour. The facts around the number one superpower, the US, are another concern. But I can't deal with the second topic in this space. Let me rather stay with only India today.

To some, the events of July-August, for all their valour and glory may tell the same old story. But it is not exactly a void in which they disgorge.

The coup d'état of 1975 was organised clandestinely. It was a civilian military combined effort. There is good evidence that it was sustained by a Western power. The current conjuncture seems to involve a broad coalition of radical forces led by university students, sustained by the support of a cross-section of civil society, political parties and the so-called international community. The fallout now is more uncertain than ever, at least compared to what it was a half century earlier.

The Awami League regime in 1975 under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had gone berserk with its one nation one leader "mantra". In 2024, the daughter's regime only went wilder with its sheer ruthlessness. History repeated itself.

It is perhaps too early to say what awaits us



Did Bangladesh's inevitable neighbour follow even a rule of its own best interest in underscoring the dynastic autocracy in Bangladesh?

PHOTO: PTD

even in the not-too-distant future. A doubt pops up, nevertheless. What is the nature of the August 5 revolution? Is it a popular revolution like the French Revolution flying

One does not choose from an empty set. Not a neighbour, at any rate. Nations act, as everyone knows, not as philanthropists or cynics but in their own best interest. Did

regime that clearly violated all rules of liberal democracy proves highly short-sighted, more now than ever.

What alternatives did India have to choose

from is not apparent, or not well-known in any case. But it may even be non-transparent. In 1975, India blatantly ignored its lower riparian neighbour in claiming the Ganga-Padma as a virtually all-India domestic watercourse. That it is an international river, it apparently forgot then. India's stance on other watercourses changed little since then. The waters of the Teesta and many other common international rivers don't flow quietly anymore.

Border killings on a rhythmic scale are not simply a mystic symbol of India's political muscle but of its myopic nature. It is a bizarre thing: "India's Bangladesh Problem," as one pundit called it. Termites, they call their unhandsome neighbours.

India's China obsession, at least ever since her war with China in 1962, could have misled it to its Bangladesh policy. But a people who didn't put up with Pakistan's proto-colonial repressive regime of two and a half decades can hardly be expected (let alone taken for granted) to welcome such a proverbial "subsidiary alliance" as India desires to perpetrate on Bangladesh.

The latest regime change in the wake of a popular mass uprising should provide an occasion to rethink future relations between the two sovereign neighbours in South Asia, adorned by the common historical legacy of many centuries.

The immiseration of one neighbour for the benefit of the other can only be sustained by such regimes as the just fallen one in Bangladesh. India is a habitat, nay a breeding ground, of proverbial wise men. I am sure they will not be deluded by dreams of "Akhand Hindustan". That simply will not work.

The regime change of August 2024 may also provide an occasion to reflect on the question of national identity, a question the think tanks of national security (or regional imperialism if you like) can only ignore at their own peril.

Let history not repeat a second tragedy. The regime change in Dhaka, apparently, will enjoy the blessings of the "international community." But it is unlikely to work well if India does not consider the forces of the current circumstances today. Tomorrow the same forces will force India to think.

India's best interest may perhaps lie in strengthening a new democracy in Bangladesh. At any rate, not obstructing democratic aspirations of a new generation in its eastward neighbourhood is the key point.

How to not fall for another dictator

Lessons from the Arab Spring



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

RAMISA ROB

The quick-fire collapse of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime seemed unbelievable till it happened on August 5, 2024. The historic fall of the longest serving female head of state in the world mirrors the Arab Spring in the Middle East, which began in 2010 when anti-authoritarian uprisings toppled one notorious dictator after another in the region. Before her resignation, Bangladesh's former Prime Minister's response to the student quota reform movement with crushing lethality that killed at least 450 people, had begun resembling the obsessive autocratic tendencies and brutal methods of ousted Arab leaders such as Tunisia's Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, and Libya's Muammar Gaddafi—to name a few.

The "one-point" step down slogan—Ek Dafa, Ek Dabi—reverberating in the nationwide protests on Saturday, August 3, was reminiscent of the slogan of the Arab Spring, "The people want to bring down the regime," as were the images of hope and euphoria of mass gatherings of people from all walks of life striving for democratic change. But beyond the optics, the most significant parallel between Bangladesh's historic movement and the Arab Spring is their driving force: pent-up frustration and socio-economic grievances of the mass people, the youth, the middle and lower class, towards grave inequality and injustice fostered by corrupt, fear-mongering dictatorships.

Though the Arab Spring led to the fall of seemingly invincible leaders, the victory was short-lived in most countries, as the downfall of the reviled regimes instead led to further turmoil. Only Tunisia, came out of the revolution as a success story and began backsliding last year. Libya and Syria collapsed into civil war, and foreign powers' heavy investment in Yemen's democratic transition led the country to a disastrous civil war. Egypt, on the other hand, witnessed a military coup followed by the rise of a leader even worse than the one they got rid of. Understanding the underlying reasons for the failure of the nations' to transition to democratic regimes is crucial as Bangladesh navigates uncharted waters of a seismic

regime change, unlike any before.

In an article published in the Catalyst, writer Anand Gopal attributed the Arab Spring's failure to neoliberal economic policies which were not challenged after the oppressive governments were toppled. "Because the poor and working class didn't have the structural leverage to organise collectively and as a class, they instead conceived of them differently—say, as Muslims against the more elite figures who don't represent Islam. That's where fundamental Islamists came in," writes Gopal. The role of the political economy cannot be understated for a constructive change in the system of governance in Bangladesh.

