

## DMP appoints new OCs to 13 police stations

STAR REPORT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has appointed new officers-in-charge at 13 police stations in the capital.

DMP Commissioner Md Mainul Hasan made the appointments in two separate orders on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The police stations are Dakshinkhan, Pallabi, Gulshan, Vatar, Khilkhet, Ramna, Paltan, Badda, Airport, Mirpur Model, Tejaon, Dhanmondi, and Uttara West.

On Tuesday, Muhammad Azharul Islam was appointed as OC of Shahbagh Police Station in an order, but the appointment was later cancelled on Wednesday.

Earlier, on August 12, the Police Headquarters in an order transferred 18 OCs of DMP to different police units outside Dhaka. Then again on August 18, PHQ in another order transferred 32 OCs of DMP to different police units outside Dhaka.

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## No bar to publish Tarique's statements

Says HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for print, electronic and social media to publish and broadcast BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman's statements.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Khairul Alam passed the order, scrapping its previous orders that banned publishing and broadcasting Tarique Rahman's statements in the media, and also lifted a rule issued in 2015 to this effect.

The HC bench's order came a day after writ petitioner and Supreme Court lawyer Nashreen Siddiqua Lina submitted an application before it saying that she would no longer run the petition upon which the HC issued the rule and ad-interim orders at different times.

"All the ad-interim orders passed in connection with the writ petition are hereby recalled (withdrawn) and vacated and the rule is discharged," the bench said.

Barrister Kayser Kamal appeared for Tarique Rahman during the court's proceedings yesterday.

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## Refusal to renew Odhikar's reg illegal: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled in favour of human rights organisation "Odhikar," allowing it to seek renewal of its registration and receive foreign donations.

The court declared the government's previous decision not to renew Odhikar's registration as illegal.

Odhikar, established in 1994, has been instrumental in documenting cases of enforced disappearances and supporting victims' families. The organisation had applied multiple times since 2014 to the NGO Affairs Bureau for registration renewal but was repeatedly denied.

In response, Odhikar filed a writ petition with the High Court in 2022, challenging the Bureau's inaction.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Sashanka Shekhar Sarkar

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Over 500 patients, all of whom were injured during the recent mass uprising, are currently receiving treatment in government and private hospitals according to DGHS. Some are students, others blue-collar workers many of whom have lost their eyesight and even their limbs. The photo was taken at DMCH recently.

PHOTO: STAR

# Shot during protests, they now stare at a bleak future

### Medical bills burden families of injured

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and AHMED DEEPTO

Asif Mahmud, a first-year electrical engineering student at Faridpur Polytechnic Institute, will probably never see the world through his own eyes again.

The 19-year-old's eyes were injured by shotgun pellets on July 18, during the anti-discrimination student movement in Narsingdi. On that day, his right eye was fully damaged, while the left one was in a critical condition.

Desperate to restore his eyesight, his family took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, National Institute of Ophthalmology & Hospital (NIOH), and Bangladesh Eye Hospital.

They spent around Tk 1.5 lakh, but in vain, with doctors still unable to tell whether Asif would ever be able to see again.

Just two days back, on Wednesday, he was released from Bangladesh Eye Hospital and returned home. Now, his family wants to take him to India for better treatment, but bearing the cost has become an immense challenge for them.

Like Asif, family members of numerous others who were injured during recent protests are concerned about bearing treatment costs.

The Daily Star visited three hospitals



— DMCH, NIOH, and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) — in the capital in the last three days and spoke to 27 such families.

While many are struggling to cover the costs of treatment, others are taking loans to bear expenses.

Although treatment and medication at these three hospitals are free, they had to spend a significant amount of money on ambulances and other miscellaneous expenses.

According to Directorate General of Health Services, over 500 patients are currently receiving treatment in government and private hospitals.

Almost all the admitted patients are from low-income families. Some are students, others are from blue-collar working backgrounds, and some are the sole breadwinners from their families.

The interim government on Saturday decided to provide free treatment to those who were injured during the recent protests.

