

Interim govt to stay as long as needed

Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said the interim government will stay as long as it is needed.



People want reforms and the political parties want an election, he said, adding that the interim government will balance between the two and make decisions accordingly.

The tenure of the interim government had not been discussed yet, he told reporters at the Secretariat.

“Please keep two things in mind: political parties will expect an election as soon as possible and the common people desire reforms. People expect some urgent reforms from this government,” said the adviser for law, justice and parliamentary affairs.

“We have seen police, judiciary, anti-corruption commission, public universities and other institutions being used as weapons to torture and oppress people.

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Ensure the journalists’ safety: CJA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth Journalists Association has urged Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to ensure the safety of journalists after recent attacks, sometimes deadly, and intimidation amid an uprising.

Since July 16, a total of five journalists were killed and at least 25 others were injured in violence centring the quota reform protests that eventually turned into an anti-government movement, according to media reports.

“The Commonwealth Journalists Association strongly urges you to take swift actions to ensure the physical safety and secure working

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Shahbagh Police Station has resumed operations on a limited scale, with Ansar and VDP personnel providing security inside the premises. Some police personnel have returned to work in casuals. The station is now accepting general diaries (GDs). Meanwhile, army troops were seen stationed outside the premises yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

93 killed as Israel hits Gaza school

World condemns attack; UN rapporteur accuses Israel of ‘genocide’

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Rescuers in Gaza said an Israeli air strike on a religious school housing displaced Palestinians killed 93 people yesterday, sparking international condemnation despite Israel’s insistence that it was targeting militants.

AFP could not independently verify the toll which, if confirmed, would be one of the largest from a single strike during 10 months of war between Israel and Palestinian groups.

The bombardment of Al-Tabieen school and mosque drew criticism from across the Middle East and beyond alongside calls for a ceasefire after international mediators

invited the warring sides to resume talks towards a long-sought truce and hostage-release deal.

Civil defence rescuers in the Hamas-ruled territory said three Israeli missiles hit the complex in Gaza City while people were performing dawn prayers.

“They dropped a missile on them while they were just praying,” said one woman, mourning over a dead child shrouded in a plastic body bag.

Israel’s military said it had “precisely struck” Al-Tabieen, which spokesman Nadav Shoshani added on social media platform X housed a “military facility” with “approximately 20 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants” including commanders.

3 medical colleges ban student politics

NSTU follows suit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Salimullah Medical College and Chittagong Medical College have banned all forms of political activities for students, teachers, and staff on campus and in dormitories since yesterday.

“All forms of politics have been banned for students, teachers, and staff on the campus and dormitories, including all kinds of political and non-political activities in lobbying and clubs,” said Md Shahadat Hossain, principal of Sir Salimullah Medical College, in a press release.

The academic council of

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Protesters attack army patrol teams in Gopalganj

4 officers, 5 soldiers hurt: ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three officers, a junior commissioned officer, and five other army personnel were injured yesterday when protesters attacked army patrol teams with sharp weapons at Gopinathpur of Gopalganj Sadar.

According to a press release sent by the Inter-Services Public Relation Directorate (ISPR), two patrol teams of the army went to the spot after protesters blocked the Gopalganj-Dhaka highway.

The teams were attacked with locally made

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Slap sanctions on Quader, ex-home boss

Urge six US lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six congressmen and senators have urged the US authorities to impose sanctions on Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan for their roles in “gross human rights violations” during the recent protests in Bangladesh.

They have sent a letter to the US Secretary of State and Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen in this regard.

“The use of violent force against peaceful protesters exercising their freedom of expression is an unacceptable violation of human rights. The Bangladeshi leaders who orchestrated this brutal crackdown must be held accountable,” reads the letter.

Bangladeshi shot by BSF in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi young man was shot and wounded allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) near Kotapara border in Thakurgaon’s Baliadangi upazila yesterday.

The injured was identified as Naimur Rahman, 22, son of Jahangir Alam of Kalibari village under the same upazila.

The victim’s uncle said that Naimur and his uncle Alamgir went to their cropfield near the border to cut grass in the morning around 10:00am.

After a while, BSF members of the Bhelagachi camp from the other side of the border started shouting at them and abruptly opened fire in their direction, leaving Naimur injured.

Alamgir, who was unhurt, rescued Naimur and took him to the Baliadangi Upazila Health Complex, where Naimur was given first aid.

Later, Naimur was taken to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment.

Small plane crash in Chile kills 7

AFP, Santiago

Seven people were killed Friday when the small plane they were traveling in crashed in southern Chile, the country’s civil aviation authority said.

Contact was lost with the Piper Navajo aircraft at 9:13 am (1313 GMT), shortly after it took off from Coyhaique, some 1,700 kilometers (1,000 miles) south of Santiago.

“The pilot and his six passengers” died, the General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC) said in a statement, without specifying the cause of the crash.

The presidential delegate for the region, Rodrigo Araya, told reporters that he had instructed the prosecutor’s office and the Forensic Medical Service to launch an investigation into the incident.

Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed appointed chief justice

FROM PAGE 1

Ekushey Padak recipient, and the chairperson of the department of Islamic History and Culture at Dhaka University.

Justice Refaat obtained LLB (hons) with first class, first in order of merit from Dhaka University, BA and MA from Wadham College, University of Oxford, UK, MA in Law and Diplomacy and PhD from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.

He was a Ford Foundation fellow in Public International Law at the Fletcher School.

He worked at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Hong Kong and Washington, DC and as a lawyer in London.

In 1984, he became a lawyer of the district courts. He became a lawyer of the High Court Division in 1986 and a lawyer of the Appellate Division in 2002.

He was appointed as an additional judge of the High Court Division on April 27, 2003, and he was made a permanent judge of the division on April 27, 2005.

Justice Ahmed is a founder member of Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, Brazil.

He participated in international roundtables, workshops, conventions, study tours and courses held in Germany, Malaysia, the Philippines, India, Nepal, Italy, Singapore, Thailand, USA, Brazil and Myanmar.

CJ, 5 other SC judges resign

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting was scheduled for 10:00am yesterday.

There was no other agenda for the meeting, he said.

But, several thousand students gathered on the SC premises around 10:30am and started demanding the resignation of the chief justice and other Appellate Division judges.

A group of pro-BNP Jamaat lawyers joined the protesters.

The demonstrations began after student leader Asif Mahmud, now the adviser to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, wrote on Facebook around 10:00am that the chief justice must resign and the full court meeting must stop.

“The chief justice of the Supreme Court, who was backed by the fascists and engaged in various misdeeds, has called a full court meeting without any discussion with the government. Any kind of conspiracy by the defeated power will not be tolerated. Lawyers have already rallied against him.

“We had earlier called for the resignation of the chief justice. If you incite the students and mass people by taking any stand against them, you will have to face dire consequences.

“Resign immediately from the post of the chief justice and stop the full court meeting.”

Soon afterwards, several thousand students and lawyers marched and held rallies at different places on the SC premises, demanding the resignation

of all the judges of the Appellate Division.

The army personnel deployed to avert any untoward incident were seen requesting the students to peacefully demonstrate without damaging properties.

At one stage, Hasnat Abdullah, a coordinator of the student movement against discrimination, declared the judges’ homes would be besieged unless the chief justice and judges of the Appellate Division resigned by 1:00pm.

When reporters drew his attention to the matter around 12:00pm, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul said he was hoping the chief justice would understand that the demand raised by the masses should be honoured.

He said the outgoing chief justice had warranted controversies for several reasons.

He added that the outgoing chief justice called for a meeting, and Adviser Asif said the meeting was called without consulting anyone. “It seems like a move made by the defeated authoritarian regime,” he said.

He said there were questions about the outgoing chief justice. During the anti-government protests, Justice Obaidul asked whether a verdict can be changed by a movement. People did not take it well.

Besides, it is unfortunate that after he took charge, Justice Obaidul received a felicitation from Chhatra League men, which is a violation of the

code of conduct, said the law adviser.

He also received a golden sword from the former Detective Branch chief Harun Or Rashid. Besides, when he travelled abroad, he used to stay at the homes of Awami League leaders. “These are the reasons why there were controversies surrounding him,” he added.

Justice Obaidul subsequently resigned and the five other judges followed him.

Contacted, Justice Obaidul said, “I decided to resign considering the safety and security of the judges of the Appellate Division, High Court Division, and the lower courts across the country amid the emerging situation.”

In a video message on Facebook, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said, “Our chief justice resigned a few minutes ago. His resignation letter reached the law ministry. We will promptly send it to the president, so that necessary measures can be taken.”

After learning around 1:00pm that lower courts in different districts were surrounded by protesting students, he urged students not to harm or disrupt court proceedings.

There is no reason for the students to lay a siege to a lower court because the demand concerns the chief justice and some other judges.

Despite the current situation, the lower court judges are working. They have promised that they will no longer make the old mistakes, he said.

supposed to be.”

Yunus also warned the students not to let their efforts be foiled by those seeking to undermine their progress. “There are many waiting to make your efforts futile. Don’t fail this time.”

Voicing his commitment to national reform, the microcredit pioneer said he would do whatever is necessary to cleanse the country of its ills. “We will clean everything. We have no relief until everything is cleaned.” He condemned the recent attacks on the religious minority communities. He asked the young people, “You have been able to save the country. Can’t you save some families?”

He urged the students to protect all Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist families from harm.

“You must say no one can harm them. They are my brothers. We fought together, and we will stay together.”

Comparing Bangladesh to a beautiful family, Yunus said, “No family is more beautiful than this. There are many countries in the world, but there is no such beautiful family.”

Normalising economy is a top priority

FROM PAGE 1

activities will be on as per the normal process,” he said after a meeting with the secretary-level officials of the finance and planning ministries at the secretariat in Dhaka.

Ahmed, a former Bangladesh Bank governor, joined work yesterday following his appointment as an adviser for finance and planning of the interim government formed after the fall of Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5 due to a mass uprising.

He did not give any directive to the officials.

Ahmed told the officials in charge to work as per the schedule, rules, regulations and norms and refrain from exercising discretionary powers, The Daily Star has learnt from people familiar with the discussions at the meeting.

Asked about the recent protests in the financial sector following Hasina’s exit and the resignations of top officials including BB governor Abdur Rouf Talukder, Ahmed said: “If anyone has engaged in any unlawful activity, appropriate actions will be taken in line with the law.”

About Talukder’s stepping down and the forced resignation of a deputy governor, he said: “All the resignations will be considered as per the process. I will not ask for accepting [the letter]. If needed, I will consult with the chief adviser.”

Earlier in the day, he said he would not take any decision alone regarding the resignation of the BB governor,

which is a ‘sensitive’ post.

“Shall I accept as soon as I get the resignation? Can I do that?”

Asked about the demand for the resignation of Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, chairman of the National Board of Revenue, from a section of revenue officials, Ahmed said: “He has been given a target to collect revenue. He will collect revenue. He will work properly.”

Before the meeting with officials yesterday, he told the media personnel that many rules and norms of the banking sector were not followed.

“Those who were supposed to enforce with rules did not do so and those who were supposed to follow the rules did not comply.”

Restoring law and order and banking and port activities is the interim government’s priority now, Ahmed said, while citing inflation as a major challenge.

“Apart from economic challenges, our policies and strategies for development were wrong. People did not benefit from the development. You have seen the benefit went to the well-off. We have seen economic growth but who enjoyed the benefit of growth?”

Asked about bringing back the laundered money from abroad, he said the interim government will take steps on that front.

“There is a process for this. Information will be needed. For this, we will contact the agencies we need to contact.”

Resignations until now

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, several provosts of different dormitories at Dhaka University also stepped down yesterday.

Earlier on Thursday, the full body of DU’s Proctorial Team submitted their resignation letters.

“I spoke to an adviser to the interim government Friday night and decided not to hold my position any longer,” Prof Maksud Kamal told this newspaper.

“I discussed the matter from a place of common courtesy. My letter of resignation has already been prepared. I spent a lot of time as a student and teacher leader at this university. I believe that, considering the overall situation, my resignation

is necessary for the benefit of the students and the university.”

In the face of student protests, vice-chancellors of five public universities have so far resigned.

The first to step down were VCs of three public universities, including Jahangirnagar University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, and Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University.

The protestors of the quota reform movement have been demanding the resignation of many VCs since early on in their movement.

However, the VCs did not start stepping down until after the resignation of Sheikh Hasina.



Speakers at a public discourse on “How to Ensure Public Safety and Security?” at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Police must resume duty immediately

Say speakers on ensuring public safety, security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police personnel should immediately resume their regular duty to ensure people's safety, said speakers at a public discourse yesterday.

If there was any sense of insecurity or lack of trust among the police members, then the authorities concerned must sit with them and listen to their problems to find a solution, they said.

The discussion titled “How to Ensure Public Safety and Security?” was organised by The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

Pointing to police atrocities on student protesters and people during the recent nationwide movements that toppled the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, they said rogue policemen should be identified and isolated from the force as well as be punished. However, rebuilding people's trust on the police force as a whole is crucial for the country's progress.

Following the August 5 changeover, many policemen deserted their workplaces amid attacks on police stations across the country.

At the event, former inspector general of police Muhammad Nurul Huda emphasised the urgent need for police, particularly traffic officials, to be more “visible” and to promptly resume their duties.

He said students were trying to fill the absence by controlling the traffic situation on the city streets but they need to go back to the classroom immediately as they are the future nation builders.

“It is important to understand why police behave the way they do,” he said, adding, the force is part of the executive branch and merely follows order.

There will be little to no gain in squarely blaming the police force, he further said.

Joining the discussion virtually, Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua said ordinary citizens are the most affected by the recent decline in law and order, while traders have also encountered difficulties in operating their businesses.

He emphasised that maintaining law and order is a role only the police can fulfill, and it cannot be effectively handled by any other agency.

Expressing concern over safety issues, Abdullah Hil Rakib, vice president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, called upon the newly-formed interim government to take immediate steps for redeployment of policemen for smooth shipments of their goods.

In his opening remarks, Golam Mortaza, editor of The Daily Star Bangla, said police are the most important force when it comes to people's safety.

However, they are also one of the most criticised ones for their controversial roles. He said immediate redeployment of police is crucial, as society is full of rumours and confusion.

Rights activist Ilira Dewan said it is important to build the police as a people-friendly force while police itself has to play a role to earn people's trust.

Filmmaker Ashfaq Nipun, JAAGO Foundation founder Korvi Rakshand, Journalist Rashed Nizam, and Dhaka University Chhatra Union President Meghmalla Bosu, among others, spoke at the discussion.

US, Canada, UK support interim govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has welcomed the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Sharing a brief message on “X” yesterday, he said the US supports Dr Yunus's call for calm and peace.

Blinken said the US remains committed to working with Bangladesh as it charts a democratic and prosperous future for the people in Bangladesh.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy also welcomed the appointment of the interim government.

The interim government has the UK's support as it works to restore peace and order, for the sake of the Bangladeshi people, he said in a statement yesterday.

“We urge all actors to prevent further violence and loss of life.”

Meanwhile, Canada is eager to engage with the interim government to support an inclusive process that involves everyone, including religious minorities, youth, women, and other marginalised groups.

“We welcome the inauguration of a new interim government, led by

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More than 100 families formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding information about the whereabouts of their missing relatives, who were the victims of forced disappearances during the 15 years of Awami League regime.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

‘At least tell us where they are’

Over 100 families stage protest, want info on ‘missing’ loved ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They shared a common grief: their sons, husbands, or brothers have been missing for years, allegedly abducted by state agencies during the 15-year rule of the Awami League.

Over 100 families of such enforced disappearance victims formed a human chain yesterday in front of the Jatiya Press Club, demanding information about the whereabouts of their missing loved ones.

The protesters, comprising mothers, sisters, fathers, and children, held up pictures of their missing relatives, with names and dates of the day they disappeared inscribed on them.

Some of the dates stretched back as far as 13 years, symbolising the long, painful wait of these families. Children who were young when their fathers were taken have since grown up; some mothers have died while waiting for the return of their sons.

Those who were present yesterday are unsure whether their loved ones are alive or dead. These families are still

waiting for any information that might bring them closure.

The human chain began around 11:00am, where the relatives stood in solidarity.

“We just want to know what happened to our loved ones. At least tell us where they are,” said one participant, a sentiment echoed by all present.

On August 6, a day after Sheikh Hasina's fall, members of Mayer Daak, a platform of the families of people who fell victim to enforced disappearances, gathered in front of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence office to know whereabouts of their missing relatives.

At least three victims of enforced disappearances, were released on the same day.

The next day, DGFJ said there were no detainees in their Dhaka facility.

On the same day, Michael Chakma, 40, a UPDF activist who was forcibly disappeared on April 16, 2019 from Narayanganj, returned to a friend's house in Chattogram.

Reform admin, police, judiciary

Demands University Teachers Network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Teachers Network, a platform of teachers who had actively participated in the recent student-led mass uprising, has called for immediate reformation of the civil administration and police, and forming a neutral judiciary to ensure safety and justice to people from all walks of life.

In a dialogue held at Dhaka University yesterday, they also demanded all types of syndicates in the market be abolished to reduce the

prices of essentials.

Not only teachers, but also people from other professions, participated in the discussion titled “What We Want from The Interim Government”.

Presiding over the event, Prof Anu Muhammad, a former teacher at Jahangirnagar University, said it is the third time that a possibility to rebuild Bangladesh has emerged.

The scope to do so was missed once after the Liberation War in 1971 and again after the fall of HM Ershad in 1990, he said, adding, “During the caretaker government in 1990,

Prof Rehman Sobhan proposed a reformation model, but none of the successive political governments followed it.”

Stressing that the situation is different this time, he said while the political parties were key players of all previous mass uprisings, this time the students are the main force.

“This generation once said they hate politics but they stood against the bullets fired by police. What could be more political than that?” he asked.

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অভিনন্দন ও শুভকামনা

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশের অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকারের
মাননীয় প্রধান উপদেষ্টা নোবেল বিজয়ী **ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস**
এবং অন্যান্য সকল উপদেষ্টাকে
বিসিএমইএ-এর পক্ষ থেকে জানাই

প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন ও আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা

সেই সাথে বৈষম্যবিরোধী আন্দোলনে শাহাদত বরণকারী সকল ছাত্র-জনতা
ও নিরাপত্তা বাহিনীসহ আত্মত্যাগকারী সকলের রুহের মাগফিরাত
এবং আহতদের দ্রুত আরোগ্য কামনা করছি।

অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকারের সাথে **বিসিএমইএ** একসাথে কাজ করার
দৃঢ় প্রত্যয় ব্যক্ত করছে।

বিসিএমইএ (বাংলাদেশ সিরামিক ম্যানুফ্যাকচারার্স এন্ড এক্সপোর্টার্স অ্যাসোসিয়েশন)

PRAYER TIMING				
AUGUST 11				
Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:25	12:45	4:45	6:41	8:00
JAMAT 5:00	1:15	5:00	6:44	8:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

Cultural centre in Keraniganj vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many establishments were vandalised following the fall of Sheikh Hasina on August 5, one of which was the Hamidur Rahman Cultural Center in Jinjira area of Keraniganj.

Miscreants vandalised the establishment and looted valuables from its premises around 3:00pm on the day.

Wishing anonymity, an official of Hamidur Rahman Cultural Centre yesterday told The Daily Star that the centre is a government establishment that they had leased for three years from Dhaka Zilla Parishad.

They invested around Tk 2.5 crore in overall decoration, furnishing, and interior work, he added.

The centre recently started its classes with 20 students, offering music, dance, and various forms of arts and culture.

It was preparing to enrol 400 more students. In the meantime, this attack occurred, said the official.

He also said the miscreants looted valuables, including furniture and electrical appliances.

Mentionable, the building of the Hamidur Rahman Cultural Centre was designed by internationally acclaimed architect Marina Tabassum.

PHULPUR UPAZILA HEALTH COMPLEX

Healthcare limps on amid doctor shortage



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Phulpur Upazila Health Complex in Mymensingh is grappling with staff shortages and overcrowding, leaving medical services in disarray.

The 50-bed hospital, established in 1983 to serve rural communities, is now struggling to meet the growing demands of the 5 lakh residents in the area.

The hospital is understaffed, with nearly half of the positions for medical officers and consultants remaining vacant.

Out of the 130 sanctioned posts, the hospital currently operates with only seven medical officers and seven consultants, while one medical officer is on deputation in Dhaka.

This acute shortage has left several key departments, including ophthalmology, gastroenterology, and dermatology, without any consultants, forcing patients to seek costly treatment at private facilities.

The hospital faces a daily influx of at least 90 inpatients, far exceeding its capacity, with many patients having to share beds or wait in overcrowded conditions. Despite the overwhelming need, there has been no significant effort to upgrade the hospital's facilities or expand its capacity to 100 beds, as demanded by the local community.

Field-level health services have also been severely impacted due to the shortage of medical assistants, with 29 out of 60 positions lying vacant. This has disrupted essential healthcare services in the region,

leaving many without adequate care.

Additionally, the hospital is plagued by a shortage of essential medicines, forcing patients to purchase drugs from outside, often at a high cost.

Although Dr Md Humayun Kabir, the health and family planning officer in Phulpur, claims that around 90 percent of the required medicines are usually in stock, the growing number of patients often leads to shortages.

Dr Md Nazrul Islam, the civil surgeon of Mymensingh, said the authorities have been informed about the urgent need to fill the vacant posts and address the other challenges faced by the health complex. He said steps will be taken soon to improve the situation.

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Smooth gas supply top priority: Adilur

BSS, Dhaka

The interim government will give utmost importance to ensuring gas supply to maintain normal production in the industries, said its Adviser to the Ministry of Industries Adilur Rahman Khan yesterday.

"The problems in fertiliser production would be addressed to reduce import dependency, which would significantly save foreign currency," he added.

The adviser said this while talking to the reporters after a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Industries at the secretariat in the capital.

Adilur also said they will work to improve the leather industry in Savar.

"At the same time, we ensure environmental compliance in the ship-breaking industry," he told reporters.

The adviser to the industries ministry said various institutions under the ministry are operating at a loss, and proper measures will be taken to identify the issues and make these institutions profitable.

"There is no choice but to be stringent against corruption. We have taken on this responsibility through much sacrifice. There is no question of allowing new scope for corruption," he added.



Adil wanted to join

FROM PAGE 5

"We forced him to stay home on the previous day while protests raged outside. On July 19, we could not stop him. He did not return alive," said Adil's mother Ayesha Akter.

Adil was shot twice in his chest at the protest in front of the factory of SB Style Composite Ltd. People rushed him to a nearby private hospital in Signboard area, where doctors declared him dead.

He was later buried in a local graveyard in Bhuighar area the same night.

"My Adil had a dream to join the army as an officer and serve the nation. He was inspired by his maternal uncle who is an army personnel. It is but an irony of fate that he was shot dead by law enforcers," Ayesha said.

Adil is a student of Tamirul Millat Mohila

Kamil Madrasa in Dhaka's Jatrabari area. He returned home from the madrasa's hostel on July 17 after attending pre-tests for upcoming SSC examinations next year.

"As the situation was turning worrisome in Dhaka, I brought him home from the hostel for fear that he would get into trouble if he remained in the capital. Yet I couldn't save my son," said his mother.

Ayesha also said Adil was a bright student, and was especially good in mathematics. He had participated in the Math Olympiad, she added, showing Adil's certificate of participation.

Adil was the youngest of his three siblings. His elder brother Abdullah Al Mamun is studying in Malaysia and another brother Bayejid Ahmed is a student of nursing at Dhaka Medical College.

Reform admin, police

FROM PAGE 3

He said the spirit of Liberation War will remain the main priority in rebuilding the nation.

"It [the spirit of Liberation War] doesn't belong solely to Awami League. During its tenure, the party used it to shield their oppression and plunder, all of which are activities contrary to the aspiration of our independence," he added.

He blamed the system for making Hasina a dictator, and suggested revolutionary reformation to the state mechanism, which will require a change in people's mindset.

"Our MPs, ministers and high-ups never bothered about the environment or air pollution while remaining in their air-conditioned cars, homes and offices. For a starter, the government officials may begin to open their

car windows to inhale the air of Dhaka -- the most polluted air across the globe -- to get an idea of what common people have to suffer from," he said.

He also said the interim government should focus on reforming the country's constitution, adding that it may face obstacles from three forces -- the civil and military bureaucracy, the businesses who got unprecedented privileges from the Hasina-led government, and the external powers who have interests in the country.

"The government took numerous illogical and costly projects, which only benefited the local and foreign businesses. Local businesses like Beximco, S Alam, Bashundhara, United, and Summit groups may create problems with their huge capital," he

added.

Kazi Maruful Islam, a professor at Development Studies department of Dhaka University, said, "We need to reform the state's system keeping in mind the Liberation War, anti-discriminatory society, secular democracy, exploitation-free economy, participation of the citizens, the government's responsibility to the citizens, and diversity of the state."

The teachers' network will act as an observer to the government, said Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan of DU's International Relations department.

"If they do wrong, we will act as we did earlier. Besides, a students' network will be formed among the students of private universities, who were a vital force in the recent mass uprising," he added.

We got married only

FROM PAGE 5

without him?" said Marzina while talking to this correspondent.

She was taken by her parents to their house in Bipanchashi village of neighbouring Ishwarganj upazila, two days of Jobayer's death, where she has been staying since then.

Jobayer had a mobile accessories shop at Shambhuganj Bazar of Mymensingh city. His father, Md Anwar Uddin, is a retired madrasa teacher from Kaurat village in Gouripur upazila.

"On July 20 morning, I had my last words with my son. I asked him where he was going. Jobayer said he would go to his shop as it had been closed for several days and many customers had called him for delivering their orders. He said he would return soon. He returned... dead,"

said Anwar Uddin.

He came in the line of fire on his way to the shop in Kaltapara Bazar area on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in the upazila, and was hit by bullets in his back. He was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to the injuries. He was buried at the family graveyard.

"Jobayer was neither involved in politics, nor did he join any protest. He did not deserve this fate," his father said.

Jobayer's younger brother Mohammad Kawser, an HSC student, said, "Uncertainty now looms over my education as well as of my elder sister. My elder brother was the only financial support of our six-member family."

He called for a proper investigation into Jobayer's death, and demanded justice.

US, Canada

FROM PAGE 3

Dr Muhammad Yunus. This is the first step in restoring peace, to pave the way for free and fair elections and democratic governance," said Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly in a statement yesterday.

She said Canada supports a peaceful way forward in resolving the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh.

She urged all parties to work together to promote the principles of democratic and inclusive governance, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

Also, in a media briefing in New York, Florencia Soto Niño, associate spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said there seems to be an inclusive process for forming a government.

"We hope that it continues," he added.

How will we survive now?

FROM PAGE 5

village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila, used to work as a cutting master at a tailor shop in Lalkuthi area of Dhaka's Mirpur. He lived in a rented house with his wife, son and two daughters.

On August 5, Bachchu, also general secretary of Bangladesh Poshak Sramik Dal, a BNP-affiliated organisation in Lalkuthi, was demonstrating with party men in front of

Adabor Police Station when a bullet hit his chest.

Locals took Bachchu to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The family members later took his body to the village home the next day and buried him in the family graveyard.

Bachchu's son is a college-goer, while his elder daughter is a degree student and younger daughter is an 8th-grader, said cousin

Delwar Howladar.

"Bachchu was a good-hearted man, and a hard worker. He did not leave behind much for his family except a small portion of ancestral land. We are concerned about how his family will manage now," said his uncle Abdul Jalil Howladar.

"I demand justice for my husband's murder, and urge the government for providing us with financial support," Kohinoor said.

FROM PAGE 5

He also mentioned that a waste-to-energy project to generate electricity from waste has been pending approval for two years.

Deepak Mazumder, MCC's food and sanitary inspector, informed that since 2019, a private enterprise, Nobo Waste Management Service Ltd, has been collecting medical waste from private hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres in the city for a fee of Tk 500-2,000 per month.