The disparity between long standing elites in Bangladesh—many of whom silently adhered to Sheikh Hasina's regime for their own gains—and the working class or unemployed—who were denied basic economic and human rights—need to be addressed as we shift towards a system where an all-powerful regime can never rise again. There is anger, there is hate—and that was always going to be the case. The fragmented society has to establish a unified dialogue to solve it. Democracy as an umbrella idea for "free speech" and "free and fair elections," without addressing deeply unequal systems—that triggered Hasina's fall—will lead us down the same path as the Arab nations that went backwards despite a world-changing moment.

Since Sheikh Hasina fled, attacks on Hindu minorities have escalated, and vandalism, looting, burning and violence has engulfed the nation. Bangladesh is predominantly a secular country, and its very strength lies in that fact. The student coordinators have insofar stepped into protecting minorities, and minority places of worship. To retain and expand unity of all communities in Bangladesh, the interim government and the Bangladeshi community as a whole, have to work towards changing the existing social contracts which disproportionately affect marginalised people of all religions. During ruler's uprisings against three-decade ruler Mubarak, minority Orthodox Coptic Christians thought the discrimination would

end after the revolution, but it escalated instead. Five years later, as current President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi took office overthrowing an Islamist regime, the violence and divisions between Muslims and Christians have continued to intensify, along with socioeconomic disparity.

A burst of democratic spirit and national unity, similar to what we witnessed last week, brought down the oppressive regimes

Defence Minister Abdel Fattah-Al Sisi, whose dictatorial regime is more autocratic and harmful to Egypt's middle and lower class, than Mubarak's was. The economic woes which drove people to protest and demand for social justice, dignity and democracy, in the streets of Cairo in 2011, continue to persist today.

For all but 12 years since 1971, the political landscape of Bangladesh has always been

demanding bribes in return for procurement decisions and political appointments. The prospect of BNP or other existing parties returning with the same political dynamics will inarguably perpetuate the same cycle of corruption and mass sufferings.

Breaking free of authoritarianism is a long, difficult road. In 15 years, the Awami League has ruled the country with a fortress of fear, normalising inequality of the classes, thuggery of those in power, wealth appropriation by government authorities, corruption within the elites and government officials, cronyism and lawlessness in every corner of the society. While we could not write any of this before, it must be said now that the legal system was also robbed of its independence. The student wing of Awami League, BCL, which has long terrorised the youth and dissenters with brute force, have also been left behind; the brainwashing of violent ideologies too, needs to be addressed constructively.

Tunisia, which was long known to be the only success story coming out of the Arab Spring—holding two democratic free and fair elections in 2014 and 2019—is now facing the exact issues they fought against in 2011. The civil society in Tunisia won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015, for mediating the National Dialogue in 2013. Yet its drive for consensus to keep both labour and business parties content without concrete steps to address the economic issues since 2011 led to a stagnating economy, affecting the youth, causing widespread disillusionment and polarisation. The current populist President Kais Saied, as such, has been cracking down on dissenters and, according to critics, suppressing challengers ahead of October elections after the Tunisia court jailed potential presidential candidates on August 5. Tunisia's unfortunate relapse only affirms that sustained recovery from autocratic governments requires far more innovation and a renewed effort to connect political citizenship with socioeconomic rights. Change never happens overnight, but positive change warrants learning from other nations, like the Arab states. Despite leading an exhilarating revolution, the citizens continue to live through the same oppression—uprisings continue to rock the region since 2018.

Marwan Muasher, a former Jordanian diplomat who authored The Second Arab Awakening, told the Middle East Eye, "Arab Spring 1.0 could have resulted in social peace if Arab governments understood the need for new social contracts and the need for more open political systems, and the need to fight corruption institutionally."



Students coordinators of the movement have voiced that they want a change in the overall system of Bangladesh, in which fascism or 'any leader like Sheikh Hasina' can never emerge again.

PHOTO: AFP

of the Arab countries a decade ago, but the movements lacked structure or plans for the future. When such a formidable dictatorship falls, there's a blitzkrieg of non-violent actions needed to create a new form of governance from scratch. In that regard, the students' dialogue with the army, and the appointment of Dr Yunus as Chief Advisor, aligned with the students' requests, is a start. But due to the fact that the Awami League regime denied citizens free elections, and a breeding ground for new political parties to emerge, the interim government will have to stay intact for longer than previous ones, in order to start rebuilding the cracked pillars of the country before groups with vested interests take advantage of the political vacuum.

Egypt's swift return to autocracy, after ousting Mubarak, is a cautionary tale for Bangladesh. In 2012, Egypt elected Islamist Mohammed Morsi, with fierce opposition from the protesters who ousted Mubarak—paving the way for a military coup by

caught in a tussle between BNP, the political dynasty of former president Ziaur Rahman, and Awami League, the political dynasty of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Recently, BNP General Secretary Mirza Fakhruul Islam has announced that Tarek Rahman, the son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will return to Bangladesh from exile in the United Kingdom. Students coordinators who have led the monumental movement have voiced that they want a change in the overall system of Bangladesh, in which fascism, authoritarianism, or "any leader like Sheikh Hasina" can never emerge again. Tarek Rahman's ascendancy to politics was based on nepotism—which the quota reform movement sought to fight. His political career has long been under a cloud; though he denies certain charges, a leaked US embassy cable from 2008 called him a "notorious and widely feared... symbol of kleptocratic government," who had "flagrantly"

