

# 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

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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

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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.

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

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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 Kadmatali thana unit has been expelled while six other leaders have been served with show-cause notices.

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.

## Ensure journalists' safety

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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

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.

## Interim govt to stay as long as needed

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"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