The waste is disposed of through incinerators, burial pits, sharp pits, and recycling units.

Dr HA Golandaj Tara, secretary of Bangladesh Private Hospital, Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association, confirmed efforts to engage all private hospitals in partnering with Nobo Waste Management Service Ltd for proper medical waste disposal.

Regarding the medical waste produced at public hospitals, Mohabbat Ali said the private enterprise lacks the capacity to handle all of it.

Shakil was vocal against injustice

FROM PAGE 5

Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in Dhaka's Agargaon.

Later, Shakil's friends and family took his coffin to the Shaheed Minar premises to pay respect to him, before his body was taken to his village home in Bhola for burial. Shakil's father died in 2008.

"My brother used to look after us. I work at a factory but I hardly earn enough to bear the house rent and fulfill the family's needs alone. With him no longer

there, now we are looking at a grim and uncertain future. We are devastated," said his younger brother Sumon Hossain, 18.

Rajib Sikhdar, Shakil's childhood friend, said, "We were trying to shield ourselves from bullets with roadside benches and chairs. But it was not enough. So, I told Shakil to run as fast as he can. We began running, but I lost him in the crowd. I thought he managed to escape, but later came to know that he got shot."

He was always vocal

against injustice, said family and friends.

Mim Akhter, 19, a neighbour of Shakil, said he always worked for local students and youths, and actively participated in the recent protests.

"Shakil bhaia used to teach children at a local school whenever he had time. He encouraged to be vocal against anything that is wrong, and would sometimes gather us all to sing and paint together. I did not expect him to leave us like this," she said.

When will father return?

FROM PAGE 5

attacked nearby police stations and outposts, and the same happened at the Kotwali Police Station in the Sadar upazila.

To bring the situation under control, the police opened fire on the mob, when one of the bullets hit Shamsu's face as he was on his way to the nearby market through the area around 6:00pm.

Shamsu's body remained there for about an hour.

Later, his wife Meghla Begum, 31, heard the news from locals and rushed to the spot.

"We found him lying on the road. We took him to Faridpur General Hospital. The doctor advised taking him to the Faridpur Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital. There, a doctor declared him dead," said Meghla.

"We left the house together around 4:00pm. I went to a relative's house, and he went to the market to get some toys for our daughter," she added.

"What will happen to us now? Who will look after my daughter? How will I pay for her studies?" said Meghla.

Their daughter, six-year-

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EPI vaccine shortage hits Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Amena Begum, a resident of Halishahar area in Chattogram city, has been struggling to get her newborn daughter administered the second dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) and Pentavalent vaccine for the past week.

The vaccines are administered to newborns under the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) to protect them from numerous life-threatening diseases, according to health experts.

"On August 6, the scheduled date for vaccination, I took my baby to Chattogram Ma o Shishu General Hospital, but officials said there was no vaccine in stock. I went to the hospital again the next day but in vain," Amena told The Daily Star.

"I also went to the CCC-run Memon Maternity Hospital on Saturday, but there was no vaccine there either," she added.

Tamanna Khanam, a resident of port city's Jamal Khan area, shared a similar plight.

"I am worried about my child," she said. Amid the shortage of EPI vaccine, thousands of newborns across Chattogram are at risk of developing poor immunity against different life-threatening diseases if they are not vaccinated in time.

Over the past week, parents across the port city and neighbouring 15 upazilas

of Chattogram had to return from vaccination centres without getting their children vaccinated, said sources.

"EPI vaccines should be administered to newborns on scheduled dates to prevent some life-threatening diseases," said Dr Rezaul Karim, former head of child health department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

"In Bangladesh, we follow a 28 day interval between each vaccine dose, but in developed countries, they follow a two-month interval between the doses. So, an interval of two months is okay," he added.

Contacted, Dr Imam Hossain Rana, chief health officer of CCC, said they have not been getting an adequate supply of vaccines amid the current situation in the country.

"We get vaccines supplied from Chattogram Civil Surgeon's office. The supply has stopped since mid-July," he added.

Contacted, Dr Ilias Chowdhury, civil surgeon of Chattogram, confirmed a shortage in stock of EPI vaccines in the district.

"There is a shortage of vaccines at present as the supply is controlled centrally. The problem will hopefully be resolved by next week, as a stock of vaccines is scheduled to come from Dhaka on August 14," he said.



Several hundred protesters, including students and lawyers, gathered on the SC premises yesterday morning, demanding resignation of the chief justice and the judges of the Appellate Division. Later in the day, Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan and five more SC judges stepped down from their posts.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

JAIL SHOOTING

Another injured prisoner dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Another inmate injured in Thursday's shooting at Jamalpur District Jail died at a hospital on Friday night.

The deceased, identified as 30-year-old Md Masud from Banpara in Jamalpur municipality, suddenly fell ill at midnight. He was immediately taken to Jamalpur General Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries, confirmed Jail Superintendent Abu Fatah yesterday.

Masud's body has been sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Earlier, six prisoners died, and 19 others -- including guards and inmates -- were injured in the shooting at Jamalpur jail on Thursday.

The incident occurred when prisoners set fire inside the prison and took the jailer hostage. The guards opened fire when the prisoners attempted to break out, with the confrontation lasting from 1:30pm to 3:30pm on Thursday.

MEDICAL WASTE IN MYMENSINGH

Dumped in the open for 30 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Toxic and hazardous medical wastes from approximately 300 hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres in Mymensingh city have been openly dumped at Moilakanda ground in Char Kalibari area for the past 30 years, raising alarm among residents and officials.

Despite the growing concern, there is still no permanent facility for the disposal of the city's medical waste.

Dr Md Zakiul Islam, deputy director of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), said the hospital lacks a waste treatment plant, forcing them to store both kitchen and medical waste in a shed before it is collected by Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC) trucks each evening.

Dr Zakiul highlighted that amputated body parts and materials from C-section operations are buried after disinfection with chlorine solution.

He expressed serious concern over the waste management situation at MMCH, noting that although waste is sorted into different bins, the MCC trucks collect and dispose of all waste without proper separation.

A visit to MMCH's garbage station revealed



discarded sharp medical items mixed with kitchen waste, underscoring the severity of the issue.

Dr Ranjan Kumar Majumder, a retired medicine specialist, warned that residents near the Moilakanda area are at risk of diseases such as asthma, diarrhoea, allergies, and eye irritation.

Lawyer Shibbir Ahmed Liton, secretary of Mymensingh Poribesh Rokhha o Unnayan Andolon, called for immediate action to prevent medical waste from contaminating the Old Brahmaputra river during the

monsoon, posing significant public health hazards.

Mohabbat Ali, conservation inspector of MMC, reported that around five tonnes of medical waste are produced daily in the city, presenting a significant challenge for the MCC.

He admitted that the MCC has been using traditional methods for disposal due to a lack of expertise in medical waste management.

MCC is working to establish a medical waste management plant at Moilakanda by the end of the year, said Md Arifur Rahman, MCC's chief waste management officer.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

RECENT VIOLENCE

BNP to write to UN for probe: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said his party will send a letter to the United Nations calling for a probe into the "genocide" carried out by the Awami League government and forces on protesters "prior to the victory" on August 5.

He said this at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

Fakhrul said the party also plans to send a letter to the chief adviser of the interim government in this regard.

"At the same time, we will also send a letter to the [interim] government urging them to take steps for the release of about 50 of our workers who have been imprisoned in the UAE for supporting the movement," he said.

About the resignation of judges, Fakhrul said, "This is excellent news for democracy..."

Fakhrul also criticised some media outlets for spreading misleading news about the current situation.

"The news highlighted attacks on minority communities and a deterioration of the law and order situation, which we believe is entirely incorrect. These incidents are not communal or religious; they are political," he said.

Fakhrul also expressed gratitude to the interim government for its efforts to stabilise the country. "On behalf of the party, we thank Chief Adviser Yunus and other advisers. After the revolution, there may be some problems. Restoring normalcy will not be an easy task," Fakhrul said.

"We sincerely thank the interim government for beginning their work with dedication," he added.



MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS

A tenth-grader shot dead in Narayanganj. A father dies of bullet wound in Faridpur. A husband fatally shot in Mymensingh. A university student shot dead in Mirpur. A tailor killed in Adabor. At least 400 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.



Adil wanted to join the army

Says mother of 16-year-old who was shot dead by law enforcers

SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM, Narayanganj

Md Adil, 16, a tenth grader, was having lunch with his family at his home in Bhuighar area of Narayanganj on July 19 when a friend knocked on their door and informed that law enforcers were firing at student protesters nearby.

Adil immediately went outside and rushed to Dhaka-Narayanganj link road to join other protesters, despite being urged by his parents to stay home.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



When will father return?

Asks daughter of Shamsu, 62, who died of bullet wounds

SUZIT DAS, Faridpur

Shamsu Mollah, 62, was going to a market near Faridpur's Kotwali Police Station to buy toys for his daughter on August 5, as she had been asking for one for quite some time.

However, instead of bringing a toy from the market, his lifeless body returned home.

Following Sheikh Hasina's resignation, people in different areas of the country

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



We got married only a year back

Says wife of Jobayer, 22, who was fatally shot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The world has turned bleak for Marzina Begum, 20, after her husband Jobayer Ahmed, 22, died of bullet wounds sustained during a clash between police and protesters demanding quota reform in Mymensingh's Gouripur upazila on July 20.

"We got married only a year back. Jobayer was the lone earning member of the family. How are we going to manage

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Shakil was vocal against injustice

Says brother of 23-year-old who died of bullet injury

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Zulfikar Shakil, 23, who died after being shot during the anti-government protest in Dhaka's Mirpur 10 on August 4, was a student of fine arts in the capital's University of Development Alternative.

He used to bear the family's expenses by doing tuitions. He was shot when Awami League activists and law enforcers opened fire on protesters, and died on August 7 while being on life support at the National

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



How will we survive now?

Asks wife of Bachchu, 47, who was shot dead in Adabor

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Kohinoor Begum has been finding it hard to grapple with the reality that her husband Bachchu Howladar, 47, is no more.

"My husband was the lone earning member of our five-member family. Where shall I go with our three children now? How are we going to survive?" she said.

Bachchu, hailing from West Sharikkhali

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

ARTISTES UNITE, call for cultural resurgence at Central Shaheed Minar

The rally comes in the wake of significant political upheaval, following the resignation and hasty departure of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Artistes and cultural figures from across Bangladesh gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday afternoon, rallying under the banner of Srishtir Shadhinotay Shahoshi Bangladesh (Brave Bangladesh for Freedom of Art). The event, which began at 3pm, brought together four prominent platforms: The Visual Artistes' Society, Photographer Society, Protesting Theatre Activists, and Get Up and Stand Up (Bangladesh Musical Artists' Society).

The rally comes in the wake of significant political upheaval, following the resignation and hasty departure of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5. On that same day, at least 76 deaths and approximately 500 injuries were reported in areas outside the capital. In the following days, the nation has grappled with a wave of violence as reports of killings, arson, looting, and attacks on minority communities have further heightened tensions across the country.

In a joint statement, the assembled artistes addressed the recent turmoil, saying, "We have



confirmed number of the people who have lost their lives."

The coalition put forth several demands, including: immediate compilation of a comprehensive list of those killed during the anti-discrimination movement; guard of honour funerals for the deceased and aid for the injured; construction of a memorial (Shaheed Minar) to honour the martyrs and thorough investigation and trial of those responsible for the killings.

The artistes also condemned the post-uprising violence, calling for fair investigations into the destruction of temples, Liberation War museums, historic establishments, sculptures, and other cultural landmarks.

Notable figures in attendance included Shahidul Alam, Amirul Rajiv, Piplu R Khan, Probar Ripon, Tanim Noor, Azmeri Haque Badhan, Saberi Alam, Zakia Bari Mamo, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Armeen Musa, Khayam Sanu Sandhi, Kamar Ahmed Simon, Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, Neel Hurerzahan, Tanvin Sweety, Rubayat and Ruslan Rehman, Mumtaheena Toya and Safa Kabir, among

others. Their presence underscored the broad support for reform and justice across Bangladesh's creative communities.

Speaking at the event, the artistes urged citizens to actively participate in reshaping the nation. They emphasised their vision for a truly inclusive Bangladesh, where everyone is treated equally regardless of their caste, race, gender, ethnicity, and religion. Drawing parallels to the student-led movement that precipitated recent changes, they called for widespread support "from the plains to the hills" in this next phase of national reform.

They performed patriotic songs dedicated to the martyrs, concluding the event with national anthem.

As Bangladesh stands at this critical juncture, the artistic community's united front is crucial to continue the fight for freedom, justice, and cultural expression. The coming weeks and months will likely prove crucial in determining whether the artistes' calls for transparency, justice, and reform will be heeded by the transitional authorities and whatever new government takes shape.



Cartoon Network's website closes, along with years of nostalgia

Cartoon Network, known for shows like *Scooby-Doo*, *The Powerpuff Girls*, and many more, was a key part of many childhoods. Fans could previously revisit these moments online for free, but Warner Bros' [www](#) has now decided to close the official website.

Visitors to the website will now be redirected to Warner Bros' Max streaming service, where a notification will prompt them to subscribe to access their favourite cartoons.

The closure of [cartoonnetwork.com](#) comes a week after Warner Bros Discovery announced the shutdown of Boomerang, with subscribers and

Fake page impersonating Bipasha Hayat spreads propaganda



Posts about the national anthem and various controversial issues were made from a Facebook page impersonating Bipasha Hayat, causing embarrassment and surprise to the actress.

The actress confirmed to The Daily Star that she doesn't use Facebook and that the page posting political content is fake. She shared a screenshot on her verified Instagram,

writing, "I do not use Facebook. Instagram is the only social media platform where I share my thoughts and activities."

Asked about the fake Facebook page, Bipasha, currently in Sydney for a special children's welfare event, said, "The Facebook posts using my name are not from me. I am unaware of their purpose. I am not responsible for this negative propaganda."

NEWS

All cases filed to quell protests

FROM PAGE 12
fire on protesters, a large number of whom were later sued.

More than 400 people, including students and police personnel, were killed in the violence centring the student protest that later turned into an anti-government movement.

On August 5, President Mohammed Shahabuddin in a televised address to the nation said that all the prisoners, including

those detained in various false cases during the student movement, will be released.

The next day, at least a total of 2,400 people, including several top leaders of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, secured bail in the cases filed with different police stations in the capital over the violence centring the quota reform protests.

According to the court records, over 270 cases were lodged with 39 police stations in the city

between July 16 and August 4. The complainants in most cases were police personnel.

The charges in the cases include illegal gathering, rioting, assaulting law enforcers, damaging assets, and arson.

According to the police sources, at least 10,134 people, including students, members of BNP and Jamaat-Shibir, were arrested in 872 cases filed in the capital and 51 districts from July 18-30.

Police not on the ground

FROM PAGE 12
police personnel were found in Shah Ali, where no general diary (GD) was filed in the past two days.

"We're living in fear. Our families don't even want us to leave the house. But I still come to the police station because I'm a government service holder," said a sub-inspector of the station.

The SI suggested that police high-ups consider a mass transfer, as many personnel who are well known to the local communities have become easy targets.

Reassigning them to new areas could offer some relief since locals would not know about their actions during the previous government's tenure, particularly during the recent student movement, he said.

A 60-year-old man was waiting at Kafrul Police Station around 3:30pm. He said he was falsely implicated in a case on July 27 and his mobile phone was seized. He was bailed out of prison on August 7.

"I came here on Friday to get my phone back after I learnt that the

station had reopened, but a policeman asked me to come today [yesterday]. I've been waiting for around an hour but there's no policeman."

An army soldier guarding the station said several police personnel came in the morning but left after sometime.

An additional superintendent of police said, "The situation won't change overnight, not until we're assured of our security. We won't be able to go outside in uniform, and so, people will be deprived of our services."

Speaking to The Daily Star, many people said the interim government should first focus on restoring law and order as a peaceful atmosphere is necessary for stability and the development of every sector.

"We must remember that if the police are safe and active, we too will stay safe," said Rafiqul Islam, a resident of the capital's Ramna area.

"Police are returning to duty and we all should accept them with love and mutual cooperation. We hope they will quickly normalise the

country's law and order situation."

Meanwhile, the officer-in-charge and some other officials returned to the Ashulia Police Station and exchanged views with the locals yesterday. The students welcomed their return, reports our Savar correspondent.

OC AFM Sayed said it will take time to start normal policing as their vehicles were torched.

Our Barishal correspondent reported that police started working on a limited scale in the city and elsewhere in the district.

At Kotwali Police Station, the correspondent found all 10 policemen in plainclothes.

Mostafizur Rahman, chief of the station, said they recorded three cases on Saturday after filing not even one GD since August 5. "We're not going out for investigations or patrolling."

Wahidul Islam, superintendent of police in Barishal, said the 10 police stations in the district were operating on a limited scale since many personnel were yet to report for duty.

Interim govt to stay as long as needed

FROM PAGE 2
"There are some good people in all these institutions. But the system was set up in a way that the institutions became a terror to the people who had different views and exercised their fundamental rights."

"People want to reform them. We will stay as long as we need to balance the desire for reform with the desire for elections."

"I miss teaching at the university. I want to get back to my life [as a teacher] as soon as possible after this job is done."

President Mohammed Shahabuddin on August 6 dissolved the 12th parliament formed through the January 7 national election.

A statement from the Bangabhaban said the decision to dissolve the parliament was

made following the president's discussions with chiefs of three staff of armed forces, leaders of different political parties, representatives of civil society and leaders of the student movement against discrimination.

According to the constitution, a general election should be held within 90 days of the dissolution of parliament.

BNP expels 44

FROM PAGE 12
The BNP high command has instructed us to take measures in this regard," he said.

Chhatra Dal had taken a decision regarding its members' entry into the university campuses, but five to seven of its leaders and activists disobeyed the decision, leading to the issuance of show-cause notices against them, he added.

Jubo Dal Office Secretary MN Islam Sohel said, "Action has been taken against some Jubo Dal leaders and activists for anti-organisational activities."

"We have warned them against violating organisational discipline. This action has been taken to make sure that the leaders and activists remain careful about the organisation's directives," he told this newspaper.

BNP sources said that the party's top leadership has taken a strong stance against attacks and vandalism, particularly the incidents targeting religious minority communities.

This move is seen as a crucial step towards upholding the party's reputation and ensuring that the leaders and activists do not engage in any activities that could tarnish the party's image, said a BNP standing committee member, seeking anonymity.

Last week, BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman called upon the party leaders and activists to set an example by protecting all citizens regardless of their religious identities. **ACTION AGAINST PARTY MEN**
In Dhaka, the convener of Chhatra Dal's Kadmatoli thana unit has been expelled while six other leaders have been served with show-cause notices.

Ensure journalists' safety

FROM PAGE 2
environment for journalists and media outlets in Bangladesh who in recent days have experienced serious physical attacks and acts of intimidation," the association said in a letter.

"A free media which is protected by law against acts of violence and intimidation is essential for a healthy democracy," added the letter to the head of the interim government on Friday.

It said offices of several television channels and other media outlets were attacked and ransacked by violent intruders since the military assumed

In Chattogram, Chhatra Dal has expelled the senior joint convener of its Chattogram metropolitan unit. Two vice presidents of Chattogram metropolitan Jubo Dal have also been expelled.

In Khulna, a show-cause notice was served on Paikgachha upazila BNP General Secretary SM Enamul Haque over looting and arson.

"He attacked many Hindu houses and looted valuables, but the victims did not dare to speak for fear of reprisals," reads a press release issued by the Khulna district BNP on August 8.

Chhatra Dal district organising secretary in Barishal, the student front's general secretary in Thakurgaon, and its Panchagarh municipality member secretary have also been expelled for violating organisational discipline.

In Jashore, 13 leaders of BNP, Jubo Dal, and Chhatra Dal have been expelled for their involvement in attacks and vandalism.

Warning letters have been issued against at least 35 grassroots BNP leaders in the district as well.

In Jhalakathi, Jubo Dal expelled the convenors of its district and Nalchity upazila units for violating organisational discipline. Also, the district BNP expelled its Sadar upazila deputy publicity secretary, citing the same reason.

Four Jubo Dal leaders have been expelled in Lakshmipur, four in Pirojpur, three in Lalmonirhat, two each in Gazipur, Noakhali, Magura, and Jhenaidah, and one has been expelled in Narshingdi.

The convener of Magura municipality Swachhasebak Dal was also expelled.

control.

"Many journalists have faced severe threats to their personal safety and been stopped from performing their legitimate duties," the CJA said.

"We appeal to you to take prompt and effective steps to restore the rule of law in these cases, and to ensure that all journalists in Bangladesh enjoy freedom of movement and protection from acts of violence," said the letter.

The CJA is a volunteer association that promotes professional journalism, free media, and freedom of expression across the Commonwealth.

Protesters attack army patrol teams in Gopalganj

FROM PAGE 2
weapons, it said. The protesters also hurled brick chunks at the teams. An army vehicle was set alight and another two were vandalised.

According to the ISPR, the army patrol team fired four shots to disperse the protesters and bring the situation under control.

Additional troops have been deployed in the area, it said, adding that the injured army personnel were out of danger and undergoing treatment.

3 medical colleges

FROM PAGE 2
Chittagong Medical College took an identical decision.

Meanwhile, the academic council of Dhaka Medical College has decided to ban student politics from its campus, and Dr Fazle Rabbi Male Hostel and Dr Alim Chowdhury Girls' Hostel, according to a press release from its principal, Md Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury.

"No political organisation, including Chhatra League, Chhatra Dal, and Chhatra Shibir, will be able to conduct political activities on campus and in two halls. If any student is found re-introducing politics on campus, strict measures will be taken against that student," the release added.

The meeting also decided to ensure proper treatment for all students who sustained injuries during the protests centring the quota reform protests.

The academic councils of Sir Salimullah Medical College and Chittagong Medical College took similar decisions.

On Friday, the authorities at Noakhali Science and Technology University also banned politics for all students and teachers.

The NSTU authorities took the decision at a meeting on Friday evening, sources aware of the development told The Daily Star yesterday.



DEADLY ISRAELI STRIKE
ON GAZA SCHOOL



(From left, clockwise) Displaced Palestinians watch as first responders prepare to transport the corpses of people killed in an Israeli strike on a school in Gaza City yesterday that killed more than 90 people; a young girl cries inside the school after the attack; an injured man comforts his daughter after several members of his family were killed in an overnight Israeli strike.

PHOTO: AFP



POLITICAL TRANSITION IN VENEZUELA
Maduro rejects Panama's offer

REUTERS, Panama City

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro gave a scathing response to an offer on Friday from his Panamanian counterpart, Jose Raul Mulino, to facilitate his departure to a third country to allow for a political transition.

Mulino told broadcaster CNN he would give Maduro safe passage to act as a "bridge" to a third country, in the aftermath of a July 28 election Maduro says he won but independent pollsters claim as an opposition landslide.

"If that's the contribution, the sacrifice that Panama has to make, by offering our soil so that this man and his family can leave Venezuela, Panama would do it without a doubt," Mulino said in an interview.

But Maduro accused the Panamanian president, who himself was elected to office just three months ago, of getting "carried away by the gringos," using a derogatory term for Americans.

"I will try to learn your name, President of Panama, but whoever messes with Venezuela runs aground," Maduro told reporters outside a courtroom where he filed an appeal to verify the electoral results.

Maduro has claimed a 51% victory in last month's election, while the political opposition maintains its candidate won by millions of votes. Venezuela's electoral authority has yet to release detailed vote tallies.



Escalations in Middle East serve no one

US tells Israel, releases \$35b to Israel to spend on weapons

REUTERS, Washington

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant in a phone call on Friday that the escalation of tensions in the Middle East was "in no party's interest" while also stressing the need for a Gaza ceasefire, the State Department said.

There has been an increased risk of escalation into a broader Middle East war after recent killings of Palestinian Islamist group Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran and of Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut drew threats of retaliation against Israel.

As a result, many fear a widening of Israel's war in Gaza that has already killed tens of thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis.

"The Secretary reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security and discussed how escalation is in no party's interest," the State Department said in a statement.

Blinken stressed the "urgent need to reach a ceasefire in Gaza"

that could release hostages held in the enclave and "create the conditions for broader regional stability," the State Department added.

Meanwhile, Washington will provide Israel \$3.5 billion to spend on US weapons and military equipment, the State Department said on Friday, with the release of the money coming months after the US Congress appropriated it during Israel's war in Gaza.

A State Department spokesperson said on Friday that the department notified Congress on Thursday that the government intended to release the billions of dollars worth of foreign military financing to Israel.

CNN reported earlier on the release of this amount which comes from a \$14 billion supplemental funding bill for Israel passed by the Congress in April.

Meanwhile, an Israeli airstrike on a Gaza school compound housing displaced families killed around 100 people, the Hamas-run Gaza government said on Saturday, while the Israeli military said it had

targeted Hamas militants and cast doubt on the Palestinian death toll.

Video from the site showed body parts scattered on the ground and more bodies being carried away and covered in blankets on the floor. Empty food tins lay in a puddle of blood and burnt mattresses and a child's doll lay among the debris.

In another video, men prayed over a dozen body bags laid out on the ground. It was not immediately clear whether all the videos were filmed on the ground floor of the Tabeen school complex, in Gaza City.

Gaza's Hamas-run media office said in a statement that the complex was attacked when people sheltering there were performing dawn prayers.

The Gaza health ministry says that since October 7, Israel's military assault on the Hamas-governed enclave has killed nearly 40,000 Palestinians while also displacing nearly the entire population of 2.3 million, causing a hunger crisis and leading to genocide accusations that Israel denies.

US POLLS CAMPAIGN
Harris in Arizona, Trump in Montana



REUTERS, Glendale

US Vice President Kamala Harris campaigned in a packed arena in Arizona on Friday, hoping to put Republican candidate Donald Trump on the back foot in the West, while Trump held his own rally in Montana to support a Republican candidate for Senate.

The Democratic presidential candidate, less than a month into her bid for the White House, has been on a week-long tour after naming her running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, with a focus on building excitement for her campaign in seven states that could tip the Nov 5 election.

That tour on Friday brought her to the Phoenix area, where she was visiting with volunteers at a campaign office and speaking to voters.

Also in the West, Trump held a rally in Bozeman, Montana, a state that Republicans have carried in every presidential race since 1996.

Protests go on across country

FROM PAGE 12

blocked till 7:00pm.

They chanted slogans such as "Save the Hindus", "Why are my temples and homes being looted? We want answers", "Hindu persecution in independent Bangladesh must not go on", "Religion is for individuals, the state is for everyone", "Who are you, who am I? Bangalee, Bangalee", and "Ensure the safety of the Hindus".

Speaking at the programme, Shanti Ranjan Mondal, president of Bhakta Sangha Bangladesh, said, "Many people are waiting near the border for refuge in neighbouring countries. Arrangements need to be made so they can return home with dignity."

The demonstrators warned they would wage tougher programmes if immediate steps are not taken to stop the attacks on the Hindus.

Puja Rani Saha, from Joypurhat's Khetlal area, said, "Someone in Dhaka can't even comprehend the extent of the persecution the Hindus of our locality

have been facing. We're citizens of this country, but we're always at the receiving end of the wrath during any unrest."

She said they came all the way to Dhaka to join the protests as their backs were now against the wall.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club to protest the attacks. They also demanded the reinstatement of reserved seats and a separate election to ensure the minorities' representation. Bangladesh Sanatan Party, after a meeting at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, issued a statement urging people to unite and come forward to stop the torture of minorities.

In Chattogram city, several thousand Hindus staged a sit-in at the Cheragi Pahar intersection, demanding the security of minorities.

They started gathering at the intersection from around 3:00pm and kept the intersection blocked for around three and a half

hours.

Rinku Sharma, an assistant director of the Hindu Welfare Trust, said, "We [Muslims and Hindus] have been living together in the region for years as Bangalees. But some miscreants are trying to use religious identities to ruin that bond."

In Barishal city, members of the Hindu community held a rally in front of the Ashwini Kumar Hall under the banner of "Nipiron Birodhi Mancha".

Addressing the rally, Bhanu Lal Dey, president of the Mahanagar Puja Udjapan Parishad, said they have been sleepless from fear and are not getting any kind of assistance from the law enforcement agencies.

They later brought out a procession that paraded through different streets in the city.

In Natore, Hindus held a rally at the Kanaikhal Old Bus Stand. They said temples are being vandalised and looted as criminals are taking advantage of the absence of law and order.

Members of the

Hindu community in Mymensingh also formed a human chain in front of the city's Firoz Jahangir Chattar. They later brought out a procession under the banner of "Shocheton Sanatani Samaj".

In Shariatpur, a group of people formed a human chain, under the banner of "Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mohajote", near the district's Central Shaheed Minar.

In Narayanganj, hundreds of Hindus brought out a procession, demanding justice for the attacks.

In Kushtia, students brought out a procession and held a rally, urging people to resist any attempts to attack minorities or their religious establishments.

Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad on Friday reported at least 205 attacks on members of minority communities in 52 districts since the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.



Local residents from a village near the Russian border who fled due to Russian shelling, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, arrive in an evacuation centre in Sumy, Ukraine. Struggling to contain a major Ukrainian incursion, Russia yesterday said it had evacuated tens of thousands of people from its border region and launched a "counter-terror operation".

PHOTO: REUTERS

The police must get back to work

An atmosphere of mutual trust must be created

We are deeply concerned that, so far, only 361 out of 639 police stations have partially resumed operations since Friday, with the assistance of the armed forces and Border Guard Bangladesh. At the time when there is a severe lapse in security across all districts, with many incidents of violence, arson attacks, and even robberies being reported, law enforcement cannot be absent from the scene.

While it is understandable that many police personnel are feeling insecure after the destruction of many police stations in the country and attacks on police personnel, they must remember their primary duty, which is to protect the public. The unprecedented number of civilians—many of them students and even children—who were shot and killed by law enforcers during the quota movement, triggered attacks on police and police stations. But now is the time for all official forces to work together to bring security to the nation. Official forces must collaborate to ensure safety, especially in minority communities that have faced violence and vandalism from different coteries trying to take advantage of the power vacuum created by the former government's departure. The same applies to other groups as well, including members of the former administration, Awami League members, and individuals seen as loyal to the former regime.

Without police presence on the streets, miscreants have seized the opportunity to commit crimes with total impunity. In the absence of police, communities are having to mobilise their members to stay on watch all night, with the student volunteers helping. While this is very admirable, it is hardly a sustainable solution. Only a strong law enforcement presence will deter these criminals.

It is worrisome to know that the chain of command within the police force has broken down after the attacks on police personnel. Police from lower ranks have staged demonstrations and made their 11-point demand. The police force, which has long played a partisan role and embittered the public with its actions, must do everything in its power to regain public trust. The interim government must prioritise security and take necessary steps to restore police presence at the stations. Senior officers, particularly the new IGP, must address this crisis through dialogue with their frustrated juniors and find immediate solutions.

This will also require quick logistical support to repair the destroyed stations and get them operational again, as well as address the legitimate grievances of lower-tier police officers. The process of reform within the police force must begin as soon as possible to depoliticise the force, eradicate corruption, and make it a protector of the public rather than a feared or hated entity.

Global response to Bangladesh's transition

We need the support of our friends, now more than ever

We are heartened by the international community's expressed readiness to work with the interim government of Bangladesh, led by its chief, Professor Muhammad Yunus. Following the fall of the Awami League government, due to the popular demand of student protesters and the masses, Bangladesh faces a long journey to chart a democratic future for its people—a challenge recognised by the international community as well. As Bangladesh embarks on this uncertain yet hopeful path, the role of the interim government in steering the nation toward a democratic future cannot be understated.

Bangladesh endured three days without a government, during which law and order deteriorated amid widespread uncertainty. Now that the interim government has been formed, we are confident that stability will return and law and order will improve. As several representatives of our international partners have correctly emphasised, this must be the new government's first priority, along with ensuring accountability for all recent deaths. To achieve this, the interim government may request international assistance, which we hope our partners will be ready to provide upon request.

At this critical stage, with the economy having suffered significantly over the past month—and given the economic challenges that have plagued the country over the last couple of years—Bangladesh will require substantial support from its foreign friends. According to a recent report, the Bangladeshi economy experienced a sharp contraction in July. To get the economy back on track, Bangladesh could benefit from all the help it can get from other countries. To that end, we hope that friendly nations from all regions will step forward.

Given the disruption to business across all sectors in Bangladesh, we urge our international partners to remain patient and work with our industries to ensure that our commercial partnerships can continue to recover and flourish. The European Union, which imports goods worth \$24 billion annually from Bangladesh, has expressed its eagerness to engage with the new administration, recognising this moment as crucial for fulfilling the aspirations of the Bangladeshi people, particularly its youth. We believe our other foreign friends share similar views and will engage with the government to achieve positive outcomes for all concerned.

The international response to this transition has been overwhelmingly positive, with key global players pledging their support for Bangladesh's journey toward democracy. The international community's support provides a strong foundation for Bangladesh to rebuild and move forward. However, the ultimate responsibility lies with the Bangladeshi people and their leaders to ensure that this transition marks the beginning of a new, more democratic era in the country's history.

A pathway to transformative governance



Irene Khan is the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression and former Secretary General of Amnesty International. This op-ed reflects her personal views as a citizen of Bangladesh.

IRENE KHAN

The interim government comes with a mandate to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy, but its full scope is undefined, and a timetable is yet to be determined. Expectations are running high, and so are fears. As the Arab Spring has shown, failure could set back the struggle for democracy for decades to come.

I see a window of opportunity to craft a platform for transformative governance, grounded in democratic values and human rights principles. But that window will not last long. Among the many issues that demand the urgent attention of the interim government, it must select and prioritise a few critical reforms that are truly vital for sustaining democracy in the long run, that can be achieved in a short time and can be embedded in such a way that they will outlive this government.

The selection, prioritisation and delivery of those reforms will determine whether this moment in our country's history is a new dawn or a false one.

I believe early action in six key areas is essential.

First is the early restoration of law and order. There continues to be reports of violence, arson and looting, targeting supporters of the previous regime and members of the Hindu community. The political nature of these attacks is evident. The interim government must make it clear that not only does it have zero tolerance for political vendettas or scapegoating of minorities, but that all political parties must proactively reign in their goons or face political and legal consequences.

The interim government should think outside the box when it comes to policing. The discredited and demoralised police have walked out. Within hours of the police going on "strike", well-organised groups of students and volunteers took to guarding neighbourhoods and managing the city traffic in Dhaka with remarkable skill, politeness and diligence. This could well be the beginning of a new community-based policing system that this country badly needs.

Second is accountability for human rights violations—not to be done forty years down the road but here and now. The interim government should initiate a credible and transparent accountability process, in line with internationally recognised standards and with international assistance, into

the massive human rights violations in recent weeks and past years. The government should take up the offer of assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and ask for an international commission of inquiry.

The international nature of the inquiry will be vital for the credibility of the process at home and abroad. By taking the bold step of inviting an investigation, supported by the United Nations, into Bangladesh's



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

human rights obligations which are underpinned by international treaties, this interim government will set an important precedent on accountability and respect for the rule of law which future governments cannot ignore easily.

Third is to strengthen the right to freedom of expression and the role of independent news media. The government should immediately repeal the Cyber Security Act, the law on criminal libel and the Information and Communication Technology Act, which were used by the previous government to gag the media, prosecute and punish journalists and human rights defenders, and disrupt the internet.

The previous government

judiciary and commitment from its highest echelons to its rank and file to upholding fairness, human rights, and the rule of law.

At a minimum, the interim government must develop an effective judicial mechanism to resolve electoral disputes. As Director-General of the International Development Law Organization, I played a part in the reform of Kenya's Supreme Court, following the adoption of a new constitution in 2010 after the bloodiest post-electoral violence in the history of that country. The reform of the supreme court and the exemplary leadership of successive chief justices have created such public trust that there has been no large-scale political violence in Kenya since then.

a profound change in the political culture. The people of this country, especially the youth, are fed up with self-serving, corrupt and violent politics and politicians. They want a new type of politics that cares about ordinary people, that values equality, opportunity and justice.

The interim government, the student-led movement and all who support it must work to create a broad-based national movement with new ideas, leaders and innovative political structures that are representative of the gender, age, ethnic, religious and socio-economic diversity of our country and committed to create a rights-respecting, just and democratic society. We must have a truly alternative choice at the next elections.

Let people, not political parties decide interim govt's role



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BAZLUL H KHONDKER

Bangladesh witnessed an unprecedented people's revolution led by students which culminated in the fall of the Awami League government and the formation of an interim government. An important outcome of the July movement points to the abject failure of the political parties in the last 15 years to instigate a people-led upsurge to topple the Awami League government as citizens were disgruntled with the political parties and overall political system. On the other hand, an important social issue raised by students gained the resounding support of citizens to depose the mighty Awami League government within a month. There is a powerful sense of freedom in Bangladesh now.

Before the formation of the interim government, some decisions and demands of the major political parties caught my attention. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) decision

to hold an assembly on August 7, was very immature. They should have waited till the formation of the interim government and restoration of law and order. We also saw a large rally by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami which could have been avoided. Meanwhile, we noticed demands for early elections, and enquiry about the interim government's timeframe, legality, and agenda. I was not surprised by these decisions and demands of our major political parties since their ultimate motive is to be in power and unfortunately not to realise the real aspirations of the crores of Bangladeshi. However, some political individuals are in favour of giving the interim government a certain time to carry out fundamental reforms, the absence of which made the country dysfunctional.

There is a fundamental difference between a "caretaker" government and

an "interim government." I believe we have a definition of the "caretaker" government but not an "interim" government. The 13th amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh, which included provisions for a caretaker government to conduct general elections and transfer power impartially, was passed in 1996. This amendment added a new chapter, Chapter IIA: Non-Party Caretaker Government, in part IV of the constitution. Three elections were held under the caretaker system which was abolished by a constitutional amendment on June 30, 2011.

The question is: who will delineate the definition of the "interim" government? The answer is simple—the people of Bangladesh. The next question is how can this be done? The answer also lies with the people of Bangladesh.

The interim government should call for a plebiscite within the next three months along with a clearly thought-out reform agenda and estimated timeframe to achieve them. According to Britannica, a plebiscite is a "vote by the people of an entire country or district to decide on some issue, such as choice of a ruler or government, option for independence or annexation by another power, or a question of national policy." Generally

in a plebiscite, voters are asked not to choose between alternate regimes or proposals but to confirm or reject the legitimacy of a certain form of government or course of action. More importantly, through plebiscites a government can reach people directly, bypassing intermediaries such as political parties for people's mandate on important issues such as the legitimacy of a government.

The list of the reforms should be quite large ranging from constitutional reforms to institution building. Some of the top agendas should include reviewing and rewriting the constitution to align with citizens' welfare and protection; revamping the electoral system to curb the influence of families to instil democracy within the parties' selection of nominees and leaders and pave the way for dedicated politicians; restoration of a transparent administration which is accountable to citizens; establishment of an efficient, inclusive and just judiciary system; and setup of a modern economic system focusing on efficiency and equity.

If I understand the mood of the citizens of our country correctly, people are ready to give adequate time to the current interim government as they regard it as their saviour, liberator, and the only institution that would fulfil their dreams.

How the new leadership can best utilise this fresh start



Dr Faustina Pereira is an advocate at the Bangladesh Supreme Court.

FAUSTINA PEREIRA

With the swearing-in of a new interim government of Bangladesh, following a truly phenomenal student-led mass revolution, Bangladesh has effectively entered a new social contract. There will be time enough in the coming days to analyse the full significance of this historic moment that Bangladesh, and indeed the whole world, is witnessing. For now, however, time is of the essence, and every stakeholder invested in a fresh start for nation building must be girded for the tough road that lies ahead. This is a moment that calls for decisive action and precise, intentional leadership to set the course and the tone for Bangladesh's path forward.

There is no denying that the expected deliverables from this new government is mountain high. From addressing immediate concerns such as restoring law and order, and economic and infrastructural recovery, to reclaiming and reforming the judiciary, and critical state institutions and commissions such as the National Human Rights Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission, amongst others, must be addressed with the utmost urgency.

For this government, which will have perhaps only a sliver of a honeymoon period, striking a balance between the urgent and the important in its prioritisation agenda will be one of the first challenges to overcome. For a sustained reform agenda, the government will have to adopt parallel initiatives and go beyond the tangible outcomes around law enforcement, business and the economy, communications, and bricks and mortar development. It will be in the delivery on the more intangible outcomes, that the expectations of citizens who have made immeasurable sacrifices to give Bangladesh this fresh start, will be assessed. The bedrock of these expectations is for Bangladesh to recover its soul. It is to give democracy, the rule of law, and the high ideals of the constitution to establish an equity-based and justice-centric society, the chance to

flourish at last.

Translating these idealistic aspirations, especially within this environment of urgency, runs the threat of getting lost or deprioritised in the din of day-to-day minutiae of governance. In order to keep these ideals on the radar of governance, Bangladesh's new leadership need to pay attention and reflect on a few preliminary touch points, as it takes on the mantle of hope for nearly 180 million Bangladeshis.

It is time to go back to the drawing board. For a nation charting its course into the future, it is essential to revisit, as a matter of course, lessons from the past. Keeping an eye on the rearview mirror of political history sheds light not only on mistakes, missteps and missed opportunities but also provide sharp insights into the intent, actions and positioning of the various actors and factors that result in particular outcomes. Going back to the tenets of the original Constitution of Bangladesh, particularly its Preamble, will serve our leaders well in steering Bangladesh in its journey back to its *raison d'être*. This is essential, irrespective of any future exercises around reframing the constitution.

The Constituent Assembly debates (1971-1973) provide important signposts for Bangladesh's new leadership on how to resolve challenges that have lingered over decades, and that eroded the core values of a cohesive society. From addressing critically important issues of secularism and pluralism, to the limits of power of each organ of the state and the independence of the judiciary, to protection against excessive executive power of the prime minister, and proportional representation in the legislature, the lessons of the past must guide the legacy of the future.

The interim government will need to be aware of echo chambers. In about three months hence, the operational and administrative wheels of governance will have set in. From the very earliest moments, mechanisms will need to be built into daily operations against complacency. Recognised best practices must

be adopted against solidifying actions or decisions based on opinions that only reinforce the leadership's own positions. Processes that allow for regular pulse-checks with stakeholders and dissenting opinions, and those that ensure room for course correction, are some of the best antidotes against tunnel vision and mission drift.

It is also the time to prioritise truth, reconciliation, and healing. The pace at which

system of Bangladesh, as outlined in the Bangladesh Justice Audit, to understand why most victims and victim families will not receive justice within their lifetime. An overhaul of the criminal justice system may not be realisable within a limited time frame to address the large number of cases that will inevitably be lodged.

Whereas every effort must continue to be taken by the state to document every criminal

part of its objectives. It could go a long way to bring closure for a nation suffering from deep and open wounds and long deprived of timely, transparent and effective justice.

In honouring the aspirations of the student-led revolution that has ushered in a fresh start for Bangladesh, our new leadership must demonstrate a truly inclusive and intersectional approach to decision making, and in policy adoption and implementation. This will mean that those in whose name decisions are taken, particularly underrepresented and marginalised communities, including women, religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities, and people living with disabilities, must have a seat at the table. The voices and the choices of minorities across all social markers of age, sex, belief, class, profession, location or civil status must be an integral part of any decision that directly or indirectly affect these communities. What constitutes "national interest" must be re-defined to include the historically excluded. Inclusion in decision-making and in the spaces for equal or equitable opportunities and outcomes must be unshackled from tokenism.

To take a current example, it is disheartening to note that, despite high levels of participation, sacrifice and visibility of women and girls at the frontline and at the heart of the revolution, women's representation or visibility in the post-revolution decisions around the new governance framework has been almost non-existent. This must be rectified immediately.

Indeed, the success of this revolution rests on the blood, sacrifice and participation of every category of citizens. Going forward, every effort needs to be taken to avoid historic mistakes of sidelining or excluding the historically marginalised contributors to state reform.

The adoption of an Anti-Discrimination Act that genuinely addresses the diversity and plurality of identities and experiences of all Bangladeshis, is one step to rectify historical exclusions and wrongs. But it cannot be the only mechanism. Inclusion must become an inherent part of democratic policy and practice.

Not many nations have the opportunity to make a fresh start in the right direction, such as Bangladesh does today. This opportunity has come at a very great cost. From now onwards, every action taken by Bangladesh's new leadership, and indeed every citizen, will be indebted to and measured against this supreme sacrifice.



For this government, striking a balance between the urgent and the important in its prioritisation agenda will be one of the first challenges to overcome.

PHOTO: PTI

individuals or nations heal from the scars and trauma of wrongdoing, violence and injustice, vary greatly. They depend on many factors and circumstances, both internal and external. The immediate effects of the mass uprising that Bangladesh is beginning to emerge from is but the ultimate protest against the vortex of state-sanctioned human rights violations over decades that has included killings, torture, disappearances, suppression of dissent, abuse of power and an overall reign of terror and impunity.

In an ideal scenario, every perpetrator of every human rights violation should be brought to justice. The ground reality is that this ideal could be quite hard to achieve, especially if it is aimed to be achieved within a reasonably short period of time. One only needs to go through the bottlenecks and challenges in the existing criminal justice

offence and prosecute every perpetrator accordingly; the interim government should also check the pulse of citizens to assess whether the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission would be acceptable or feasible as a forum and process of justice. There are well-known examples globally of similar such redressal mechanisms. Commissions set up, for example, in South Africa, Rwanda, Canada, or Australia, have helped to uncover the truth about human rights violations by gathering evidence and uncovering information—from both victims and perpetrators—on past crimes, to help heal the country and bring about a reconciliation of its people. These have focused on restorative rather than retributive justice as an outcome. If a similar mechanism can be considered for Bangladesh, national unity and intergenerational healing could be

Can our walls make space for our dissent?



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SARAH ANJUM BARI

The swearing-in of the interim government on August 8 opened a new chapter for us, one that is hopefully free of the angst, terror, and frustration that shaped the Bangladeshi experience this past decade. Take a walk through our streets, though, and you'll see remnants of a violent past on nearly every surface. I want to make space for these words in my article: "Why did our brothers and children have to die?" they ask. "Sheikh Hasina is a killer and a dictator," they say. "Don't let the vulture queen stop us," they say. I wonder if we're being too quick to erase these marks.

The walls of our streets have long been one of the truest aspects of our public existence. I instinctively think of Dhaka when I say this, because it is the city I call home, but the same can be said of walls across the country. You'll see election posters plastered over ads for English and Quran tutors, painted over warnings not to paste on those walls, smeared with spray-painted slang and declarations of love. If ever a metaphor existed for life in Bangladesh, it would be these walls, which represent the volume and chaos of thousands of people jostling for ever-shrinking space. They speak to how the assertions of empowered groups, and the complaints and desires of repressed classes and genders, layer onto each other, sometimes silencing each other.

The "smarter" Bangladesh became in recent years, the more digitally reliant our communication channels became. The more populated and developed we grew, the more corrupt and repressed we became. How easy it was for the former government to curb any expressions of dissent against power structures—which were nearly always linked to the government—with the Digital Security Act that came into effect in 2018. How easily we left behind the days in which artists could hold power accountable through satire, writers and publishers could print nuanced accounts of history, and journalists could actually do their job. Even complaining in social gatherings posed risks, lest the wrong person with the right affiliations hear you. These inbuilt systems of censorship have always applied most harshly to ethnic minorities, gender minorities, and working



Students want to move on from the violence but remember the sacrifices and courage through wall art.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

classes who are most strongly harassed by corruption, violence, and discrimination.

The dystopia of it all still blows my mind when I find myself describing it, even though we've lived it for so long. Through it all, nameless, faceless graffiti was perhaps the safest (and most satisfying) way to express rage at life in Bangladesh. The writing on our walls expresses some of the truest things we've felt.

Even then, the graffiti that came out of July's student protests ruptured through any semblance of fear or self-censorship that we might have practiced before. The cityscape

she will have to step down, that July is our month of mourning, and we will remember all the martyrs who were ruthlessly killed for demanding basic human rights. If some of these spray-painted messages contain lewd language and violent hate, that, too, is a never-before-seen reflection of exactly what Bangladeshis have been feeling: grief and absolute rage.

Amidst the internet blackout that silenced real-time dispatches, the sanitised curation of news on several TV channels, and the slowness of the print cycle that our

Recent news showed beautiful, vibrant artwork that many students are painting onto walls in Dhanmondi and the DU campus. These newer paintings present a distinctly different tone from the protest graffiti. The former comprised spray-painted scrawls—the spikes and messiness of the script, the anger and lewdness of their phrasing speak to the chaos, fear, and wrath felt by protesters while they were being persecuted by the police and the government. The graffiti being created now paints entire scenes on walls—blocks of defiant red, beaming yellow and blue, slogans

that call for a new, secular Bangladesh, others that memorialise the toppling of a "fascist" regime. They depict hope and initiative for the future.

I spoke to some (notably, not all) of the students volunteering for this, and it is their sentiment that the slogans of the protest should stay, but the profanities don't belong in areas where little kids and older parents can read them. Some of them want to move on from the violence but remember the courage and sacrifice that made it possible. Others want to take responsibility for undoing the hatred they imprinted onto public spaces, along the same veins as cleaning the streets on which the chaos of their protests took place. A few were careful to paint over pre-existing, politically disruptive or divisive messages, while painting *around* slogans that call for freedom and equality. All these impulses, their visions, deserve space.

Can we allow both these rhetorics to exist? The interim government has just sworn in, and we are yet to see what the ashes of this past month will rest into. Peace is still a distant promise: ethnic and religious minorities are being attacked, houses are being looted across neighbourhoods, law and order aren't fully operating yet.

In a video recording broadcasted on Thursday, Sajeeb Wajed Joy declared that Sheikh Hasina will come back to Bangladesh when we hold the next elections, and we don't yet know what that election will bring. Bangladesh is on shaky ground—with hope we call it transition, with trepidation we call it purgatory. The over 400 deaths, 10,000+ arrests, the communications blackouts and police shootings aren't yet a distant memory, they are very fresh wounds.

I believe that the courage and defiance that shaped the protests—which are spelled out in the protest graffiti—should stay in our environments still. How people felt while writing those words should be present still, for as long as we need to channel those feelings into motivation for a free, safe country for *all* its people. We need them at least until the problems they speak to have been addressed, and even after that, they should be preserved as reminders of a momentous, necessary revolution. In a museum (which, as we've seen, aren't invincible), relics of revolution become distant. On our streets, they stay on as signs of what a population is capable of.

If we are trying to build a Bangladesh where free speech prevails, a country that we can shape as we wish, its most nuanced version would be a collage and a palimpsest of angry, precocious, ambitious revolution coexisting with calls for peace and growth. That is Bangladesh's reality.

High rates of intimate partner violence among adolescent girls: A global concern

A staggering number of adolescent girls around the world are experiencing intimate partner violence, with nearly a quarter of those in relationships—close to 19 million—subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by the time they reach 20 years old. This alarming statistic comes from a new analysis by the World Health Organisation (WHO), published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*. The study also found that 16% of these girls experienced such violence in just the past year.

"Intimate partner violence is starting alarmingly early for millions of young women around the world," said Dr Pascale Allotey, Director of WHO's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research Department. This early onset of violence has severe health consequences, including injuries, depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections.

The study highlights that violence against adolescent girls is most prevalent in lower-income regions, such as Oceania (47%) and central sub-Saharan Africa (40%). Central Europe (10%) and central Asia (11%), in contrast, have lower rates. Factors like lower secondary school enrolment for girls, weaker legal property rights, and child marriage significantly increase the risk of violence.

To combat this issue, WHO emphasises the need for targeted support services and preventive measures tailored for adolescents. Strengthening girls' access to education, securing gender-equal property rights, and ending child marriage are critical steps towards reducing partner violence. WHO plans to release new guidelines on preventing child marriage by the end of 2024.



Essential tips for healthier, stronger hair

STAR HEALTH DESK

Achieving and maintaining healthy, strong hair often feels like a constant battle against damage and breakage. While there is no magic formula for perfect locks, adopting a thoughtful hair care routine can make a significant difference. From avoiding common pitfalls to embracing beneficial practices, here are 14 essential tips to help you nurture your hair and keep it looking its best.

1. Cool it down: Frequent use of heat styling tools like blow dryers and flat irons can weaken your hair. To prevent damage, always use a heat protectant spray, choose the coolest setting, and limit heat styling to a few times a week. Work quickly to minimise exposure.

2. Let wet hair be: Hair is most vulnerable when wet. Avoid brushing it while dripping wet to prevent breakage and damage. For straight hair, let it air-dry before gently combing with a wide-tooth comb. Curly or textured hair should be detangled with a wide-tooth comb while damp.

3. Take care with colour: Bleaching and other chemical treatments can weaken your hair. Opt for colours close to your natural shade to minimise damage, and always do a spot test with new dyes to avoid adverse reactions.

4. Meds can help or hurt: Minoxidil can help regrow hair, but you will need to use it consistently. Prescription medications like spironolactone and finasteride may also assist with hair loss. However, some medications might contribute to hair loss as a side effect. Consult your doctor for alternatives if needed.

5. Get a trim: Regular trims prevent split ends from travelling up the hair shaft and causing further damage. Aim for a trim of about 1/4 inch every 3 months to keep your ends healthy

without sacrificing growth.

6. Stress less: High stress levels can trigger hair loss and conditions like alopecia areata. Finding effective ways to manage stress, such as through relaxation techniques or counselling, can positively impact hair health.

7. Handle with care: Delicate hair, particularly in individuals with textured hair, needs extra care. Wash less frequently to avoid stripping natural oils, use gentle hair treatments, and avoid excessive chemical processing.

8. Take care with extensions and braids: Extensions and braids can offer



a temporary length boost but should not be worn for more than 2-3 months at a time. Avoid pulling them tightly to prevent scalp damage and hair breakage.

9. Get into condition(er): Conditioning helps strengthen and protect hair from damage. Apply conditioner every time you shampoo, focussing on the ends for finer hair or throughout for thicker textures.

10. Do not lose weight too fast: Rapid weight loss can lead to hair loss due to insufficient protein intake. Follow

a balanced diet to ensure your body has the nutrients needed for healthy hair growth.

11. Do not be deficient: Nutrient deficiencies can impact hair health. Ensure you are getting enough iron, vitamins B and D, zinc, omega-3 fatty acids, and biotin. Consult your doctor about supplements if necessary.

12. Sleep on satin: Switching to satin pillowcases or wearing a satin bonnet can reduce friction and prevent hair breakage, helping keep your hair smoother and healthier.

13. Give yourself a massage: Regular

scalp massages can stimulate blood circulation and potentially enhance hair growth. Use your fingers or a scalp massaging tool to gently massage your scalp for a few minutes each day.

14. Consider microneedling: Microneedling involves using a roller with tiny needles to create micro-injuries in the scalp, which can help improve hair growth when combined with treatments like minoxidil. Always consult with a dermatologist before starting microneedling to ensure it is safe and suitable for you.

Identifying and managing cholesterol problems: What you need to know

High cholesterol does not always make its presence known through obvious symptoms, but it can significantly increase your risk of serious health issues such as heart disease, stroke, and high blood pressure. Here is what to look out for and how you can take charge of your cholesterol levels.

Signs of cholesterol issues: While cholesterol problems themselves do not cause noticeable symptoms, they can lead to conditions that do. Watch for:

- **Soft, yellowish growths:** Known as xanthomas, these lesions on the skin may signal high cholesterol levels.
- **Health conditions:** Obesity and diabetes often accompany high cholesterol, indicating a need for a check-up.
- **Impotence:** In men, high cholesterol can affect artery health, potentially leading to erectile dysfunction.

Steps to manage your cholesterol:
1. **Understand your numbers:** Cholesterol is not just one figure.

Your lipid profile includes "bad" LDL cholesterol, "good" HDL cholesterol, and triglycerides. Regular blood tests can help you track these numbers and understand your risk.

2. **Get tested:** Even if you feel healthy, high cholesterol can lurk unnoticed. Starting at age 20, aim to undergo testing every 4-6 years. More frequent tests are necessary if you are overweight, diabetic, or have heart disease.

3. **Exercise regularly:** Physical activity is a powerful way to manage cholesterol. Aim for 30 minutes of brisk exercise, like walking or swimming, several times a week. Even short bursts of activity can be beneficial.

4. **Avoid smoking:** Smoking lowers HDL cholesterol and raises LDL cholesterol, worsening your cholesterol profile. Quitting can improve your cholesterol and overall heart health.

5. **Maintain a healthy weight:** Excess weight, especially around

the abdomen, can negatively affect cholesterol levels. Even a modest weight loss can make a significant difference.

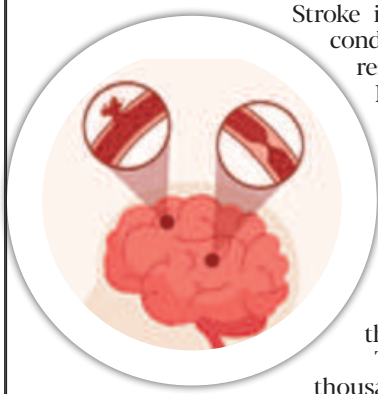
6. **Limit saturated fats:** Cut back on red meats, full-fat dairy, and tropical oils. Instead, opt for lean meats and low-fat dairy. Avoid trans fats found in many processed foods.

7. **Address underlying conditions:** Managing related health issues like diabetes and obesity can help improve cholesterol levels. Work with your doctor to treat these conditions effectively.

When to seek medical advice: Consult a doctor if you notice yellowish skin growths or if you experience symptoms like chest pain, dizziness, or slurred speech, which could be linked to high cholesterol.

Taking these steps can help you manage your cholesterol and reduce your risk of serious health problems. Stay proactive and work with your healthcare provider to keep your cholesterol in check.

Stroke survival: What the latest study reveals



Stroke is a serious health condition, and recent research from the Neurology journal sheds new light on how survival rates for two common types—

ischaemic stroke and intracerebral haemorrhage—

have changed over the past 30 years.

The study analysed

thousands of cases from

1993/1994 to 2015 and found

some hopeful news: the 5-year survival rate for ischaemic stroke, which happens when a blood clot blocks blood flow to the brain, improved from 53% to 48.3%. This suggests that advancements in treatment are making a difference. However, the outlook for intracerebral haemorrhage, a type of stroke caused by bleeding in the brain, remains less optimistic, with survival rates increasing from 64.4% to 69.2%.

This study underscores the importance of recognising stroke symptoms early and seeking prompt medical attention. If you have risk factors such as high blood pressure or diabetes, managing these conditions can significantly impact your stroke risk.

Prioritising elderly individuals for COVID-19 boosters

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the question of how best to allocate limited booster vaccine supplies remains critical. New research from the University of Oxford, published in *PLOS Computational Biology*, suggests that prioritising elderly individuals for booster shots is the most effective way to reduce deaths, regardless of a country's socioeconomic background or age distribution.

Despite widespread vaccination efforts, the



emergence of new variants and waning immunity have led to ongoing waves of COVID-19. This has left policymakers grappling with the decision of whether to target booster vaccines at older populations or to consider other strategies that might also reduce premature deaths.

The study, led by Dr Robin Thompson, used mathematical modelling to assess the impact of different vaccination strategies across various countries with diverse economic and demographic profiles. The findings were clear: prioritising the elderly consistently resulted in the lowest number of deaths and years of life lost, a measure that considers premature mortality among younger people.

The study concludes that older individuals, who are at significantly higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19, should be prioritised for booster vaccines when supplies are limited. This strategy was shown to be effective not only in high-income countries, where the population tends to be older, but also in lower- and middle-income countries, where younger populations are more prevalent.

Global call for enhanced pandemic research

In a pivotal move for global health security, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have emphasised the need for an expanded and accelerated approach to pandemic preparedness. Announced at the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, this new strategy underscores the importance of broadening research efforts to include entire families of pathogens rather than focussing solely on individual threats.

The WHO R&D Blueprint for Epidemics' latest report advocates for a shift in how we approach pandemic research. Instead of concentrating on pathogens with immediate perceived risks, the strategy calls for the use of prototype pathogens to develop a comprehensive understanding of entire pathogen families. This broader focus aims to create versatile tools and countermeasures that can be rapidly adapted to new and emerging threats. It also emphasises the need for enhanced surveillance to better understand pathogen transmission, infection mechanisms, and immune responses.

Dr Richard Hatchett, CEO of CEPI, highlighted the importance of this expanded research approach. He compared it to illuminating a dark area by studying prototype pathogens, which could reveal

unknown pathogens that might currently be overlooked. This strategy is particularly crucial for resource-scarce regions with high biodiversity, where novel pathogens may exist but remain under-researched.

The report is the result of collaboration among over 200 scientists from more than 50 countries. It evaluated 28 virus families and one core group of bacteria, encompassing 1,652 pathogens. Researchers assessed epidemic and pandemic risks based on factors such as transmission patterns, virulence, and the availability of diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatments.

To support this global effort, WHO is establishing Collaborative Open Research Consortia (CORCs) for each pathogen family. These CORCs will serve as research hubs, bringing together scientists, developers, funders, and regulators from around the world. The aim is to foster greater research collaboration and ensure equitable participation, particularly from regions where pathogens are likely to emerge.

This comprehensive approach seeks to strengthen global preparedness for future pandemics and enhance our ability to respond swiftly to unforeseen threats, ultimately aiming to protect global health more effectively.

Source: World Health Organisation

The hidden costs of excessive worrying!

Do you find yourself endlessly worrying about potential problems, convinced that your anxiety might somehow prevent them from happening? While this instinct to overthink can feel protective, excessive worrying can take a significant toll on both your mental and physical health. Understanding the effects of chronic worry and learning strategies to manage it can lead to a healthier, more balanced life.

What happens with excessive worrying? Worrying, at its core, is an unease or concern about potential issues. When this worry becomes excessive, it puts both your mind and body on high alert. Chronic worriers often experience intense anxiety and panic attacks, feeling a persistent sense of impending doom. Their heightened sensitivity can make them perceive everyday situations and interactions as threats, leading to even more anxiety.

This constant state of stress can disrupt your daily life, affecting your appetite, sleep, relationships, and job performance. Many individuals turn to unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as overeating, smoking, or substance use, to manage their anxiety. This reliance on harmful habits only exacerbates the problem, creating a vicious cycle of worry and stress.

Understanding anxiety: While a certain amount of anxiety is a normal response to stress and can even be beneficial—like motivating you to prepare for a job interview



or a test—excessive anxiety crosses into harmful territory. Anxiety disorders, such as generalised anxiety disorder, panic disorder, and social anxiety disorder, affect nearly 40 million adults in the U.S. These disorders can make everyday stressors seem overwhelming, causing significant distress and disability.

The physical impact of excessive worry: Chronic worry activates the body's stress response, triggering the "fight or flight" reaction. This response releases stress hormones like cortisol, which can lead to various physical symptoms, including, difficulty swallowing, dizziness, dry mouth, rapid heartbeat, muscle tension and aches, headaches, fatigue, shortness of breath, etc.

When the body remains in this heightened state for prolonged periods, it can lead to

more severe health issues such as immune system suppression, digestive problems, and even heart disease. If left untreated, excessive worrying can contribute to depression and suicidal thoughts.

Managing excessive worrying: Fortunately, there are several strategies to help manage excessive worrying and reduce its impact on your health:

1. **Talk to your doctor:** Begin with a medical check-up to rule out other health issues. Your doctor might suggest medications to help manage anxiety.

2. **Exercise regularly:** Physical activity can enhance your mood and help your body handle stress more effectively. Aim for regular aerobic and strength-training exercises.

3. **Maintain a balanced diet:** Avoid emotional eating and focus on a nutritious diet to support overall health.

4. **Limit caffeine:** Excessive caffeine can heighten anxiety, so consume it in moderation.

5. **Practice relaxation techniques:** Techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, and yoga can help calm your mind and reduce stress.

6. **Seek professional help:** Therapy can provide strategies to cope with anxiety and address underlying issues.

By integrating these practices into your routine, you can break free from the cycle of excessive worrying and cultivate a more peaceful, healthier lifestyle.

Tigers leave for Pakistan tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has decided to prepone the men's national team's scheduled flight to Pakistan as the team will now leave for the country tomorrow instead of August 17.

The decision was made after the BCB failed to properly hold the final phase of the Tigers' training session ahead as the foreign coaching staff expressed their reluctance to join practice in Mirpur amidst the current situation of the country.

"That [getting full team together] is the main reason we are travelling to Pakistan much earlier than scheduled time," a member of the selection panel told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Going there few days ahead will also give us a chance to adjust to the conditions. We have also received a positive response from the Pakistan board," he added.

Meanwhile, a BCB source confirmed that the board has booked 18 tickets for players and coaching staff, who will leave for the two-match Test series on Monday at 4:00pm.

A few members of the probable Test squad, including Mushfiqur Rahim and Mominul Haque, have already reached Islamabad with Bangladesh 'A' team for two four-day game against Pakistan 'A' team.

The BCB is expected to announce the national team squad for the Test series today.

France 'happy' and 'united' in Olympics joy

AFP, Paris

Paris Olympics organisers celebrated the country being "united" and "happy" during the widely hailed two-week sports extravaganza amid doubts about how long the feel good mood will last.

"France has shown itself to the world in a very, very good mindset: confident, united, warm, welcoming," head of the Paris 2024 organising committee Tony Estanguet told reporters on Saturday, the penultimate day of the Games.

Estanguet repeatedly voiced his "pride" at organising what he had promised would be an iconic Olympics, which have seen record ticket sales and packed fanzones around the country.

He added: "We've seen a happy France, happy French people, and you shouldn't underestimate that in terms of the legacy of these Games," he added.

Estanguet said the weather had been his biggest cause for concern, while the run-up to the start also saw a global IT outage and an attack on the French railways.

"The weather in the final phase was our main difficulty," said Estanguet.

Heavy rains washed out the opening ceremony on the River Seine – the first times a Games had begun outside the main stadium – while other events had to be postponed because of storms in the first week.

Apart from these, French church leaders and conservatives were left outraged by a scene in the ceremony involving drag queens and lesbian DJ Barbara Butch that appeared to parody Jesus's Last Supper.

Artistic director Thomas Jolly denied any such intention. He and others involved ended up facing online harassment that led to police complaints.



Netherlands women's hockey players pose with their gold medals after beating China 3-1 in penalty shootout following a 1-1 draw in regulation time in the final of the Paris Olympics at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in Colombes on Friday. It was double delight for the Dutch, who saw their men's team clinch gold after beating Germany in another penalty shootout on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Khelif answers 'fierce campaign' with gold

REUTERS, Paris

Algeria's Imane Khelif, the female boxer thrust into the centre of a gender dispute at the Paris Games, made a statement on her womanhood after beating China's Yang Liu to take the welterweight Olympic gold medal, sending her newfound devotees into delirium on Friday.

Khelif, silver medallist at the 2022 World Championships, and Taiwan boxer Lin Yu-ting have been in the spotlight as part of a gender dispute in Paris that has dominated headlines and been the subject of much discussion on social media platforms.

Khelif is the first Algerian woman to earn an Olympic boxing title and the first boxer from her country to claim gold since Hocine Soltani at Atlanta 1996.

"This is my dream. Eight years, my dream. I'm Olympic champion, gold medallist. I'm very happy. Eight years, I work," Khelif, 25, said.

"Eight years, no sleep. Eight years, tired. Now I'm Olympic champion. I'm very happy. I want to thank all the people who have come to support me. People, Algeria, and all the people, Paris.

"This gold medal is the best answer to the fierce campaign against me."

Her defeated opponent Yang



said: "I'm happy for her. I respect everybody and I will even learn from her (boxing wise)."

Janjaem Suwannapheng of Thailand and Taiwan's Chen Nien-chin were awarded bronze.

Khelif and double world champion Lin were disqualified by the International Boxing Association (IBA) from the 2023 World Championships, with the body saying at a press conference during the Paris Games that a gender test had ruled them ineligible.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is using boxing eligibility rules in Paris that were applied at the 2016 and 2021 Olympics and which do not include gender testing.

The volume went up several notches to ear-splitting level when

Khelif entered the arena on Friday in her red trunks and shirt for the last bout on a suffocating Parisian evening, the only breeze coming from the hundreds of flags being waved.

"Imane, Imane, Imane!" the crowd chanted and screamed.

Following yet another straightforward victory, the crowd cheered as Khelif's corner carried her on their shoulders to the end of the stadium.

Khelif's win even sparked wild celebrations back in her poor, rural hometown Biban Mesbah in Algeria, with her father, Omar Khelif, claiming his daughter's triumph as 'Algeria's victory' and crowds invading the city centre of the capital Algiers to celebrate the victory with fireworks and a chorus of car horns.

Tipu doubts progress despite leadership change calls

SPORTS REPORTER

Although there is a growing sentiment for change within the country's sports community following the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina amidst widespread student protests, former Bangladesh football captain and coach Golam Sarwar Tipu believes that merely changing leadership won't lead to any real progress in the nation's sports.

Since the Awami League government came to power in 2009, most sports federations have been led by organisers affiliated with the party, sidelining those with differing views. After the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government, many organisers – particularly those who had been marginalized and denied opportunities for the past 15 years – have called for new leadership in various sports federations.

Despite this, Tipu remains pessimistic about the future of sports in Bangladesh.



"No change in leadership will bring any real change to Bangladesh's sports because we are a nation of betrayers and immoral people. Two days later, they will call for another change," Tipu told The Daily Star on Tuesday. "Unless we change our mentality and become more humane, this shift in leadership will not bring any real change to the sports community."

"One person will leave, and another will take their place at the helm of different federations... Those who are now vocal are well-known because we've seen them in the past. It would be different if these changes happened naturally, but change by seizing an opportunity is another matter. I don't know if this will bring any real improvement," Tipu reiterated.

The former national defender emphasised the need for changes in sports infrastructure, budgeting, and the election processes of various federations if Bangladesh truly wants to see its sports progress.

"If there are free and fair elections in sports, some changes may come, as organisers will be motivated to work or develop their respective disciplines in order to be re-elected," remarked Tipu, adding that the sports budget is insufficient to drive evolution.

"I've heard for a long time that Bangladesh participates in the Olympics to gain experience, and this goes on; whereas India has been winning medals in various disciplines at the Olympics for the last four editions."

Tipu also addressed the inadequate facilities in football, reflecting a lack of proper planning and concern from the relevant authorities.

"Renovation work at Bangabandhu National Stadium has been ongoing for the last three years, with no urgency or accountability to complete it. The football federation has to search for venues to hold competitions."

"The women footballers have been practicing on artificial turf, which causes muscle damage. But how can the authorities understand the need for natural grounds for these young girls? So, I don't see any change coming," he concluded.

TODAY'S GOLD RUSH

ATHLETICS

Women's Marathon
12:00 PM

WEIGHTLIFTING

Women's +81 kg

WRESTLING

Men's Freestyle 65 kg
4:20 PM

Men's Freestyle 97 kg
4:50 PM

Women's Freestyle 76 kg
5:20 PM

MODERN PENTATHLON

Women's Individual, Laser Run
4:40 PM

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

USA vs Italy
5:00 PM

CYCLING TRACK

Women's Sprint
5:44 PM

Men's Keirin
5:32 PM

MEN'S HANDBALL

Germany vs Denmark
5:30 PM

MEN'S WATER POLO

Serbia vs Croatia
6:00 PM

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

France vs USA
7:30 PM

Spain cherish 'unbeatable summer'

AFP, Paris

Spain star Fermin Lopez described his summer as "unbeatable" after he starred on their run to Olympic football gold having also played a part in their triumph at Euro 2024.

"We have had a great tournament. We deserved this and I am really proud of the team," said the 21-year-old Barcelona midfielder after scoring twice in a classic Olympic final on Friday, in which Spain beat France 5-3 following extra time at the Parc des Princes.

"The truth is that this summer has been unbeatable. I am so proud and really happy with everything I have experienced."

Lopez was included in Spain's squad for the European Championship in Germany after an outstanding breakthrough season with his club.

He made one appearance for Luis de la Fuente's team at the Euros, in which Spain beat England 2-1 in the final in Berlin.

Lopez then joined up with Santi Denia's Olympic squad, in which he was the outstanding performer with six goals, including five from the

quarterfinals onwards.

Only Morocco's Soufiane Rahimi, with eight, finished the tournament with more goals.

Lopez scored twice and Alex Baena, another member of Spain's Euro squad, added a free-kick as their team came from behind to lead 3-1 at half-time in Friday's final.

France fought back to level at 3-3 and force extra time, in which Sergio Camello scored twice to seal victory for Spain, and their first Olympic men's football gold since 1992.

"We found ourselves in a difficult position on two separate occasions but the team fought so hard. I think we have a great team, a great family and you could see that on the field," added Lopez.

"The European Championship and Olympics are the first two titles I have won and I am so happy."

Barcelona kick off their season next weekend but, having been away on international duty for more than two months, Lopez admits he needs a short break.

"I always want to play, but a little week's holiday won't do anyone any harm. But just a week, and then I'll be back."



Lisa Carrington reacts after winning the women's kayak single 500m final in the canoe sprint competition at Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium during the Paris Olympics yesterday. With her third gold medal in Paris, she has become New Zealand's most decorated Olympian, now holding a total of eight gold medals.

PHOTO: AFP





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All cases filed to quell protests will be withdrawn

Law ministry decides, sets up hotline for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has said it would withdraw all cases filed with the intention of suppressing the recent mass uprising of students and the people, which resulted in the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government last week.

The decision was made during a meeting between law adviser Prof Asif Nazrul and law ministry officials at the ministry's conference room yesterday, according to a press statement.

The ministry has decided to take steps within three working days to withdraw all the cases filed between July 1 and August 5 against innocent protesters.

Arrangements will be made within the next three working days to release juveniles from correctional facilities who were arrested in cases filed to harass them.

Additionally, through the Law and Justice Division's hotline number, 16430, the ministry will offer support to those who have been the victims of false cases.

During the meeting, the ministry also decided to swiftly hold trials against those involved in the killings during the protests.

The ministry said it would also take steps to withdraw the cases filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Cyber Security Act.

Members of law enforcement and the paramilitary force had opened

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Members of the Hindu community, under several banners, gathered at the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday to protest the recent attacks on minority communities since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ATTACKS ON HINDUS Protests go on across country

STAR REPORT

Members of the Hindu community and others yesterday took to the streets in the capital and at least seven other districts to protest the attacks on their houses, shops and temples since the fall of the Awami League government.

In Dhaka, they blocked the Shahbagh intersection for the second consecutive day to press for an eight-point demand, including the formation of a minority protection commission.

Other demands include the formation of a separate ministry for minorities; the enactment and strict enforcement of laws to prevent all forms of attacks; and allocation of 10 percent of parliamentary seats for them.

The agitators began gathering at the intersection around 3:00pm and kept it

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Khaleda will run in polls if able

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has said party chief Khaleda Zia will run in the polls if she is fit.

"If she's physically fit, she will definitely contest the election," he told NDTV in an interview yesterday.

"She's very sick. She's in the hospital. She's suffering from multidisciplinary diseases. Her treatment was not going well in this country and we requested the judiciary as well as the government several times to send her abroad, but that didn't happen... Doctors say she's not fit to travel right now and we will have to wait for some time before taking her outside the country," he said.

The BNP leader said while his party is ready for polls at any point, the interim government would need more time to conduct them.

"The entire election machinery has become totally polluted and they are not in a position to hold a free-and-fair election. So, they will have to bring some reforms to the election system as well."

The BNP leader also said he believes that the Bangladesh army will not interfere in the political process going forward and also claimed that no extremist elements were involved in the protests.



Police not on the ground

Guarded by army, ansar personnel, cops in casuals perform office work in most stations

STAR REPORT

Five days after an uprising toppled the Sheikh Hasina administration, police have not yet resumed their work to ensure public security.

Officials who reported for duty in their stations, with the assistance of the army, have limited their work.

Some police stations are only recording general diaries and handling internal tasks, while others remain deserted with the policemen leaving after just marking their attendance.

"We're reporting to our stations but not going to the field out of fear of violent reprisals from the public as many of our colleagues had opened fire indiscriminately to kill protesters during the uprising," said an inspector who preferred anonymity.

Amid this situation, the Police Headquarters yesterday issued directives to form civic committees and resume police work at the stations to maintain law and order.

Yesterday, 538 out of 639 police stations in the country partially resumed operations with the assistance of the armed forces and Border Guard Bangladesh, according to the PHQ.

However, they refrained from patrolling the streets or managing traffic.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, over a dozen police personnel cited this absence of the law enforcers as a key factor behind plunderers targeting the public, especially members of minority communities.

This correspondent visited Kafrul, Shah Ali, Pallabi and Bhasantek police stations in Dhaka yesterday. Several police personnel were found in Shah Ali, where no general diary (GD) was filed in the past two days.

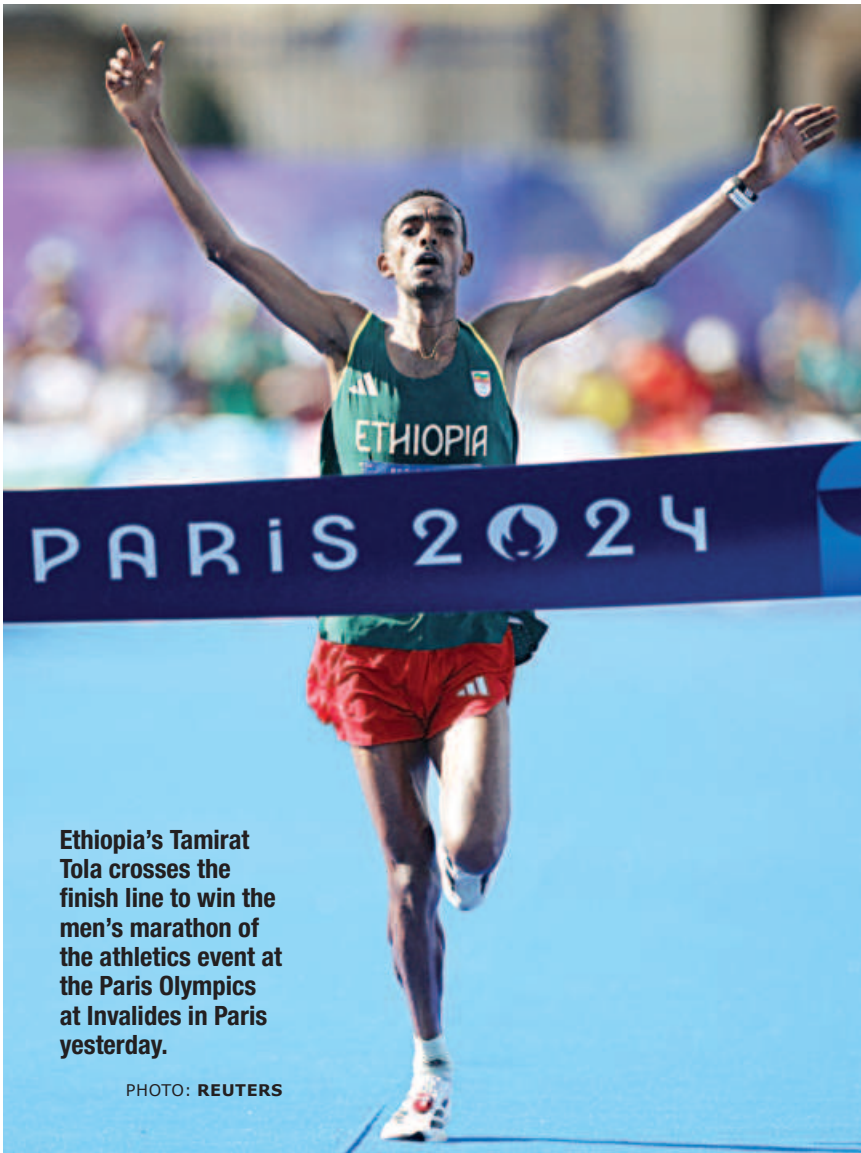
"We're living in fear. Our families don't even want us to leave the house. But I still come to the police station because I'm a government service holder," said a sub inspector of the station.

The SI suggested that police high-ups

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"We're reporting to our stations but not going to the field out of fear of violent reprisals from the public as many of our colleagues had opened fire indiscriminately to kill protesters during the uprising."

An inspector



Ethiopia's Tamirat Tola crosses the finish line to win the men's marathon of the athletics event at the Paris Olympics at Invalides in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BNP expels 44, cites role in violence, other reasons

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP and its associated organisations have taken strict action against some of their party men for their involvement in the recent violence and violation of organisational discipline.

Over the last five days, at least 44 leaders and activists from 17 districts have been expelled. Of them, 27 are from Jubo Dal, 10 from Chhatra Dal, six from BNP, and one from Swechhasebak Dal.

Additionally, show-cause notices have been served on at least 42 leaders and activists of the BNP and its associated bodies in three districts.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Chhatra Dal General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir stressed the need for maintaining discipline within the student organisation.

"After the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government, some Chhatra Dal leaders and activists got involved in a few isolated incidents.

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Withdrawal of cash from banks capped at Tk 2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday ordered commercial banks not to allow cash withdrawal of more than Tk 2 lakh per customer this week because of a lack of security, a senior official of the central bank said.

It also instructed the banks to monitor cheque transactions and block any suspicious transfer of funds.

"Due to security problems of transporting cash to the bank branches, please do not allow withdrawals of cash more than 2 lakh in the upcoming week," the Bangladesh Bank said in a letter to the banks.

The directive comes as the law and order situation remains unpredictable since police have not resumed work following deadly attacks and clashes during the uprising that led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

The BB asked the banks, if possible, to stop disbursing cash among branches amid the weak security.

Smallest human species were even smaller than thought: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Homo floresiensis, a species of humans dubbed "Hobbits" for their short stature, were even smaller than previously thought, a new fossil study has revealed.



The species, related to modern humans, was first discovered in 2003 at the Liang Bua cave on Indonesia's island of Flores, after which they are named.

Archaeologists found that the small-brained people lived on the island as recently as 50,000 years ago, when our own species, Homo sapiens, was already long established in Australia to the south.

Initial fossils suggested that individuals of the species grew up to about three feet six inches tall with small brains and large teeth for their tiny size. The origin of the species remained a mystery, however, due to the rarity of their fossils.

It was initially believed that Homo floresiensis was a dwarfed descendant of the early Asian populations of human ancestor species Homo erectus.

Some researchers speculated that the "Hobbits of Flores" were a late-surviving remnant of a more ancient small-statured human ancestor species from Africa predating even Homo erectus.



বাংলাদেশ-এর অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকারের
প্রধান উপদেষ্টা
বিশ্ব বরেন্দ্র অর্থনীতিবিদ ও শান্তিতে নোবেল বিজয়ী
ড. মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস
সহ অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকারের উপদেষ্টা মডলীকে
পারটেক্স পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে জানাই আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা।

পারটেক্স পরিবার বিশ্বাস করে আপনার প্রজ্ঞা, দূরদর্শিতা এবং যোগ্য নেতৃত্বে এক আধুনিক ও
সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশের ভিত্তি প্রতিষ্ঠিত হবে, রচিত হবে এক নতুন ইতিহাস।

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