THE SHELF

6 Essential Rabindranaths you should read

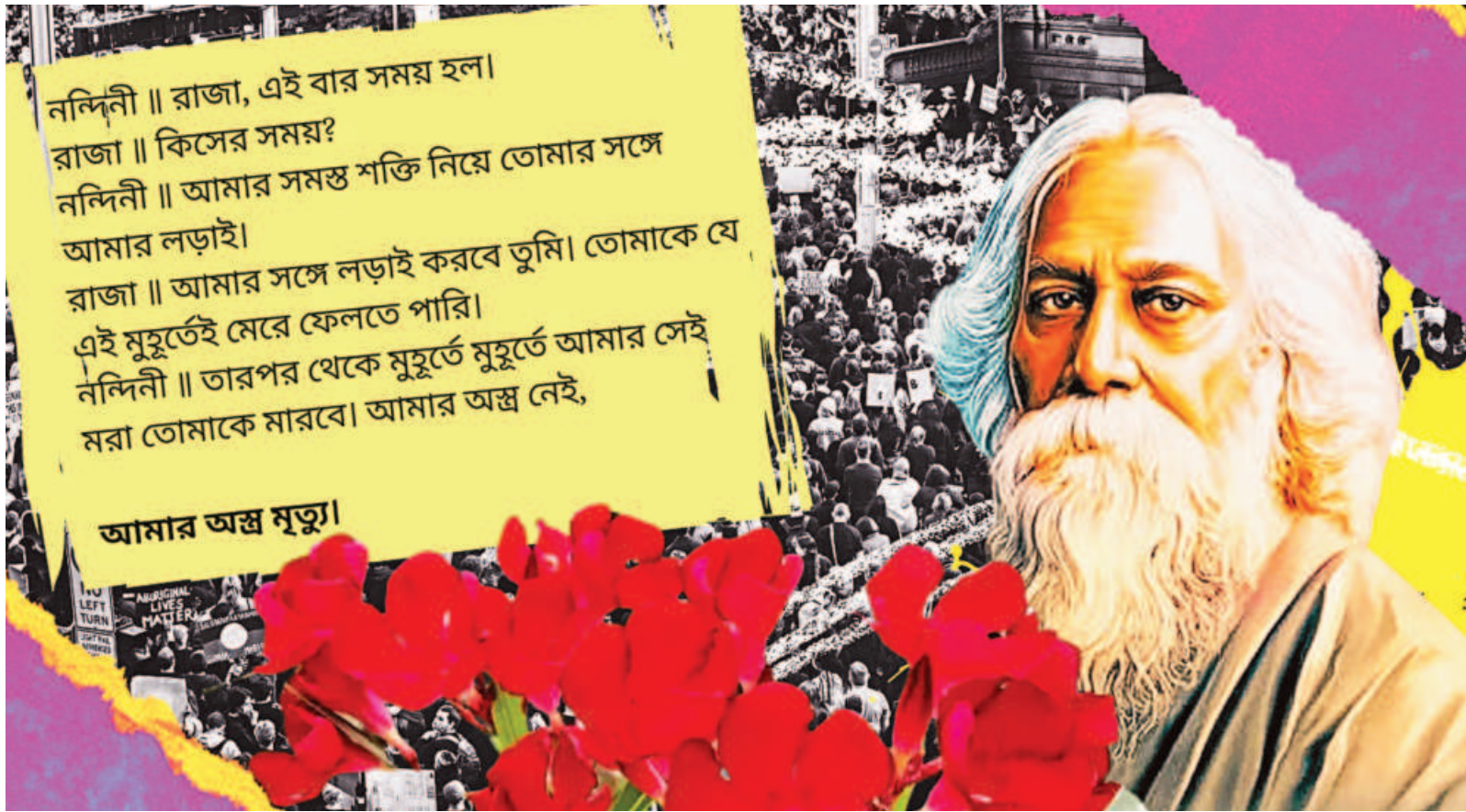


ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

In his long life, Rabindranath confronted protests and movements, revolutions and resistance efforts. His lectures, essays, letters, novels, and songs often tell the tales of those struggles.

NAZIA MANZOOR

One does not need to remember Rabindranath on the occasion of the anniversary of his death—22 Srabon or August 7 to be precise. Rabindranath is evoked often, and with spontaneity in our everyday lives. But perhaps he is recalled with a particular kind of urgency when we experience turmoil of the kind we are experiencing at our present political juncture. In his long life, Rabindranath confronted protests and movements, revolutions and resistance efforts. His lectures, essays, letters, novels, and songs often tell the tales of those struggles. From the Swadeshi Movement to Bongo Bhongo to colonial violence against the unarmed, Rabindranath's pen addressed them all. On the occasion of this baishhe srabon, here are six essential revolutionary Rabindranath

pieces everyone should read.

Letter to Lord Chelmsford Rejecting Knighthood (29 May, 1919)

Rabindranath was awarded the Knighthood in 1915, after winning the Nobel prize for *Gitanjali* (1910). However, he returned his Knighthood in 1919 in protest of Brigadier General Dyer's killings of 379 innocent, unarmed civilians at Amritsar in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Condemning the killing of unarmed civilians, Rabindranath wrote to the Viceroy of India, Lord Chelmsford: "Considering that such treatment has been meted out to a population, disarmed and resourceless, by a power which has the most terribly efficient organisation for destruction of human lives, we must strongly assert that it can claim no political expediency, far less moral justification." He adds,

"The time has come when badges of honour make our shame glaring in the incongruous context of humiliation, and I for my part wish to stand, shorn of all special distinctions, by the side of those of my countrymen, who, for their so-called insignificance, are liable to suffer degradation not fit for human beings."

A bold declaration of solidarity and a firm rejection of such brutal violence meted out against unarmed general people, the letter affirms Rabindranath's sense of what is just and what one must stand for.

Manusher Dhormo (1931)

A compilation of lectures delivered by Rabindranath and drawn from his Hibbert Lectures given at Oxford University in 1930, *Manusher Dhormo* is essential for everyone who wants to familiarise themselves with

Rabindranath's philosophy on life and being human. The lectures were delivered while tensions surrounding India's independence struggle were high. Rabindranath proposes that the future of humanity must be based upon equality among the races when he claims, "I ask them to claim the right of manhood to be friends of men, and not the right of a particular proud race or nation which may boast of the fatal quality of being the rulers of men." A critique of race egotism and the race-centric human order, the book attests to Rabindranath's belief in the notions of insubordination, creativity, and autonomy.

Pother Sonchay (1939)

Rabindranath's trip to England and America in 1912-13 was his third visit to the West, and the impressions were recorded in a collection of small pieces in a text which was given the name, *Pother Sonchay*. In one of the essays, he talks about the intellectual world in England which, as Rabindranath put it, bore no resemblance to the arrogance and pomposity demonstrated by the members of the British ruling class in India. Here, one might also recall the 1916 essay he wrote, condemning a Presidency College professor's ill words against Indians. He critiqued that men who are better suited for disciplinary roles—such as that of drill sergeant, or a jailer—have been put in charge of educating our young minds. Rabindranath's critique of English rule in India, particularly about how India was a source of profit for them and they kept India poor, is also worthy of engagement.

Roktokorobi (1923/1924)

Often regarded as one of Rabindranath's staunchest protests against totalitarianism, *Roktokorobi* features Nandini—the woman whose only ornament is the flower roktokorobi which she wears for the man she loves—as a character who stands tall against oppressive regimes everywhere. The tyrant king's greed is contrasted sharply by Nandini's ability to love and her fierce determination to fight him. A play critiquing the

onslaught of modernity and mindless industrialisation, *Roktokorobi* raises questions about what it means to be human when one is chained to a system that is intent on oppressing them.

Song lyrics

1905's Bongo Bhongo, or the first Bengal Partition by the British Raj was rejected by Rabindranath. Songs from this era, including "Ami porer ghore kinbo na ar", "Bidhir bidhon katbe tumi", and "Aji Bangladesher hridoy hote", are full of patriotic zeal and unparalleled love for Bengal. Other songs from this era include "Tor apone joney chharbey torey, ta boley bhabna kora cholbena", "Jodi tor daak shune keu na ashe", "Ebar tor mora Gangey baan esechhey", and of course, "Amar shonar Bangla", Bangladesh's national anthem. Lyrical, passionate, and poetic, the songs from this period continue to sway and move us—whether in music form or when appreciated for their poetic brilliance.

Gora (1910), Ghore Baire (1916), and Char Odhday (1934)

While out of the three novels, *Ghore Baire* most explicitly and expertly analyses the limits of the Swadeshi movement, together the novels reflect the thinker's dis-ease with nationalism and how sometimes, the endeavour can be selfish. Rabindranath was an early advocate for the Swadeshi Movement, and later a critic, but his anti-nationalism is perhaps less interesting than what the novels cleverly reveal—his dis-ease with revolution itself. This is not to claim that he was anti-revolutionary, but Rabindranath's constantly shifting, morphing ideas of both concepts—nationalism and revolution—are exhibited brilliantly in the novels, and particularly in *Ghore Baire*. All three novels also hypothesise the dangers of hyper masculinity and hyper sexualisation, and discuss the emergence of the new, modern woman.

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BOOK REVIEW: POETRY

About romances ever-appealing

Review of *Abdus Selim's 'Shobdo O Bodher Kobita' (Aksar Bunan, 2024)*

ANSHUMAN BHOWMICK

Poetry and Bangali gentlemen are perennial bedfellows. Unlike some romances that die young, a regular Bangali male, once smitten by the muse of poetry, never quite relinquishes that moment of epiphany. He keeps coming back to it whenever an occasion shows up. Thus, Abdus Selim, one of the most prolific translators of Bangladesh, with a mind boggling collection of plays that he has transplanted from lands near and far into our soil, finds an opportunity to return to his first love—poetry. And boy oh boy, have we been presented with an exquisite collection of poems culled from the whole Anglophone ecosystem rendered in exquisite Bangla!

When we say 'Anglophone ecosystem', we, of course, imply all the English translations from major languages like Spanish, French, German, et al. As a translator, Selim takes full advantage of the Anglophone privilege. In *Shobdo O Bodher Kobita* (roughly translating to *Poetry of Sound and Sense*), Selim accommodates 33 poems by 21 poets representing seven nations and six languages. In addition to the languages one would expect in such a volume, the list includes Japanese and Russian, demonstrating Selim's genuine interest in poetry at large.

This book has been a clandestine romance all along; Selim makes no bones in admitting that this romance was initiated back in 1973 (I believe, the translator was studying literature in the US in those days) that continued till today. Thus, the poems in this volume reflect both the purity of young love and



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

the autumnal leaves.

Such diversity also reflects an educated Bangali's passion for literature of the world, a rarity these days. As I studied the poems—the translations and the originals, whenever I had an opportunity side by side—I was marvelled by Selim's complete command over the 'tatsama' elements in literary Bangla. This, facilitated by his penchant for matters linguistic, makes Selim a perfect representative of the last generation of Bangalis who inherited a multilingual ethos and chose to hone one's skills in several languages, including academic Bangla spiced with Sanskrit delicacies. This inheritance is rich, in every sense.

Selim does a marvellous job with Mathew Arnold's "Dover Beach" (1867), encapsulating the meditative mood of the original with smart deployment of transferred epithets. On reading Selim's rendering of

John Keats' "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" (1816), I was reminded of Jibananda Das debts to the wealth of literary allusions employed by the second generation of English Romantic poets, and also how Das emulated the syntax of Keats' language in "Much have I travelled in the realms of gold" (1820) to pen the opening verse of Banalata Sen.

Irrespective of the ambivalence that marks Metaphysical poetry of the 17th century, Selim marvels us with his choice of words and precision of utterance. The rendering of John Donne's sermon starting "No Man is an Island" (1624) is a case in point. Sometimes, Selim's translations are so lucid and musical that you feel like reading out his adaptation of Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" (1978).

Some poems spring a surprise. Yevgeny Yevtushenko's "My Universities", for instance, is a socialist gem composed during

the years of Communist atrocity. Jack Hirschman's "The Twin Towers Arcane" is a moving paean to the worst human massacre of recent years. That Selim introduces each poet in a few lines is helpful for the readers. As for publishing details, Selim gives the original titles at the end of each poem and names the English translators of non-English poems.

Translation is also about acknowledging the untranslatable. While digging into the culture specific registers of T S Eliot's "Ash Wednesday" (1930) for example, Selim leaves the title as it is.

Only one upsetting aspect lies in the production front. The proofing was below-par. And the cover design reflected nothing of the nuances that poetry carries.

Anshuman Bhowmick is a cultural commentator and theatre critic based in Calcutta.

WHAT WE'RE READING THIS WEEK

"Kaho" by Haruki Murakami

Imagine being called ugly on a blind date as a sort of social experiment. Then, imagine going out with him again. Within the fabric of such an absurd short story, entitled "Kaho", that was featured in *The New Yorker* last month, Haruki Murakami weaves a critique of our world's hypocritical condemnation of lookism and its simultaneous obsession with women's appearance. The force of such a statement is all the more amplified as it stands bare in an unembellished, blunt writing style. What strikes me is how Murakami conveys complex issues such as the symbiotic bond between one's face and one's perception of the self, the malleability of identity, and the fluidity of beauty, all through a deceptively simple character, Kaho—the eponymous protagonist of the story and the "plainest woman" her "quirky" blind date has, purportedly, ever seen.

Syeda Fatema Rahman



Uncertainty over Shakib's Pakistan Tests inclusion

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials are still undecided about the inclusion of premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan in their upcoming two-match Test series against Pakistan.

Shakib, who is currently playing in the Global T20 Canada, earlier expressed his desire to feature in the Test series -- with the first Test scheduled to begin on August 21 in Rawalpindi -- before leaving Bangladesh for the USA to take part in Major League Cricket last month.

Having been granted NOC by BCB until August 12, Shakib was expected to join the national teammates either in Bangladesh or Pakistan from Canada to prepare for the Test series.

However, Shakib, who was a lawmaker in the Awami League government that fell after a student protest on August 5, is no longer an MP following the president's order the next day. Due to the current unrest, he is unlikely to return to Bangladesh anytime soon.

It remains unclear whether his political identity would impact his selection in the national team. According to sources,



Shakib's fitness for red-ball cricket is also a concern as he has been playing non-stop T20 matches since the home series against Zimbabwe in May.

"Before it was just about whether he [Shakib] could come to Bangladesh and then travel to Pakistan. He's been playing cricket but in a format where he has to score quickly in short time. And even though he knows how to play longer matches, there's a concern about whether he can handle the physical demands [of Test cricket]," a BCB official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The selectors, who were unable to contact Shakib over the past week due to unrest situation, are likely to sit with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and head coach Chandika Hathurusingha in one or two days regarding the matter and other issues about the squad for the Pakistan Test series before they announce their final squad.

It was learned from another source that BCB has already formed an 18-member preliminary squad with Shakib and pacer Taskin Ahmed being in the team, but the final 15-member squad will be decided after the meeting with all the members of the selection panel, which had to be deferred a few times due to the current unrest situation.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Cricket Operation In-charge Shahriar Nafees informed that Shakib's inclusion in the Test squad depends both on his availability and selection.

"He is only a cricketer now," Nafees told reporters in Mirpur. "There is a question of whether he is available for the series now, and another being whether he gets picked for the tour. We will run our activity keeping these two factors in mind," he concluded.

'Uncomfortable' presence of outsiders at Mirpur stadium

SPORTS REPORTER

Security concern is a quickly growing issue in Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium's premises due to the presence of outsiders.

While some club officials and organisers were seen coming with banners on Tuesday, demanding justice for the irregularities and corruption in the board under the Awami League government, on Wednesday there were presence of outsiders not affiliated with cricket.

Bangladesh 'A' team began their training following the unrest in the country but the presence of outsiders created an eerie atmosphere. Some were seen patrolling the periphery of the BCB offices while from time to time, media personnel saw people coming in with bikes and entering the premises of the stadium through gate number 2, virtually unobstructed.

Security personnel seemed unsure about the comings and goings. Inquired about these people, security personnel said, "Some of them quarrelled amongst themselves because there were two separate groups present at the same time."

A BCB official said, "It's an uncomfortable situation right now for everyone. It's a time for transition for the country. Let's see and hopefully after the interim government is formed, things will normalise."

Shahriar Nafees, in charge of BCB's cricket



operations, was asked about the overall situation in terms of security or lack of it.

"Our players, many of them have practised in such situations. We have seen before that when change of power comes, this happens. But our regular staff are aware of the situation. The atmosphere in the whole country is a bit uncertain. We hope that just like the whole country would get back to normalcy in one to two days and run normally, the cricket board too would run in its normal course."

A patrol team of Bangladesh Army had visited the stadium as part of routine patrol.

"Bangladesh Army patrol team has been visiting since August 6. It's their routine work and not because of any security threat. The way they have been maintaining law and order in the country to normalise the situation, it's part of that," Shariar claimed.

PCB 'optimistic' about hosting Bangladesh Tests

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan are "optimistic" about hosting Bangladesh for their Test series this month, a source close to the cricket board said Wednesday, after a second-string team delayed its arrival amid an unfolding political crisis in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down on Monday and fled the country following mass protests demanding her resignation.

The second tier team, known as the "A team", were due to arrive in Islamabad on Tuesday but pushed back their schedule to Saturday.

The national team are due to land on August 17 for two Tests -- the first in Rawalpindi from August 21 and the second in Karachi from August 30.

"The PCB is proceeding with the plans and optimistic that the Test series will go ahead as scheduled," a source close to the Pakistan Cricket Board said, asking not to be named.

In an official statement on Wednesday, the PCB said it "has been in contact with the Bangladesh Cricket Board".

It also announced a 17-man squad for the two Tests against the Bangladesh national team.

Pakistan squad: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal (subject to fitness), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraira, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi

'Mentally devastated' Saifuddin requests two-month break

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin has withdrawn himself from the upcoming Bangladesh 'A' team's tour of Pakistan, saying he has been feeling 'mentally devastated' and requesting a two-month break from all cricketing activities.

Saifuddin, who was picked for the second four-day match of a two-match series and the following three-match one-day series against Pakistan 'A', expressed his desire to take a break through an email to the selectors earlier this month, informed a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official to The Daily Star on Wednesday.

In the email, he informed that he was devastated over not being picked for the ICC T20 World Cup squad in June, coupled with the fact that he could not fly to Canada to feature in the ongoing Global T20 due to the ongoing unrest in the country.

"Due to these matters, I want to keep myself away from all forms of cricket for the next two months. Hopefully, you will take the matter in a positive way," Saifuddin's email read.

However, it was learned that Saifuddin didn't mention the right rib injury that he sustained while attending an individual gym session in Mirpur two days before his Canada-bound flight, which was scheduled for late July.

Saifuddin was scheduled to represent the Montreal Tigers in the GT20 and he had also obtained a NOC from the BCB till August 8. Then, he



was expected to join the 'A' team in Pakistan for the second four-day and one-day series.

"He observed the situation for a day [after the injury]. When he felt that his pain wasn't decreasing, he contacted our medical team. [BCB chief physician] Dr. Debashish [Chowdhury] checked him and gave him some instructions for treatment to assess his condition. We found severity in his pain," BCB physio Muzaddad Sany told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We were not sure what type of injury it was. He planned to travel to Canada, and the 22-hour economy-class flight might have aggravated his injury."

"There would also be questions on us as to why we cleared him to play the tournament. So, we had asked him not to go to Canada to feature in the league," he added.

According to sources, Saifuddin's

recent letter to BCB has irked the selectors as the cricketer had also skipped the Bangladesh Tigers' majority practice sessions in Sylhet and Chattogram last month.

"He only practised for nine days in Sylhet and four days in Chattogram out of a total of 45 days of Bangladesh Tigers' practice camp. He left the Chattogram camp after playing the first two white-ball practice matches citing that he had to attend his biometric for Canada visa," said an official on request of anonymity.

"He had also earlier taken leave citing family issues before Eid. He then sought extended leave which we also granted seeing his family emergency. Now he is talking about his reluctance about cricket," he concluded.

Saifuddin, who last represented Bangladesh in a T20I series against Zimbabwe in May this year, could not be reached for comments on the matter.

TODAY'S GOLD RUSH

MARATHON SWIMMING Women's 10 km 11:30 am	Starts from 10:15 pm HOCKEY (MEN'S) 11:00 pm
SPORTS CLIMBING Men's Speed 4:16 pm	CYCLING TRACK Women's Keirin 11:01 pm Men's Omnium 11:37 pm
CANOE SPRINT Men's Double 500m 5:20 pm Women's Kayak Four 500m 5:40 pm	WEIGHTLIFTING Men's 73 kg 11:30 pm ATHLETICS
Men's Kayak Four 500m 5:50 pm	Women's Long Jump 12:00 am (Friday) Men's Javelin Throw 12:25 am (Friday) Women's 200 m 12:30 am (Friday) Women's 400m Hurdles 1:25 am (Friday)
DIVING Men's 3m Springboard 7:00 pm	Men's 110m Hurdles 1:45 am (Friday) TAEKWONDO Men's 68 kg 1:19 am (Friday) Women's 57 kg 1:37 am (Friday)
WEIGHTLIFTING Women's 59 kg 7:00 pm	BOXING Men's 51 kg 2:34 am (Friday) Women's 54 kg 2:51 am (Friday)
SAILING Men's Kite Starts from 4:13 pm Women's Kite Starts from 5:13 pm	
WRESTLING Men's Greco-Roman 67 kg Men's Greco-Roman 87 kg Women's Freestyle 53 kg	

A family affair

REUTERS, Paris

For the 32 women's and men's teams in the Paris Olympics table tennis matches are about representing their country, but for the many siblings amongst them it is also about representing their family and the shared last name they hold dear.

At least eight sibling pairs are among the 96 athletes competing in the table tennis team events, a higher-than-usual percentage in the world of top-level competitive sports.

Some of these athletes come from families with deep-rooted table tennis traditions, while others were inspired by the desire to follow in the footsteps of an older sibling, finding joy in the sport and keeping each other company.

One of the best known sibling duos in the sport, French favourites Alexis and Felix Lebrun, have cheered for each other on and off the courts.

"Table tennis is a family sport. It's always a part of my family," said Felix, who ran to hug his brother after his bronze medal win for France, the first in the sport since 2000.

"I live my dream to be here with my brother," added Felix, who hails from a family where their father was a French champion and their uncle an Olympian.

When the younger Lebrun felt nervous before his medal match, he turned to his brother Alexis for support, especially since Alexis had been eliminated by the same opponent, Brazil's Hugo Calderano, earlier in the singles.

Sweden's Anton Kallberg echoed the influence of family on his decision to take up



table tennis, as well as that of his younger sister Christina. Both are competing in their second Olympics together.

"I would say our parents played a big part. My dad, my mum, even my uncle and grandfather played a bit, so I pretty much had no choice but to get into table tennis," said Kallberg.

Not every Olympian table tennis sibling was inspired by their parents. For 19-year-old Brazilian Guilina Takahashi, it was her sister Bruna, five years her senior, who provided the inspiration.

"I play because of her. When I was six, I watched her play and thought, why not? Then I started to play, and this is my life now," said Takahashi, who described going to the Olympics with her sister as a dream come true.

Competing in sport with a close family member is not always easy. Rivalry between siblings, most famously demonstrated by the

Williams sisters in tennis, can add complexity.

The Lebrun brothers, while teammates at the Olympics, often face each other in singles competitions, where Alexis has a better record despite Felix's higher world ranking.

Even siblings competing in different gender categories can feel the pressure brought on by their older counterparts.

"For the older sibling, if it works out, it works out; but for the younger one, they're under so much more attention and pressure to perform," said Japanese table tennis player Tomokazu Harimoto, who also comes from a table tennis family.

"I have a lot of respect for my sister. She faces so much pressure yet still delivers and continues to improve," Harimoto said of 16-year-old Miwa, who is making her Olympic debut in Japan's women's team.

Harimoto mentioned that while there are no current plans it would be very special to play mixed doubles with his sister at future Olympics.

Off the courts, travelling for tournaments with siblings can help combat homesickness. In the Olympics Village, Brazil's Giulia Takahashi, 19, shares a room with her sister Bruna, 24.


"It's like my house, I can do whatever I want. She takes care of me and wakes me up every morning," she said giggling.

And how do their parents back home feel? "Double proud for the double trouble," said Bruna.




Brazil forward Adriana celebrates with a teammate after scoring her team's third goal against Spain in their women's semifinal match of the Olympics at the Marseille Stadium on Tuesday. Brazil thrashed the world champions 4-2 to set up Saturday's final clash against four-time champions USA.

PHOTO: AFP




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Sacked Maj Gen Ziaul 'arrested' at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sacked Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan was detained at the Dhaka airport in the early hours of yesterday while trying to flee the country.

Ziaul, who was dismissed from the army on Tuesday, was on board an Emirates flight that was taxiing the runway for take-off.



The plane was asked to return to boarding bridge and Ziaul was taken off the aircraft and transported to the Dhaka Cantonment, The Daily Star has learnt from officials at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Ziaul, who joined the Bangladesh Army as a commissioned officer in 1991, is alleged to have been involved in enforced disappearances and assassinations during his time in the Rapid Action Battalion.

In 2009, he was made the vice-captain of Rab 2 in 2009 when he

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Relatives of prisoners crowd near the entrance to Kashimpur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur yesterday, a day after at least 209 prisoners reportedly fled. The jail authorities said six bodies were recovered after multiple attacks were carried out from inside and outside the prison on Tuesday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

Hundreds of Hindus at border to go to India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Fearing attacks, several hundred Hindus, including women and children, gathered near two border areas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh yesterday to enter India.

Mojakkarul Alam Kochi, chairman of Aloakhawa union under Panchagarh's Atwari upazila, told The Daily Star around 5:30pm that over 100 young people from different areas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh reached near Barshalupara border.

They told the chairman that attackers looted valuables from their houses and businesses, and also threatened to kill them.

They refused to return home despite requests from Border Guard Bangladesh personnel, Mojakkarul said.

The UP chairman said nearly 3,000 people had thronged the border on Tuesday, but they returned home after failing to cross the border.

Local journalist Jibon Al Mamun, who visited Jagdal border of Thakurgaon's Ranisankail upazila yesterday afternoon, said around 600 people were waiting near the no-man's land to enter India.

Some of them alleged that their houses and businesses were vandalised and looted, the journalist said.

Uphold rule of law, respect democracy

Blinken urges; Australia asks all to ensure universal rights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on Bangladesh to respect democracy after Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus was tapped to lead an interim government following an uprising.

"Any decisions that the interim government makes, they need to respect democratic principles, uphold the rule of law, and reflect the will of the people," Blinken told reporters, reports AFP.

The US embassy in Dhaka also reiterated calls for calm and peace, having expressed concerns about reported attacks on religious minorities and places of worship in Bangladesh.

"As a friend and partner to the Bangladeshi people, the United States will continue to support Bangladesh's democratic aspirations and respect for human rights," it said in a statement.

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'Stop violence against minorities, try perpetrators'

Rights groups, eminent citizens demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights groups, eminent citizens and sociocultural organisations have condemned the violence, specifically targeting Hindus, in different parts of Bangladesh amid a power vacuum in the wake of Sheikh Hasina's abrupt resignation and escape.

They demanded immediate steps to protect the religious minorities and bring the assailants to justice in statements issued yesterday, describing the attacks targeting Hindu homes, businesses and temples as an "evil attempt to destroy communal harmony".

Such violation of human rights can tarnish the image of the country, warned the National Human

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Mood in Bangladesh is 'one of hope'

Says UN resident coordinator Gwyn Lewis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis has described the national sentiment as "one of hope" despite recent chaos and violence following the fall of Sheikh Hasina.

"If and when this transitional government is shaped and the voices of the young people in the country are heard, I think we can really shape and move forward to continue the trajectory of positive development," she said in an interview with UN News on Tuesday.

Her comment comes ahead of the formation of an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus today.

"It's really a moment of a crossroads for Bangladesh, and so we're really hopeful that this will become something very positive that we can build

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No detainees in Dhaka facility

Says DGFI; Mikel Changma 'released' after five years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) yesterday said there were no detainees at its Dhaka facility, known as "Aynaghor", at the moment.

The detention cells of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch were found empty yesterday.

Although the Dhaka DGFI claimed that they were not holding anyone, Mikel Changma, 40, a UPDF activist who was forcibly disappeared on April 16, 2019, from Narayanganj, returned to his friend's home in Chattogram yesterday.

A source who spoke to his family confirmed this to The Daily Star.

A delegation of rights activists visited the DGFI headquarters yesterday morning.

The team, led by Sanjida Islam Tulee, coordinator of Mayer Daak, a platform of the victims of enforced

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Civil admin still without direction

BAHARAM KHAN

From rural areas to the secretariat, the civil administration officials have been directionless in the absence of a government since former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's departure on Monday.

The secretariat, usually abuzz with officials and visitors, looked almost deserted for the last two days as very few officials went to work and visitors were not allowed.

Most of the secretaries and other senior officials were absent and some even switched off their phones, leaving the junior officers in the dark and badly affecting the chain of command.

"This has led to the collapse of civil administration across the country," a secretary told this correspondent over the phone.

Cabinet Secretary Mahub Hossain, Public Security Division Secretary Jahangir Alam and Senior Secretary of the Security Services Division Mashiur Rahman, and Agriculture Secretary Wahida Akhter, did not attend office, said sources.

Mohammad Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury, senior secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, was found at his office.

"We are in a special situation. We are working to overcome this. We hope everything will be normal soon," he told The Daily Star.

"Even though there is no government, the President is there. We are carrying out some important tasks. Soon, there will be no administrative vacuum," he added.

Some officials said that they were feeling insecure because of the attacks on important government structures. Secretariat buildings have offices of at least 45 ministries and divisions.

Many had said they did not know offices would reopen on Tuesday. The government on Sunday, when Hasina was the prime minister, announced that all offices would be closed for the three following days.

Most of the secretaries and other senior officials were absent and some even switched off their phones, leaving the junior officers in the dark and badly affecting the chain of command.

Army Chief Waker-Uz Zaman on Monday afternoon announced on TV that the offices would reopen the next day. But very few went to work on Tuesday and left shortly after midday.

The situation improved ever so slightly yesterday.

Most of the officers present at the secretariat said they

felt that they had been deprived of promotions over the last 15 years.

Witnesses said many held a meeting at the library room of the public administration ministry and expressed anger at their colleagues who they thought had enjoyed undue benefits.

ADMINISTRATION WITHOUT GUARDIANS

Administration officials in the districts are hardly getting any direction from top bureaucrats.

"The field administration officials feel like

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Major shakeup in police high-ups

Heads of Rab, DMP replaced; low-ranked cops place 11-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The high-ups of Bangladesh Police have gone through a major reshuffle since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina.

Since August 5, changes have been made to the positions of the inspector general of police, director general of the Rapid Action Battalion and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Md Mainul Islam has been appointed the new IGP, replacing Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun. Additional IGP AKM Shahidur Rahman has been made the DG of Rab while Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Md Mainul Hasan took charge as the DMP commissioner (current charge).

The change in the top post came as the contractual appointment of Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun as the IGP was revoked.

Shahidur replaced former Rab DG Md Harun-or Rashid who has been transferred to the Police Headquarters. Mainul Hasan took over from outgoing DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman who has been attached to the PHQ as the additional IGP.

The home ministry issued separate circulars in this regard on Tuesday

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Traffic on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway is increasing as the situation is improving following the fall of the Awami League government on Monday. The photo was taken in Paka Rastar Matha area of Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

AL not dead, not easy to wipe it out

Joy says in video message

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday said his family cannot sit idle when Awami League activists are being persecuted.

The comments came in less than 24 hours after he said his mother Sheikh Hasina and other family members will not return to politics.

"I said my family will not do politics again. But we cannot sit idle while our leaders and activists are being persecuted," he said in a video message yesterday evening.

"To whoever is in charge of the country at the moment, I want to say that we, too, want a terrorism-free Bangladesh. To that end, we are willing to initiate dialogues with anyone, as long as they discard terrorism," he said.

"Bangladesh is going through a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