However, while hospital authorities provide certain medicines for free, many other medicines have to be bought from outside, said several family members of the injured.

Doctors also said that many patients need long-term treatment, as they were injured severely.

For instance, take the case of auto-rickshaw driver Shajib Khan. The 28-year-old who is the sole breadwinner of a four-member family, was shot in the right arm on July 19 in Badda. He also suffered wounds from shotgun pellets. Currently, he is admitted to Nitor.

Shajib had to undergo three surgeries, which have left his family with a huge financial burden.

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## Students protest blaming India for flash floods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from several public universities yesterday staged demonstrations, rallies, and torch processions blaming India for the current flash floods in Bangladesh.

They also demanded fair water-sharing agreements with India.

They said the opening of the Dumbur dam upstream of the Gumti river in Tripura is the reason behind the sudden floods.

The universities include Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Islamic University, Barisal University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Begum Rokeya University, Jashore University of Science and Technology, and Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology, among others.

Meanwhile, India yesterday refuted claims of causing floods in Bangladesh.

The flood situation in eastern Bangladesh has not been caused by the release of waters from an Indian dam on the Gumti river in Tripura, said India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In DU, students of several educational institutions held a torch procession from the TSC around 7:00pm and marched through various roads on the campus.

During the procession, the students chanted slogans directed at India, including "Bharatiya agrashon rukhe darqao jonogon (People, stand against Indian aggression)", alongside other slogans.

In JU, a few hundred students, alongside some teachers, organised a torch procession under the banner of Anti-

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## Farzana Rupa, Shakil on 4-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former head of news at Ekattor Television Shakil Ahmed and its principal correspondent Farzana Rupa on four-day remand in a murder case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ahmed Humayun Kabir passed the order after investigation officer Mohaiminur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Uttara East Police Station, produced the journalist couple before the court with a 10-remand prayer.

Md Abu Nowsher, a sub-inspector working in the court, confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Earlier, the defence lawyer sought bail for the accused. He also sought the cancellation of the remand prayer.

The duo were arrested at Dhaka airport on

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## UN rep stresses journo's safety

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The safety and wellbeing of journalists anywhere in the world is of critical importance, especially for any country like Bangladesh that is going through a transition, said UN Secretary-General's Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric yesterday.

"It is important that journalists be allowed to do their work and that those who commit violence against journalists be held to account," he said in a briefing in New York.

Dujarric's comment came while he was responding to a query on the attacks on East West Media Group, owned by the Bashundhara Group, in Dhaka.

The journalist asked Dujarric for comment, mentioning that journalists are suffering from insecurity since newspaper offices of East West Media Group were attacked and vandalised on Monday afternoon, because the criminals involved

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## LATHITILA RESERVE FOREST Govt to reassess controversial Safari Park project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Despite serious concerns from experts and activists over endangering the pristine biodiversity of Lathitila Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in November last year approved a project to build a safari park there.

The project was named 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Moulvibazar (1st Phase)'.

However, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the interim government has decided to scrutinise the plan to build the safari park and formed a four-member committee on Wednesday to assess the impact of the project on the reserve forest's biodiversity.

The committee, headed by former chief conservator of forests Istiaq Uddin Ahmed, will submit its recommendations after assessment.

Other members of the committee are: Dr Mohammed Mostafa Feeroz, professor of Zoology of Jahangirnagar University; Farid Uddin Ahmed, former executive director of Arannayk Foundation; and Imran Ahmed, conservator of forests of the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Circle of the Forest Department.

Lathitila is a 5,141-acre, mostly hilly forest beat of Juri Forest Range under Patharia Hill Reserve. The transboundary forest is linked to the vast forestland of India and has been a reserved forest since 1920 under the Forest Act.

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Amid ongoing inflation, a large crowd gathers in front of this open market sale to purchase essential commodities at reduced prices. Each person is allowed to buy only five kilograms of rice and flour each at a time. The photo was taken on the Abdul Gani road in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS