



Sea of relief supplies fills DU campus

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Regain the land and regain its soul too

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High-carb foods that are actually healthy

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'Hamza will be a great addition'

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Millions cut off without food, power

Situation dire in Feni, Noakhali, Cumilla; many flood shelters overcrowded

MD ABBAS and ANWARUL HAIDER

Millions of people were still left without electricity and any means of communication, and relief materials had not reached many remote areas where families were stranded in flooded villages for days.

Even the shelters opened by the government in the affected districts have become overcrowded yesterday, locals said.

The situation was particularly dire in Feni, Noakhali and Cumilla where relief materials had not reached many remote areas.

Five upazilas of Feni still remained inaccessible by road yesterday even as the waters were receding.

Family members could not reach each other over the phone as almost every cell phone tower in the district was offline.

"We only had time to go to the roof of a neighbour's house. The water gushed in very fast. The walls of the corrugated iron sheet of our hut fell apart within a short time. Soon, the water was as high as the tin roof of our house."

Aleya Begum of Chhagalnaiya, Feni.

Locals said there were severe crises of drinking water and food in many areas of the district.

"Our house was submerged. We only had time to go to the roof of a neighbour's house. The water gushed in very fast. The walls of the corrugated iron sheet of our hut fell apart within a short time. Soon, the water was as high as the tin roof of our house," said 45-year-old Aleya Begum, a resident of Khopal area of Chhagalnaiya upazila.

She, her 70-year-old mother-in-law Saleha Begum, and six others of the area had spent three days on the roof of their neighbour's one-storey building.

Saleha said, "I have never fought such a battle with water. I thought I was dying. We cannot contact anyone. My husband and sons had not returned home. We survived only on some dry food and little drinking water."

Officials said three people drowned in the flood-affected districts yesterday, taking the toll from the floods to 18.

According to a statement from the chief adviser's office, almost 9.8 lakh people were marooned in 11 districts. They were in desperate need of drinking water, oral saline, and food.

About 50.94 lakh people in 77 upazilas of 12 districts have been affected by the floods so far.

Over 3 lakh people took shelter at the 3,513 shelters opened by the government.

As the downpour stopped, the situation improved in Cumilla, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Laxmipur, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Khagrachhari, Rangamati, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar, said the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

However, more areas were flooded in Senbagh upazila

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Riding a rickshaw van, a family negotiates a flooded road near Feni Girls' Cadet College on their way to a shelter in Feni town yesterday. In the distance, other flood victims are also seen moving to safety. Top right, an army boat carries people to a shelter. Bottom right, a section of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway submerged in floodwaters in Feni's Lalpol area.

PHOTO: NAHID MAZHAR, NAIMUR RAHMAN

Flood causes 50km jam on Dhaka-Ctg highway

People stranded for days now worry about robberies too

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

The economic lifeline of the country, the Dhaka-Chattogram highway, remains flooded in Feni.

Police and highway officials have reported that the flooding of around five to six kilometres of the highway in Feni's Lalpol area caused a nearly 50km tailback.

Passengers and cargo vehicles have been stranded for days. Those rushing to Feni and Chattogram's Mirsarai to help the flood affected people with relief materials are also facing difficulties.

Many drivers told this correspondent that they have been stuck in Feni for the last three days.

Khairul Islam, Superintendent of Highway Police Cumilla Region, told The Daily Star over phone, "Due to floodwater on the highway, vehicles have remained stranded for the last three days. The

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Star INTERVIEW

Reshuffle of officials for ensuring reforms

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul tells Star, says efforts on for withdrawing false cases

GOLAM MORTOZA

The interim government aims to reform the administration in order to make it people-oriented, inclusive, transparent, and accountable, says Law Adviser Asif Nazrul.

"Reforms involve more than just appointing qualified individuals. Competent people are being placed in positions to ensure that no one can obstruct the reform process. Reforms signify a shift towards a more people-oriented, inclusive, transparent, and accountable administration. We must make that happen," he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

Before the reforms, the administration, the judiciary and the police must get rid of those who helped an autocratic government sustain for

over one and a half decades, he said, replying to a query on the massive reshuffle in different tiers of the administration and other bodies.

"Is it possible to bring reforms keeping in place the people committing extrajudicial killings? Is it possible to reform the police administration with Harun [Harunor Rashid, former chief of DMP's DB] still in the force? These people should be replaced by honest and competent ones," Asif said.

After bringing in these people, he said, reforms will be done in the institutions, laws and policies. Efforts were already made to withdraw false cases filed over the killings during the uprising in July and early August. "Now we will try to change the policy and laws

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Immediately unveil roadmap for elections

Fakhrul asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged the interim government to place immediately a roadmap to the next general election.

He also called for an urgent dialogue on the national polls between the new government headed by Professor Muhammad Yunus and the political parties.

Fakhrul made the call at a discussion organised by the Bhasani Anusari Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka to mark the ninth death anniversary of former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

"We have a lot of expectations from the interim government. We think they will hold the elections within a reasonable time," he said, voicing the party's confidence in the Yunus-led government. "But [election] must be done within a specific, limited and reasonable time."

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Hasina, 7 journos sued for murder

BJC concerned over arrest of newpersons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A murder case has been filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 192 others, including seven journalists, over the death of a student during protests in Dhaka's Jatrabari on July 19.

The journalists are Mozammel Haque Babu, managing director and editor-in-chief of Ekattor TV; Syed Ishtiaque Reza, former chief news editor (CNE) of Ekattor TV; Ahmed Jobaer, a director of Somoy TV; Munni Saha, former CNE of ATN News; Farzana Rupa, former principal correspondent of Ekattor TV; Shakil Ahmed, former head of news at Ekattor TV; and Nayeemul Islam Khan, Hasina's press secretary.

Among them, couple Shakil and Farzana are on remand for four days

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Vehicles are caught in a long tailback on and under the Babubazar Bridge in Old Dhaka's Nayabazar area, causing suffering to the road users. The photo was taken around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

EAVESDROPPING TECH Release white paper on its use against dissent

Civil society members urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members yesterday called upon the government to publish a white paper on the recent use of software and technology to suppress dissent and civil rights in the country.

They made the call at a dialogue organised by Civil Reform Group Bangladesh 2.0 at the capital's BASIS auditorium.

Speakers at the event highlighted that thousands of crores of taka was spent on purchasing advanced software and technology from Israel and some other countries over the past decade.

Citizens have the right to know about those technologies and their applications, they observed.

Although the authorities claimed to have bought those expensive technologies for national security, those have mainly been used for political purposes to stifle dissent, the speakers said.

The dialogue titled "Surveillance, the Right to Privacy,

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Chief Adviser to the interim government Dr Muhammad Yunus meets leaders from various NGOs to discuss the recent flood situation in the country. The meeting took place at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PIB

DEALING WITH FLOOD

Chief adviser calls for utilising NGOs expertise

UNB, Dhaka

Interim government Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday emphasised utilising local knowledge and NGO expertise to efficiently manage the flood situation and post-flood activities.

"NGOs are a power of Bangladesh. We need to materialise the dream of the youth. We can do that. We need to tackle the flood together in a coordinated way," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam quoted Prof Yunus as saying.

Alam briefed reporters at state guesthouse Jamuna following a meeting between Prof Yunus and NGO representatives.

The meeting, which lasted about two hours, included NGOs collaborating with the government to address the ongoing flood crisis. Around 44 NGOs, including small and community-level organisations, were invited.

The press secretary said the meeting stressed the importance of coordination among all partners and discussed strategies for conducting rehabilitation and relief distribution efforts in a unified manner.

"We are impressed by how people have engaged with the same spirit we saw during the student movement," Alam quoted Prof Yunus, also noting the remarkable relief distribution efforts at TSC, Dhaka.

The discussion also touched on post-flood challenges, including restoring telecom connectivity and electricity supply. Alam highlighted the vital role NGOs have consistently played in Bangladesh's development, dating back to 1971.

Adviser Ali Imam Majumder, SDG Coordinator Lamiya Morshed, economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam, Executive Director of Campaign for Popular Education Rasheda K Choudhury, ActionAid Bangladesh chief Farah Kabir, and Brac Executive Director Asif Saleh were among those present. In response to a question from UNB, Asif Saleh stressed the need for mobilising international funds to address the flood situation.

FLASH FLOOD

290 medical teams deployed in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chattogram Civil Surgeon yesterday said they have formed 290 medical teams to combat the flood situation.

"Our medical teams are ready to combat any situation in the aftermath of flood," said Dr Ilias Chowdhury, Chattogram civil surgeon.

People stranded in different upazilas - including Fatikchhari, Hathazari, Rangunia and Razoan in Chattogram district - urgently need purified water, as almost all the tube wells and other sources of drinking water have been submerged.

Although flood water started receding in several areas after rainfall stopped

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Student volunteers stocking, sorting and packaging relief materials inside TSC complex of DU for the third day in a row, to be sent to flood affected victims across the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

FROM TSC to flood zones

Sea of relief supplies fills DU campus

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Sacks and sacks of relief materials are being lined up inside the TSC complex of Dhaka University. They are then sorted, packaged and loaded on trucks, to be carried to flood affected areas.

The TSC cafeteria and games room have been completely filled with these materials - everything from dry food and medicine to clothing and drinking water.

With no more room inside, students have started placing the sacks in front of the auditorium, and even on the TSC field.

From a bird's eye view, half of the field now resembles a sea of relief packages, a powerful symbol of collective effort.

The atmosphere at Dhaka University is electric with unity and purpose.

People from all walks of life, from corporate workers to day labourers, continue to pour into the campus for the third day in a row, each bringing what they can to support the flood-affected communities.

One such contributor, Aslam Hossain, a rickshaw-van driver, even

refused to take fare from a group of students carrying relief supplies.

"I too wanted to contribute from my end. This group of students was working for the flood-affected people, who have been going through indescribable sufferings. I have just done my part," Aslam said.

At the entrance of TSC, a public relief booth has been set up, where donations are carefully registered before being moved to the indoor sports room for packaging.

With the influx of contributions, the entire DU campus has transformed into a center of hope, a place where the unified willpower of the nation is on full display.

Some bring their relief in private cars, some in vans, and others in small trucks.

But regardless of how they arrive, each donation adds to the growing mountain of supplies that promises to bring comfort to the flood victims.

"We as students have to stand by the people. It's our responsibility to help when our people are facing a crisis," said Farid Uddin, a former DU student.

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More than just NUMBERS

A 15-year-old shot fatally through the side of his head in Dhaka. Another 17-year-old shot to death in a similar manner in the capital. And a teacher from Bogura hacked to death by AL activists for trying to support his students. 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.

'I realised how good my son was only after his death'

Keeps telling father of 15-yr old shot dead in Mirpur

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Fifteen-year-old Mahfuzur Rahman took to the streets of Mirpur on July 19 for two reasons - to stand against the discriminatory quota system in government jobs and to protest the government's crackdown on students.

As the students protested, suddenly law enforcers, along with ruling party members, opened fire on the crowd.

As bullets flew, one found its mark in Mahfuzur's head. Within moments, the young boy collapsed, his life cruelly cut short.

"I realised how good my son was only after his death," said Abdul Mannan, his father.

A rickshaw van puller by profession, Mannan had always worried that his son, who spent much of his free time playing with friends, might go astray. But his fears were misplaced.

"My son sacrificed his life to free the people from an autocratic government," he said, the pain in his voice was palpable.

He added, "My innocent son was killed heinously. I want justice."

This correspondent met the grieving family in their small, rented home in Madina Nagar, Mirpur 11.

Mahfuzur's mother, Mussammad Begum, is inconsolable.

She fainted halfway through Mannan recounting the horrors of that fateful day, only to wake up to the same, unbearable reality.

"My heart continues to bleed since I lost my son," she cried.

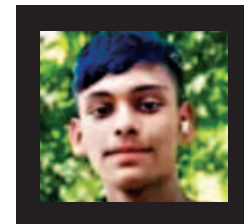
Mahfuzur was the only son of Mannan and Begum, born after three daughters. He was the apple of their eyes.

The family had pinned their dreams on Mahfuzur's shoulders. After passing his HSC exams, they hoped Mahfuzur would join the Bangladesh Army, a dream that held the promise of lifting them out of poverty.

But now, those dreams lie shattered, thanks to law enforcers' bullets.

"Initially I was worried and decided not to let him go out. But he deceived me, saying he would just go to Friday

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'Police killed my son on Jul 18'

Says father of 17-year old shot dead in Badda

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

"Of our four sons, Ahadun was the most meritorious. Police took his life on July 18."

This is what Mujibur Rahman, a shopkeeper in Dhaka's Purba Badda area, told this correspondent recounting the day he was killed.

His son, Md Ahadun Kabir, 17, was an SSC equivalent examination candidate for next year from Hazi Sekander Ali Technical School in the area.

Besides studying, Ahadun used to help his father in their grocery shop at Badda area of Dhaka.

"On July 18, Ahadun left the shop for home in the evening. He reached home and shared mangoes with his

younger brother Utsob, then went out again. Later, as he did not return even after a long time, we got worried," Mujibur said.

"Meanwhile, serious clashes between protesters and police involving firing of bullets ensued in Badda and adjacent areas. Amid this, I went out to search for my son, but did not find him that night," he said.

Mujibur said on July 19 they came to know from TV channels about two unidentified bodies at Dhaka Medical College

morgue, and went there.

"We found our Ahadun's lifeless body lying at the morgue. He was hit by two bullets in his head near right ear, and his waist. However, we faced a lot of difficulty to receive his body

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'My husband was hacked by Awami League men'

Says wife of Selim, a school teacher killed in Bogura protests

MOSTAFA SHABUJ, Bogura

Selim Hossain, an assistant teacher of Muri Light High School in Bogura's Kahaloo upazila, stood by his students during the quota reform protest.

He couldn't just stay silent while the streets of the country were painted red with the blood of students, said his wife.

For this 'crime', he was hacked to death by Awami League activists on August 4.

Selim has been living in Telipukur area of Bogura town for past nine years with his family.

"My husband loved his students. He loved this country. As the students'

protests intensified, he said he could no longer remain home, and joined the protests. He sacrificed his life for the students," said his wife Jasmine Akhter.

She held her one and half-year-old son on her lap as she spoke to this correspondent.

Uzzal Hossain, his younger brother, said, "Bhaia was not involved in politics. He never went to any meeting, rally or demonstration. But the inhumane violence inflicted on the protesting students made him wary.

He felt restless at home, watching news channels and surfing the internet to know what was going on. Eventually,

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DHAKA AIRPORT 98pc work of third terminal completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ninety-eight percent construction work of the third terminal at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport have been completed so far, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan said yesterday.

The CAAB chairman said this while visiting the ongoing construction work of the third terminal at the HSI.

During the visit, the CAAB boss inspected the newly constructed check-in counter, immigration, scanner, boarding bridge, arrival, departure and aircraft parking apron and road network at terminal-3 and other facilities constructed under this project.

The CAAB chairman discussed the progress of terminal work, quality of work and timely

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This rickshaw puller donates a portion of his daily earnings to students who were collecting relief for victims of the ongoing flood situation. Despite his own financial struggles, the man wants to stand by his countrymen in this moment of crisis. The photo was taken from the Sadar road in Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Youth sent to jail for vandalising temples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court has sent an 18-year-old youth to jail on charges of vandalising three temples in Bagha upazila, Rajshahi, on Friday.

Bagha Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abu Siddique said Rabbi Hossain, of Kaligram Miapara, was caught red-handed by villagers while damaging idols and equipment at Kaligram Pundaripara Temple.

Rabbi confessed that his actions were driven by anger over several Facebook posts regarding the flash floods in Bangladesh, which he blamed on India's decision to open several dams.

A case was filed against Rabbi, a local madrasa student, by Arun Sarkar, the president of Kaligram Pundaripara Temple.

Sujit Kumar Panday, president of the Bagha Upazila Puja Uddhayan Committee, confirmed that Rabbi also broke into and vandalised equipment at the Palapara and Ghospara temples earlier that day.

Tk 50cr embankment sinks under sand in a month

Locals allege use of low quality concrete blocks, geo-bags

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Construction of an embankment on Teesta river was completed on June 30 in Gobordhan area of Mahishkhoa union under Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

Bangladesh Water Development Board implemented the project, aimed at enhancing protection to the people on a 2,450-metre stretch of the riverbank from erosion, at a cost of Tk 49,34,95,000 in eight phases.

However, within just a month after completion, the embankment sank under sand.

Locals alleged of gross irregularities in implementation of the project.

Wishing anonymity, some locals alleged that the contractors had not only used inferior quality concrete blocks and geo-bags for the project, but also illegally lifted sand from the project area and sold it for around Tk 7 crore, which in turn made the embankment area vulnerable and eventually led it to sink under sand after a flash flood hit the area a few days after the project's completion.

"Earlier, in case of flash floods, water would recede in a couple of days. This time, the water is not receding even in two weeks. The embankment has become a curse to the riverside people instead of a boon as it was not implemented in a planned way," said Mazful



Islam, a local farmer.

According to sources at BWDB in Lalmonirhat, four contracting companies — M/s Rupantar, Techbay International, M/s Mostafa and Sons and MC-BC JV — were tasked with the project and a total 4,55,284

concrete blocks and 1.30 lakh sand-filled geo-bags weighing 250 kilogrammes were used to construct the embankment in eight packages.

Wishing anonymity, a BWDB official in Lalmonirhat said five of the eight packages of the

project were controlled by Ershad Hossain, younger brother of Mizanur Rahman, APS of former social welfare minister.

Due to Ershad's political influence, the BWDB officials could not supervise the project work properly, he added.

Contacted, Ershad Hossain declined to comment in this regard.

Farhad Hossain, proprietor of the contracting firm M/s Rupantar, said he did not visit the project site as the site manager took care of everything.

Since a natural calamity may cause problems to project work, the contractor firm has been given a Defect Liability Period of one year. The damaged parts of the embankment will be repaired if the authorities concerned issues a letter to the contractor in this regard, he added.

Contacted, Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of BWDB in Lalmonirhat, however, refuted the allegations of irregularities in the project.

"The project has been implemented properly in planned way. The concrete blocks were covered under sand as a huge amount of sediment was brought by the flash flood. The BWDB team tasked with the Project Completion Report will visit the project area very soon. If any defect is found, the contractor will rectify it during the DLP period," he said.

Salman, Anisul, Dipu Moni on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Salman F Rahman, private industry affairs adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former law minister Anisul Huq, former social welfare minister Dipu Moni, former chief whip ASM Feroz and former army officer Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan on different terms of remand for interrogation in murder cases.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim passed separate orders in the cases, a sub-inspector working in the court told The Daily Star.

Salman, Anisul and Ziaul were placed on a fresh 10-day remand in two cases filed over deaths of a honours fourth year student, Sabuj Ali, 26, in the New Market area and a 11-grader, Khalid Hasan Saifullah, in the Lalbagh area of Dhaka during quota reform protests on July 16 and 18.

The three were produced before the court with a 20-day remand prayer in the cases on completion of their first phase remand.

On July 17, Nur Nabi, brother of Sabuj, filed a case with New Market Police Station against some unnamed miscreants.

In this case, the names of Salman, Anisul and Ziaul were not included in the FIR, but they were shown arrested.

On August 19, Kamrul Hasan, father of Saifullah, filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Salman, Anisul and 49 others.

In addition, Dipu Moni was placed on a fresh four-day remand yesterday in a case filed over the death of Suman Sikdar in the city's Badda on July 19.

She was produced before the court with a fresh 10-day remand prayer in the case on completion of her first phase remand.

On August 20, Masuma, mother of the victim, filed the case with Badda Police Station against Hasina, Dipu Moni and 178 others.

Yesterday, Feroz was placed on a seven-day remand in a case filed over the death of Sohag Miah, 16, in Bhatara on July 19.

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Shama Obaid sued over murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A murder case was filed yesterday against Shama Obaid, the suspended BNP central organising secretary (Faridpur division), along with 95 others, including 35 named individuals, in Faridpur.

The case was registered at Nagarkanda Police Station around 1:00am in connection with the death of Kabir Bhuiya, who was killed during a clash between supporters of Shama Obaid and those of Shahidul Islam Babul, the suspended general secretary of the Krishak Dal's central committee, on August 21.

Monzila Begum, 44, the wife of the deceased, filed the case, according to Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

As per the case statement, Shama Obaid had allegedly instructed her supporters to disrupt a road meeting organised by Babul in the Nagarkanda petrol pump area around 11:00am on August 21. Shama's supporters reportedly hacked and beat Kabir Bhuiya to death near Nagarkanda Bazar that day. Several others were also injured in the clash.

No arrests have been made yet, the OC said, adding that efforts are underway to arrest the accused.



Implement CHT accord fully

Demands CHT Accord Implementation Movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord Implementation Movement has called on the interim government to develop a clear and actionable plan with specific deadlines and mechanisms to ensure accountability in order to fully implement the CHT Accord.

Representatives of the movement made the call at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday, stressing that it was essential to implement the core elements of the accord, which remained largely unfulfilled for 26 years, to establish peace and stability in the CHT region.

They presented a seven-point demand in this regard.

The demands also include: ending military supervision in CHT region; empowering the regional councils and the CHT three district councils under the Accord, ensuring democratic, representative, and effective local governance; ensuring land rights and rehabilitation for people of CHT; integrating them into the country's mainstream economic progress; reserving special seats for indigenous people in all local government bodies in the plainland districts; and establishing a separate land commission for the indigenous people of plainlands to address their specific needs and challenges.

Khairul Chowdhury, a teacher of sociology department at Dhaka University and also joint coordinator of

the movement, presented the demands.

To implement these demands, the movement proposed five immediate actions to the government, including reconstitution of the CHT Accord Implementation Committee, urgent reform of the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission, initiating dialogue with the Regional Council, and reconstitution of the advisory council to the CHT affairs ministry.

The demands include ending military supervision, empowering regional councils, ensuring land rights, rehabilitation, special seats for indigenous people, and a separate land commission for plainland indigenous communities.

Prof Robaet Ferdous of DU's mass communication and journalism department, said it was time to address the oppression faced by indigenous communities in the hills.

"For the past 50 years, people in the hill areas have been living under harsh military rule. If the country's 61 other districts have democratic governance, why should three remaining districts be under military control?" he asked.

Dipayan Khisa of the Adivasi Forum and Myenthein Promila of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum also spoke, while Jakir Hossain, joint coordinator of the movement, moderated the event.

DMP chief pledges to restore public trust

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police interrogated the arrested VIPs to know about those, who provided money, advice, and statements against the students' movement, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Mainul Hasan yesterday.

He was replying to a reporter's query at the "Commissioner's Meet the Press" at the media centre in the capital's Minto Road. Mainul provided updates on the investigation against several high profile arrestees, including former ministers, a state minister, and an adviser from the previous government.

The commissioner also addressed the issue of unprofessional behaviour of law enforcers, which he attributed to a loss of public trust.

The unprofessional

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**PRAYER
TIMING**
AUGUST 25

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
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02	1009842	RAKUB/HO/ICTD-141/2024-2025/209 Date: 22-08-2024	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Oracle Database and its related services for Core Banking Solution in Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Banks Near Data Center (NDC).	26-Sep-2024 12:00	26-Sep-2024 17:00
03	1009843	RAKUB/HO/ICTD-142/2024-2025/208 Date: 22-08-2024	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for Network Devices and its related Services in Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Banks Near Data Center (NDC).	22-Sep-2024 12:00	22-Sep-2024 16:00
04	1009844	RAKUB/HO/ICTD-142/2024-2025/207 Date: 22-08-2024	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Web Application Firewall (WAF), Load Balancer and its related services in Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Banks Near Data Center (NDC).	19-Sep-2024 14:00	19-Sep-2024 16:00
05	1009845	RAKUB/HO/ICTD-142/2024-2025/206 Date: 22-08-2024	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Firewall, WEB Security Appliance and its related services in Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Banks Near Data Center (NDC).	25-Sep-2024 12:00	25-Sep-2024 16:00

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To Submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of the tender from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any registered Banks' branches up to above mentioned Date and Time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD- 246

Sd/-
(Md. Abul Kalam)
Deputy General Manager

MANIFESTING TRUE EQUALITY MITHILA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Actress and activist Rafiath Rashid Mithila firmly believes that whenever one witnesses injustice, they should stand up against it. According to her, the more people who take a stand against wrongdoing, the more likely it is that positive change will occur.

"When I saw students being mistreated, I couldn't stay silent—I had to speak out," shared the actress, who gained widespread admiration and support when she joined the anti-discrimination student movement.

Even now, she continues to be embraced by the love and respect of many. Reflecting on this, she said, "The students were the heart of the movement—they deserve all the credit for any praise or love received. We were simply there to support them and stand by their side in whatever way we could."

She continued, "In the fight against discrimination, students united setting aside differences in religion, race, or background, and took to the streets. That's exactly how it should be. We need to speak out against injustice wherever it occurs. Only then can we build a better nation."

"When people protest against injustice, we must stand in solidarity with them. Those who have lost a loved one are the ones who truly feel the depth of that pain and loss—a sorrow that lingers for a lifetime. Witnessing these tragic killings, I felt compelled to raise my voice out of a sense of basic human compassion," Mithila asserted.

When asked about her hopes for the future, the actress shared, "I wish for a future without injustice, where people feel secure in their lives, and power is not abused. I envision a country of true equality, where everyone has equal rights and opportunities."

Mithila also reflected on how people

come together to support flood victims, regardless of religion or background. "This is the true essence of Bangladesh. I hope for a nation where equality prevails, and people support one another in times of need."

Several districts across the country are facing severe flooding, leaving millions stranded. When asked what should be done in such a situation, Mithila said, "I am doing what I can within my means. Whenever floods occur, I make an effort to contribute, and I'm doing the same now. It's heartening to see everyone, regardless of political affiliation or religion, coming together to help as much as possible. Unity in crisis makes us stronger than ever."

Regarding the flood victims, she added, "Many people, both domestically and internationally, are eager to donate funds for relief efforts. This aid must be used effectively. From my end, I am coordinating and verifying necessary sources to ensure that the donations are being properly allocated."

As the conversation came to a close, Mithila expressed her current emotional state, saying, "Right now, I'm not in the right emotional state to return to acting."



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEHEMEL



'Joruri Shongjog' concert raises over Tk 21 lakh for flood victims

Last Friday, the *Joruri Shongjog* concert at Dhaka University's Raju Memorial Sculpture raised funds for flood victims, drawing a large crowd in the afternoon.

The concert featured performances by more than 30 bands and artistes, including Shironamhin, Shonar Bangla Circus, F Minor, Arghya Deb, Krishnakali, and Shayan, among others. Attendees contributed both funds and essential relief items to support the flood victims.

According to Shironamhin, one of the pro bono performers, the concert raised Tk 21,41,200 and accumulated about 20 truckloads of relief supplies for flood-affected communities.

Taylor Swift shatters Michael Jackson's record at Wembley



Taylor Swift's Eras Tour has set a new record, making her the first solo artiste to perform at London's Wembley Stadium the most times in a single tour, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

During her Tuesday show, she announced to her fans, "You just made me the first solo artiste to ever play Wembley eight times in a single tour," as reported by the BBC. "We will never, ever be able to thank you enough for it."

Swift broke the previous record held by Michael Jackson, who performed at the stadium seven times during his 1988 *Bad* Tour. Additionally, the pop group Take That also performed there eight times during their 2011 *Progress* Tour.

NEWS

Metro service resumes today

FROM PAGE 12
many commuters waiting long hours to reach their destinations.

The recent protests by various groups after the fall of Hasina have only exacerbated the situation, leaving commuters to bear the brunt of the metro rail's absence.

After the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5, the interim government instructed DMTCL to resume metro services by August 17, except at the vandalised stations.

However, DMTCL announced delays due to an "unavoidable situation," which later revealed to be a work abstention by around 700 employees from grades 10 to 20, who began striking on August 6, demanding a pay hike to match their higher-grade colleagues.

The metro rail authority decided to resume operations on August 25 [today] after the employees returned to work on August 19.

Drop Shakib

FROM PAGE 12
per ICC rules. He needs immediate removal from the cricket team.

He needs to be suspended from all forms of cricket for the integrity of Bangladesh cricket and sports, he said in the notice.

The case was filed with Adabor Police Station on August 22 over the killing of a garment factory worker Md Rubel.

Shakib Al Hasan has been accused in the case. Besides, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Obaidul Quader and 156 named and 400-500 unidentified people have also been accused in the case.

Lawyer Sajib Mahmood Alam told The Daily Star that Shakib is now in Pakistan with the Bangladesh national cricket team.

He also said that his client has not given any time limit to BCB for bringing Shakib back to the country and for removing him from the cricket team, as a new team has been appointed in the BCB administration and they will need some time to function properly.

Mushfiqur scales Asian summit

FROM PAGE 12
His near nine-hour vigil at the crease, which began four overs into the post-lunch session on the third day and ran until the fourth day's final session, wrested control of the match away from the hosts and allowed the visitors to head into the final day leading by 94 runs.

Mushfiqur has previously scored six Test centuries at home, including a couple of double hundreds against Zimbabwe, a 200 against the Lankans in Galle back in 2013 -- which was the maiden Test double hundred by a Bangladesh player -- and made 127 against India in Hyderabad, 2017.

The 37-year-old also has centuries in New Zealand and West Indies, making him the only Bangladesh batter with Test tons in six Test nations.

On the fourth day, Mushfiqur lost his overnight partner Litton Das (56) early but found ample support from Mehedi Hasan Miraz, with whom he batted for 56 overs and accumulated 196 runs, forming the best-ever eighth-wicket stand in Test cricket for Bangladesh.

Mushfiqur, who was unbeaten on 55 after the third day, reached the three-figure mark right at the cusp of lunch, with a glance down fine leg against off-spinner Agha Salman.

Worry over fresh influx grows

FROM PAGE 12
However, the current interim abuses tragically reminiscent of the military atrocities in 2017," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch in a statement on August 21.

Prof Sk Tawfique M Haque, director at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University, said the AA once was soft on the Rohingyas, but now the rebel group is not happy with them.

The reality in Rakhine suggests that the AA will be eventually taking full control of the state. In that case, Bangladesh needs to make contact with AA through a backchannel, while the diplomatic relations with whoever is in the central control should continue, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We don't see any scope in the near future of Rohingya repatriation.

As he completed the second run to reach his 11th Test hundred, he punched the air and let out a deafening roar, releasing the emotions he had held in for hours. He then proceeded to perform a Sajdah before putting back his gear, regaining his composure, and resuming his vigilance.

After playing out the entire second session alongside Miraz, and also getting a life on 150 thanks to Babar Azam, Mushfiqur seemed destined to score his fourth double ton.

But when he was just nine runs away from joining the likes of Sunil Gavaskar and Zaheer Abbas, he fell to pacer Mohammad Ali, playing a loose shot on a delivery that bounced a tad more than he anticipated, took an outside edge, and nestled into the gloves of Mohammad Rizwan.

The agony of missing the double ton was apparent in Mushfiqur's expression; however, falling nine runs short of 200 does not diminish the effort it took to score the previous 191 runs.

Even though the match is likely to end in a draw unless something dramatic happens on the final day today, fans of Bangladesh cricket will remember it as the game where Mushfiqur conquered the Asian summit.

Justice Manik 41,551 accused

FROM PAGE 12
injured detainees first and then hand them over to the jail authority. But in this case, they did not."

Manik was detained by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Friday night from the Dona border in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila while trying to flee to India.

That night, he alleged that he was robbed and beaten by a group of people at the border.

After he was handed over to Kanaighat Police Station last morning, police produced him to Judicial Magistrate Alamgir Hossain's court, showing him an arrestee under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court later sent him to jail, said court inspector Jamshed Alam.

Jamshed said that as the arrestee is a retired justice, the jail authority was ordered to provide adequate facilities as per the jail code. The court also ordered treatment for Justice Manik as he informed the court of his illness.

"He is accused in murder cases filed with Dhaka's Lalbagh, Adabor, and Badda police stations. He has also been accused in several other cases," the inspector added.

FROM PAGE 12
of this report last night.

Moin Uddin Razib, the convener of the Anderkella Ward Jubo Dal, filed the attempt-to-murder case with the Kotwali Police Station.

Some other accused named in the FIR are former MP of Chandgaon-Boalkhali constituency Abdus Salam, former MP of Pahartali-Double Mooring constituency Mohiuddin Bacchu, MA Latif of Bandar-Patenga constituency, former MP of Sitakunda constituency Didarul Alam, former President of Chittagong University Chhatra League Shahjahan Chowdhury, city Swachhshabak League President Debashish Debu, city unit Chhatra League President Imran Ahmed, General Secretary Zakaria Dostagir, and former central Jubo League member Rintu Das.

The other accused in the case are mostly leaders and activists of the Awami League and affiliated organisations.

According to the case statement, the plaintiff was threatened and assaulted by the named and unnamed accused with sticks, roads, and weapons while he was attending

the student movement protests on August 4.

On the other hand, Inspector (Investigation) Ripon Kumar Das of Kotwali Police Station filed the case over the attack on the police station, accusing 30,000 to 40,000 unnamed miscreants under various sections of the Penal Code, the Explosives Act, and the Special Powers Act.

In the case statement, Rajon claimed that around 30,000 to 40,000 attackers stormed the police station on August 5, carrying weapons and explosives. They looted government property, damaged vehicles and documents, and stole firearms, ammunition, and cash after vandalising the station and setting it on fire.

A series of cases are being filed against the Awami League lawmakers, ministers, and advisers following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5 amid massive protests by the students and people.

After the fall of the regime, at least 43 police officials were killed as hundreds of police establishments including police stations came under attack by the mobs.

Flood causes 50km jam

FROM PAGE 1
tailback on both ends of the highway has crossed 50km. Traffic is very slow.

"Passengers travelling between Dhaka and Chattogram are facing untold sufferings, as they are forced to wade through floodwater for three to four kilometres with their belongings. We are on the ground and are working with other agencies to keep the road open..." said the police official.

Our correspondent reported from Feni that floodwater was receding in Mahipal, but there was knee-to-waist-deep water between Lalpal and Baraiyarhat. Volunteers were seen setting up camps at various locations along the road and conducting rescue and relief operations in nearby villages.

Feni RHD Sub Assistant Engineer Muhaiminul Sohag said, "Five to six kilometres of the highway in Feni's Lalpal is still submerged, which has completely halted vehicular movement."

"We have received a report that the Lemua Bridge, over the Selonia river, in Feni has been damaged as it was submerged by floodwater."

ROBBERY NEW WORRY

Robbers are a new worry for the flood-affected people, many of whom do not have electricity.

Nighttime robberies have been reported in several areas, including on highways and villages, according to sources.

Posing as flood victims or relief workers, the robbers have been looting locals and relief workers in the flood-affected areas, they said.

Omar Faruk Emon, a resident of Paschim Joyar village in Karerhat union of Mirsarai, said, "People panicked after a group of robbers looted several homes on Friday night. To alert everyone, locals used loudspeakers of mosques."

Incidents of robberies on highways have also been making the rounds on social media since Friday night.

SP Khairul said, "We have heard about several incidents of robberies, but we could not verify them because no one reported the matter to the police. Considering the situation, we have asked local police stations and law enforcement agencies to remain alert. Drivers were also advised to stay vigilant."



A man helps a police officer to carry a civilian's body following a Russian shelling in Konstantinovka, Donetsk region yesterday. Five people were killed and five others wounded in a Russian bombardment of the eastern Ukrainian city of Kostyantynivka, Ukraine's prosecutor general said yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SYNAGOGUE BLAST France opens terror probe

AFP, Montpellier

An explosion outside a synagogue in southern France wounded a police officer early yesterday, in what authorities said was being treated as a potential terror attack.

Security around Jewish sites was tightened following the early Saturday blast outside the Beth Yaacov synagogue in the seaside resort of La Grande Motte, near the city of Montpellier.

A fire was also started at the entrance of the synagogue, but was quickly put out, with two doors damaged, investigators said.

President Emmanuel Macron called the incident "an act of terror".

Two cars outside the synagogue burst into flames after a gas canister likely exploded inside one of the vehicles, police said. The blast wounded a police officer, police said, without providing any other details.

La Grande Motte's mayor, Stephan Rossignol, said that CCTV had picked up images of an individual setting fire to the cars.

The potential suspect seen in the footage was brandishing a Palestinian flag, a source close to the probe added.

Another source said that the man was carrying two empty bottles and had a Palestinian flag draped around his waist as left the scene on foot.

Zelensky vows more 'retribution' for Russia

Signs anti-Russia laws to mark independence day; rivals exchange 230 prisoners of war

AGENCIES

President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed more "retribution" against Russia on Ukrainian Independence Day yesterday, as Kyiv and Moscow announced the exchange of 230 prisoners just over two weeks into Ukraine's surprise offensive on Kursk.

Zelensky also signed a law banning the Russian-linked branch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and called the legislation a "liberation from Moscow's devils".

Kyiv marked its independence from the Soviet Union at a tense moment in the long war as it mounts a push into Russia and Moscow eyes more east Ukrainian towns.

Zelensky published a video of him standing in a hilly, forested area filmed near from where Ukraine launched its shock incursion on August 6.

"Russia was seeking one thing: to destroy us... Instead, today we celebrate the 33rd Independence Day of Ukraine and what the enemy brought to our land has now returned to its home," he said.

The Ukrainian leader said Russia will "know what retribution is" and called President Vladimir Putin a "sick man from Red Square who constantly threatens everyone with the red button," referring to nuclear war.

Soon afterwards, Ukraine's military intelligence said it had carried out a "successful" attack on

an ammunition depot in Russia's southern Voronezh region.

Zelensky held official independence celebrations on Kyiv's Sofia Square, with Polish President Andrzej Duda and Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte.

In Russia, President Putin held a meeting with army chief Valery

eastern Ukraine.

Kyiv yesterday said that a Russian bombardment in the eastern city of Kostyantynivka had killed five people and Ukraine has carried out evacuations from the hub of Pokrovsk amid fears it will fall.

Both Kyiv and Moscow said they had returned 115 captive servicemen each in a deal brokered



Gerasimov with the Kremlin saying they had discussed "countering enemy forces invading the Kursk region and measures being taken to destroy them."

The Kremlin's choice of language was a break from previous statements that downplayed the Ukrainian surprise move.

While it has visibly rattled Moscow, Ukraine's Kursk operation has not slowed Russia's advance in

by the United Arab Emirates.

Kyiv had said one of the aims of its Kursk operation was to gain more Russian captives to get back its men from Russia. There were widespread reports in Russia of young conscripts going missing in Kursk.

Ukraine yesterday also ratified a statute that paves the way for Ukraine to join the International Criminal Court (ICC).

US sanctions 400 entities for aiding Russia's war

REUTERS, Washington

The United States on Friday imposed sanctions on more than 400 entities and individuals for supporting Russia's war effort in Ukraine, the State Department said, including Chinese companies that US officials believe are helping Moscow skirt Western sanctions and build up its military.

Washington has repeatedly warned Beijing over its support for Russia's defense industrial base and has already issued hundreds of sanctions aimed at restricting Moscow's ability to exploit certain technologies for military purposes.

Friday's sanctions include measures against companies in China involved in shipping machine tools and microelectronics to Russia, according to a State Department fact sheet outlining its sanctions against 190 targets.

The US Treasury Department said it was also targeting transnational networks involved in procuring ammunition and other materiel for Russia, helping Russian oligarchs and others evade sanctions and laundering gold for a sanctioned company.

The Biden administration also added 123 entities to its US export control list known as the Entity List which forces suppliers to obtain licenses before shipping to targeted companies. Those added on Friday included 63 entities in Russia and 42 in China, according to a notice published in the Federal Register.

The US Treasury said it was imposing sanctions on several Russian financial technology, securities, real estate lending and other financial firms, but it stopped short of imposing sanctions against foreign banks for aiding transactions that support

Russia's war effort.

The Treasury has warned banks since December that continued transactions in Russia's war economy could cut them off from the dollar-based financial system.

The State Department's sanctions include moves aimed at stifling Russia's energy sector and against companies in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Central Asian economies that the US believes are helping Russia evade sanctions, the State Department said.

Targets include the import-export arm of China's Dalian Machine Tool Group, which the State Department said had supplied \$4 million of dual-use items to Russian companies.

The Treasury also targeted more than 20 Hong Kong and China-based firms it said were supplying Russia's military industrial base.

The spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington, Liu Pengyu, said Beijing "firmly opposes unilateral sanctions based on 'long-arm jurisdiction'" and added that "normal trade between China and Russia should not be undermined, still less turned into an instrument to smear and contain China."

The latest US sanctions include measures against firms supplying components used in the Orkan drones that Russia is using in Ukraine.

Washington also sought the sanctions to disrupt future energy projects in Russia and its shipment of liquefied natural gas. It targeted Russia's \$21 billion Arctic LNG 2 project, which has already been hit by Western sanctions that have curbed its access to ice-class tankers, and other companies involved in future energy projects in Russia, according to the fact sheet.



FESTIVAL KNIFE ATTACK

German police hunt suspect

AFP, Solingen

German police yesterday hunted a man who stabbed three people to death and wounded eight others at a street festival in the city of Solingen, with a terror motive for the attack "not excluded".

The knife man went on a rampage in the western town of Solingen late on Friday, as thousands had gathered for the first night of a "Festival of Diversity", part of a series of events to mark the town's 650th anniversary.

Yesterday, police announced they had detained a person as part of the probe, with a prosecutor later saying it was a 15-year-old who may have been in contact with the knife man.

"The author (of the attack) has not yet been identified," Markus Caspers, prosecutor of Duesseldorf that lies just west of Solingen, told a press conference.

"We have not been able to identify a motive for now, but in view of all of the circumstances, we are working under the assumption that the initial suspicion of a terrorist motive cannot be excluded," Caspers said.

The people killed were men of 56 and 67 years of age and a 56-year-old woman, officials said.

"The victims were completely unknown with no known ties between them, so based on this we're concluding that it could be a terror act," Caspers said, adding that "no other motive is evident at this time".

Four of the wounded were in a "serious" condition. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said Germany's "security authorities are doing everything they can to catch the perpetrator" of the "horrific act", while Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he "must be caught quickly and punished".



A woman kneels at a makeshift memorial of flowers and candles for the victims yesterday close to the scene where at least three people were killed and several injured when a man attacked them with a knife late Friday in Solingen, western Germany, during a festival to mark the city's 650th anniversary.

PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan blast kills two children

Injures 16

REUTERS, Quetta

A bomb blast in southwestern Pakistan killed two children and injured 16 people yesterday, police officials said.

Seven policemen were among those injured when the remote-controlled bomb, attached to a motorcycle, detonated near police headquarters in Pishin, the city's senior superintendent of police, Manzoor Buledi, told Reuters.

"Explosives were planted in a motorcycle which was parked in the area," said police officer Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman, adding that the two children killed were passing through the area when the blast occurred.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep sorrow and grief over what he called the martyrdom of young children in the explosion. In a statement he expressed condolences to their families.

An extraordinary flood relief campaign

Let's keep up this culture of volunteerism

An extraordinary example has been set on the Dhaka University (DU) campus over the past three days. Under the leadership of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, DU students have launched a massive relief campaign for the flood-affected people of the country. The campaign, which began on the morning of August 22, is still ongoing, with people from all walks of life—from corporate workers to homemakers, from small children to elderly citizens, from day labourers to rickshaw pullers—contributing whatever they can. While students from DU are working around the clock to collect and organise relief goods, students from other institutions and volunteers have also joined the effort. The nation has not witnessed such a display of compassion and unity in a long time.

Since the start of the student-led mass uprising that led to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, Bangladesh has witnessed the power and unity of students, as well as the general populace, who have been desperate to bring about real change in the country. Now, as the country faces one of the deadliest floods in its recent history—which has already affected 48 lakh people in 12 districts—our students have once again shown us the way by uniting the entire nation. And it's not just the students of DU—other educational institutions and voluntary organisations across the country have also come forward to help those affected.

Over the past few decades, we have somewhat forgotten the culture of volunteerism that once existed in the country. The last times we witnessed such volunteerism were during the floods of 1988 and 1998, when people from all walks of life came forward to help. After the fall of the Awami League government, when there was virtually no government in the country and the police force was reluctant to perform their duties, we saw how our students managed traffic and safeguarded their localities and places of worship of religious minorities. We must revive this culture of volunteerism and stand by our people during any future crises—whether they be natural disasters or other emergencies.

Reportedly, by the second day of the relief campaign on August 22, around Tk 1.5 crore had been deposited into the relief fund operated by the students at the TSC, which is truly remarkable. While the biggest challenge in any such mass effort is organising the relief goods and utilising the received funds efficiently, it seems that the students are well-organised to do so. To help support the flood victims, we should all step forward to contribute whatever we can from our own positions. We must be prepared to help them after the water recedes, as they will need more assistance with rehabilitation and livelihood opportunities. And finally, we should continue such volunteerism for the sake of improving our country and for the betterment of all its people.

Prevent a repeat of Rohingya atrocities

International community should play a more active role

We are deeply concerned that the United Nations has stated the Myanmar conflict is becoming so volatile that the atrocities of 2017 may be repeated against the Rohingyas. The UN human rights chief Volker Turk expressed concern on Friday, saying that the situation across Myanmar, particularly in Rakhine, has sharply deteriorated recently. Additionally, reports suggest that hundreds of civilians have been killed while trying to flee the fighting.

Exactly seven years ago today, the second phase of the Rohingya genocide had started. It is estimated that between August 25 and September 24, 2017, at least 6,700 Rohingyas were killed. Despite the Myanmar government dismissing these findings as exaggerations, the UN found evidence of widespread human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, summary executions, gang rapes, the arson of Rohingya villages, businesses and schools, among other horrific atrocities. Currently, a case is ongoing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), accusing Myanmar of abetting genocide against the Rohingya ethnic group.

Following the events of 2017, an estimated 750,000 Rohingyas fled from Myanmar into Bangladesh and took shelter in various refugee camps. Despite repeated dialogues between Myanmar and Bangladesh for the safe repatriation of these Rohingyas back to their homeland, we have seen little to no progress made over the years. With clashes between the Arakan Army and Myanmar's ruling junta worsening, the possibility of further destabilisation in the region due to the ongoing situation in Myanmar seems to be rising rapidly.

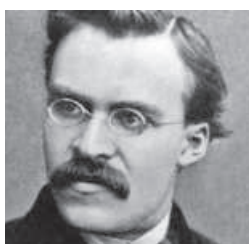
Reportedly, thousands of Rohingyas have already been forced to flee again on foot, with the Arakan Army herding them repeatedly into locations that offer scant safe haven. Finding themselves trapped between the military and its allies and the Arakan Army, many of them are again looking to cross into Bangladesh. Given that Bangladesh is already overwhelmed with its own issues, as well as struggling to continue providing support to the Rohingya that had earlier sought shelter within its territories, the influx of even more Rohingyas into Bangladesh could prove disastrous.

The burden of supporting the Rohingyas—on humanitarian grounds, and rightly so—has been massive on Bangladesh. As such, we invite the international community to be more active in solving the Myanmar crisis so that this burden can be lifted and the region can regain some of its lost stability. We hope that every influential member of the international community, including the collective West, China and India, will urgently respond to this call.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Friedrich Nietzsche dies

On this day in 1900, German Classical scholar, philosopher, and critic of culture Friedrich Nietzsche, one of the most influential of all modern thinkers, died at age 55.



Regain the land and regain its soul too

STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (ret'd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN



We had lost both in the last decade and a half. We belonged to the land, but the land was anything but ours. Those who usurped power over time became like Doctor Faustus, and sold not only the soul for an eternal life but its body too to the devil. Otherwise, how can one be moved to tears at the destruction of a statue but remain impassive and unmoved by the deliberate killings of hundreds of young people? Ambition and greed trumped over ethics and morality, public good was sacrificed for personal aggrandisement, and the country was subordinated to the self. We were ruled, not governed.

The land was not ours because we were deprived of the right to choose our leaders to represent and govern the country. We were not only denied the right to shape our own destiny and determine the trajectory of our progress, but we were also robbed of our right to criticise the usurpers, to question them and hold them accountable.

Imagine for a moment that the people, being the employer—because it is their money that pays for the perks, privileges and all the trappings that go with the VIP tag, from the highest office of the country to the lowest paid peon—had lost their right to question whether their employees were doing their jobs properly and, if necessary, admonish them for dereliction of duty. Various anti-people and anti-democratic laws, such as the Digital Security Act, were enacted through a submissive parliament and validated by a compliant judiciary, hanging over the people like the sword of Damocles. Crossing their defined line meant incarceration, enforced disappearance and, in some cases, death.

So great was the fear infused by the coercive nature of the administration that even the media—the very few that had not surrendered to and become a part of the establishment—exercised such extreme level of self-censorship that it contradicted their primary responsibility of informing the people and holding the establishment to account (my article, "Surrender of the Fourth Estate?", *The Daily Star*, February 27, 2019).

Can we rightfully claim the land to be ours when emissaries from a



We now have the opportunity to correct the wrongs that were done over the past 15 years.

PHOTO: STAR

disappearances, extrajudicial killings and stage-managed encounters with the same narratives. Government agencies' operatives, in plain clothes, were on overdrive, picking up people without even adhering to legal norms. The agency that was supposed to provide security to the people became the cause of their insecurity (my article, "When state becomes the cause of its own insecurity," *The Daily Star*, July 22, 2010).

How can we claim the land to be ours when our strategic assets are frittered away to meet the so-called security concerns and geo-strategic and economic interest of a big neighbour? I don't recall any bilateral agreement or treaty in the last 15 years being ratified by Parliament. National interest was sacrificed at the altar of partisan interests. The comments and actions of some advisers to the prime minister made one wonder whether they were appointed to uphold the interests of the nation or the neighbour (my article, "What have we done with

exist with multiple identities.

We lost our soul when the constitution was ravished by the combined effort of a warped parliament and judiciary—the greatest harm done to the country's democracy by a dissolute chief justice whose fealty to the party in power borders on criminality.

democracy in Bangladesh?). Only the people are sovereign. As a corporate entity, they are beyond question.

The judiciary should be separated from the administration, and the Election Commission delinked from the administration.

The police should be recast, more than notionally like bringing changes

The ultimate damage to the soul was inflicted by corrupting the judicial system. This is to be expected when the chief justice is forced out of office at the point of a gun for a verdict that did not sit well with the party in power, as it obstructed their efforts to exert control over the judiciary.

What kind of soul resides in a body that allows wrongful confinement for indefinite periods, or endures the complicity of the judiciary and law enforcing agencies in scuttling the investigation and trial of the gruesome murder of a journalist couple, allegedly killed for possessing information related to people close to power who would have exposed their anti-state activities (my article, "The long road since 48 hours," *The Daily Star*, February 14, 2023), or that of a young soul from Narayanganj killed by a member of a family belonging to the ruling party?

A raft of issues needs addressing. Admittedly, each requires separate treatment. We must start by assessing

in the dress, but by implementing the measures recommended in the Draft Police Ordinance 2009. Their operational procedures, arms and accoutrements should be revamped. In a civilised society, we cannot afford for the police to become the armed wing of the party in power, the kind we suffered over the last 15 years (my articles in *The Daily Star*, "Can citizens' expectations from the police be met?" and "Who will guard the guards?").

Lastly, among internal issues, the duties and terms of reference for intelligence agencies should be revisited immediately. Over the past 15 years, it seems that these agencies, instead of ensuring state security and countering hostile intelligence, focused on securing the future of a political party. The Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, in particular, requires special attention (my article, "DGF's Lakshman Rekha," *The Daily Star*, February 9, 2012).

As for our external relations, we need to revisit all bilateral agreements and treaties to assess the benefits the country would draw from those. Otherwise, we ought to recast them in a manner and form that enhances our national interest. It was as if we were the Sindbad with the proverbial old man who would never get off our shoulders. We need to cast that old man off our shoulders.

The country can be regained by pursuing a robust and dynamic foreign policy where bilateral and multilateral relationship will be based on sovereign equality. Our foreign policy should be driven by our national security and interests, independent of another country's diktat, and should be designed to enhance our diplomatic manoeuvrability rather than be constrained by neighbouring demands. Treaties and agreements should be mutually beneficial.

Only when we are able to establish an egalitarian and pluralistic society—where the constitution will be respected by adherence to it and not by its violation, where the people will be governed by the rule of law, wherever it stems from, and not of men, when a person's qualities will be the prime consideration for his advancement and not his family connections, where the son or grandson will not have to bear his fathers or grandfather's cross, where people will be free to practice his creed without apologising for it and where people can coexist with multiple identities—will we be able to regain the nation's soul. This can be achieved by a new crop of leadership that builds bridges rather than divides the nation and is inclusive in their dealings. I believe it is time to pass on the baton.

I believe the student revolution was an outburst against the wrongs done to the people and the country. We now have the opportunity to correct those wrongs. Failure is not an option.



Children of the victims of enforced disappearances hold their photos at a rally in front of the National Museum in Dhaka, May 28, 2022.

PHOTO: STAR

so-called friendly country applies "friendly" pressure on an opposition leader unwilling to participate in an election which had zero credibility, urging his participation to lend it validity so that a proxy in Bangladesh could come to power and do their bidding? The result: 15 years of politics without democracy, a parliament with a peculiar and unique arrangement where the opposition was also a part of the government and where laws were enacted by trampling on the people's interests.

Can we claim the land to be ours when the state abdicates its bounden duty to ensure safety and security of individuals and groups? Dissenting voices were silenced through enforced

our strategic assets?," *The Daily Star*, August 16, 2022).

The country lost its soul too. And it began with the commercialisation of the most revered and sanctified part of our history the Liberation War, and with it the name of Sheikh Mujib—the two were commercially and politically overused. And what excesses were done in their names!

A wedge was driven that divided the people into various camps, into "we" and "they." And it was done successfully. The people were asked to think in binary terms—to choose between their faith and their ethnic identity, defying the underlying essential truth that the two were not mutually exclusive, and that one can

the loopholes in the system and how they have been exploited to corrupt it.

The guiding document—our constitution—should be the first focus for the current regime. We cannot have elected representatives turn into autocrats. Mere elections do not make a country democratic. We want democracy not just every five years, but every day of our lives. The past administration was essentially a one-woman show. This must be prevented by adding appropriate provisions to the constitution. Remember, Hitler was also popularly elected. Politics must be spared from becoming a family affair (my articles in *The Daily Star*, "Democracy means more than the ability to vote" and "Who killed

ROHINGYA GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Rohingya refugees need sustainable solutions

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SK TAWFIQUE M HAQUE, ISHRAT ZAKIA SULTANA and SM MASHUR ARAFIN AYON

In 2017, the genocide in Myanmar drove Rashid and many other Rohingya into Bangladesh to escape ceaseless persecution by the military. In Bangladesh, he had wanted to pursue his education but learned about government restrictions on Rohingya's access to education. Then he desperately looked for a job but failed to get one. Finally, he became a member of a criminal syndicate and got arrested.

Rashid is just one example of many such tragic stories among the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Being deprived of education and employment opportunities, many youngsters from that community have adopted a dark path where they get engaged in various kinds of illegal activities, including drug trafficking, smuggling, and the likes.

Unlike Rashid, Nadia, a young Rohingya woman, had a graduate degree from her home country Myanmar, but failed to get a job or study further in Bangladesh. Passing months with no work and earning, she finally became involved in the illegal sex work in Cox's Bazar.

When Bangladesh opened its borders to the Rohingya in 2017, the world applauded its humanitarian gesture. But over time, the burden of hosting 971,904 Rohingya, according to a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) report, has come to weigh upon the resources and patience of the host country. What started as a temporary refuge turned into a prolonged stay with no end in sight. As a result, the initial hospitality of the local people, eventually switched to hostility toward the Rohingya. According to a 2023 report by Human Rights Watch (HRW), there are emerging signs of growing anti-Rohingya sentiment. One of the key reasons is the increase in the unemployment rate and decrease in wages in the area. Manual labourers in Cox's Bazar typically earn a meagre Tk 100-150 per day (around \$3), but illegal Rohingya workers, who accept wages as low as Tk 60-80, further drive down the already depressed market rates. This is a major concern and a potential marker for instability in the local labour market in Cox's Bazar.

Research shows that most Rohingya

are willing to return home, but only under conditions of safety, through voluntary repatriation, and with dignity. These conditions are, however, yet to be met in their home country. The situation in Myanmar is so grim that the Arakan Army (AA) is still fighting with the beleaguered junta to ensure its own cut of the spoils in Rakhine State. Recent events, including

been weakened by internal dissent and the withdrawal of support by the Bamar majority. It now faces increased challenges from the Three Brotherhood Alliance, including AA, that controls much of Rakhine State, once the home of the Rohingya before their displacement. Besides, the ethnic armed organisations have also been emboldened recently through the support of the National

Now that there is no sign of repatriation, it is crystal clear that keeping the Rohingya idle is not sustainable and also unfair toward this unfortunate community. Many youths like Rashid and Nadia pay a huge price for this.

Given this impasse, three possible ways of proceeding emerge, each fraught with its own set of difficulties. The first is accepting the existing situation. If the present status

should be tapped for vocational training and job prospects. BRAC has already initiated some steps in the agricultural sectors through NGOs. Institutionalisation of these efforts through special economic zones is expected to create sustainable livelihoods and also contribute toward the country's economy. In this regard, experiences from the German economy on successful inclusion of Syrian refugees are particularly recommended. Most Syrian refugees were provided with temporary protection that enabled them to access health services, education, and work permits within certain regions. Bangladesh can look at this approach and consider providing skill development training to Rohingya men and women. Kay Kraft, a Bangladeshi fashion house, has already started such an initiative at Bhasan Char. Although small in scale, such projects can be replicated in creating job opportunities in Cox's Bazar.

But the third option remains fraught with risks, too. On the one hand, economic integration might expose the Rohingya to Bangladeshi society to a great extent and may pose a serious challenge to social harmony and our national identity. In this view, strong safety measures can be applied. On the other, the world community, especially Myanmar, may get the wrong signal that, in response to genocide committed by Myanmar, Bangladesh has decided to assimilate the Rohingya with the Bangladeshi people forever.

Engaging with Rohingya researchers and the diaspora is important so that the devised strategies do not backfire. Given these complexities, there might not currently exist a solution to the crisis. Bangladesh has never agreed to grant citizenship to the Rohingya, and third-country resettlement is a very uncertain and highly limited option. Any durable solution could only result from careful planning, international collaboration, and adapting solutions according to the way circumstances keep changing.

So, let's remember—on this Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day—Rohingya youth like Rashid and Nadia, who became victims of exploitation and despair because of the unavailability of options to study and work and make a decent living.

On this day, let us reflect on the possible ways in which we can stand by the Rohingya, demonstrate humanity again, and thus save Cox's Bazar economy too.

Names of the individuals mentioned in the article have been changed for privacy reasons.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Deprived of education and formal jobs, the new generation of Rohingya is at risk of becoming enmeshed in criminal activities.

an August 2024 attack allegedly carried out by the AA against Rohingya civilians trying to flee across the Naf River, illustrate the risks still awaiting returnees. In the recent heinous attack, over 200 Rohingya, including women, children, and the elderly, were mowed down in a single day.

Efforts to resolve the crisis through repatriation have repeatedly failed. One example is the 2017 accord between Myanmar and Bangladesh, which would have seen the repatriation of the first group of Rohingya refugees by November 2018, but never took off. Subsequent efforts met the same fate, including an attempt backed by China in 2019. The unresolved issue of citizenship—a basic right that the Rohingya have been denied for generations—was a reason. Efforts to resolve the issue took another step back when, at the beginning of 2021, the military in Myanmar carried out a coup, turning hopes of an amicable and early solution all the more distant for the Rohingya.

The political landscape in Myanmar remains volatile. The junta has already

Unity Government. The complexities of negotiating with a fragmented and conflict-ridden state raise serious doubts about the feasibility of repatriation in the near future.

While the latter fact complicates many education plans and means to sustain lives already traumatised by experiences in Myanmar, 52 percent of the Rohingya population in Bangladesh are children aged between 0 to 17 years and 44 percent are between the ages of 18 to 59 years, according to a 2024 joint report by UNHCR and Bangladesh. Deprived of education and formal jobs, this new generation is practically on the fast track to becoming enmeshed in criminal activities—therefore perpetuating a poverty and violence cycle.

Migration experts very often observe that the average length of time it takes for a refugee community to find a permanent solution is 17 years. It has already been seven long years since 2017 and another decade is in the offing for the Rohingya in Bangladesh. For the first wave of the 1978 displaced Rohingya, however, the wait has been agonisingly long.

quo is maintained, that would only mean that Bangladesh will remain dependent on the foreign aid that have already started drying up. One of the key reasons for the decrease in foreign funding is the shift of international attention to the crises in Ukraine and Israel-Palestine. Such alternation of donors' attention may lead to a worse scenario in the camp management because Bangladesh is fully dependent on the foreign aid to run the Rohingya programme. The second can be drawing support from the international community. Until now, Bangladesh has failed to demonstrate its diplomatic strength on the Rohingya issue. As a result, the permanent members of the UN Security Council and regional powers like India, and other countries have remained quiet on the issue of Rohingya repatriation. Earlier initiatives have demonstrated the inadequacies of Bangladeshi diplomatic strategies. So, it is unlikely that this option will be useful in resolving the crisis. The last option can be the economic integration of the Rohingya refugees, albeit without granting them citizenship. They

CREATION OF THE NEW POLITICAL ORDER

Rebuilding ship in an open and turbulent sea



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MIRZA HASSAN

not do the same?

To address this question, we need to reimagine and reconstitute the state-society relations in two domains: i) representative democracy; and ii) state-society accountability relations. First, we need to re-conceptualise and broaden our definition of democracy. Democracy in Bangladesh has meant representative democracy with a de facto emphasis on its

non-majoritarian. These forms of direct, deliberative, and substantive democracy will prevent the formation of monopolistic "party-archies" (whereby political parties dominate the political process and civil society), the syndrome of winner-take-all politics, and the resurgence of a dominant party-state (in which, one party calls the shot).

There have been discussions of reforms

the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches are prone to capture by ruling political elites. The news media, another potential check, can also be captured or subdued. To prevent capture, we need multi-level checks and balances involving multiple stakeholders.

Fundamental institutions and policies should be protected with complex checks and balances mechanisms whereby

Such mechanisms would constitute the basis for a dual power and permanent revolution, whereby citizens can maintain a continuous check on state institutions. Our dual power has to be based on a liberal constitutional framework since our context for such innovation is a liberal democratic revolution. These societal based checks and balances with multiple stakeholders and veto points must be endorsed by the constitution—whether a new or highly modified one. Constitutional experts can help with the design.

Such mechanisms, we can call these "Citizens' Committees," may be domain-specific (for example, for education and health sector and police administration) as well as on the basis of administrative tiers (district, upazila, and union parishad). We must understand that, to contain a potential counter revolution, street-based countervailing power, akin to a Maoist cultural revolution, has its limits. We observed, recently, how such power prevented the possibility of a "judicial coup." But over time, these types of pressure tactics will alienate people and there is a potential danger that the revolutionary student leadership might exhaust its current popular legitimacy. There is also a risk that multiple accountability mechanisms might contribute to institutional and policy sclerosis but, I believe, we will learn to remedy such problems with trials and errors.

Given our long history of dictatorship and illiberalism, and political elites' strong incentives to govern through a de facto structure of authoritarian dominant party-state and their loathing for uncertainty inherent in electoral democracy, the utmost necessity is to keep political elites in a narrow corridor by balancing the powers of both state and society. For all these, time is of the essence. The title of this piece—rebuilding the ship in the open and turbulent sea—alludes to a high-risk period for reforming state-society relations, whereby actors, who have lot to lose from these, will be eager to sabotage the process. The ship must not sink.

Reimagining and reconstituting electoral democracy and establishing and sustaining dual power thus keeping the political elites in a narrow corridor—deserve our greatest attention. The rare opportunity that the democratic revolution has presented to us must not be missed.

The *chatra-janata* led mass insurrection has provided us with a historic opportunity to reimagine and reconstitute existing relations between the state and society. The students are now demanding state reform, which is very timely and necessary. But, I believe, we ought to demand more than that. The people, I would argue, need to demand reform of the existing state-society relations as well. The desires and dreams of the youth will never be realised unless we substantively reform existing institutions and create one to govern and mediate relations between the state and society. In place of the hollowed out and purely procedural forms of representative democracy that were practiced by past regimes, we require a more substantive, direct, and deliberative democracy.

The past Awami League regime completely undermined the forms of accountability and checks and balances that characterise a liberal and representative democracy. Since 2014, elections have totally lost effectiveness as a form of direct accountability. Further, the past 15 years of progressively quasi-totalitarian rule by the AL has completely undermined intermediary institutions through which citizens indirectly hold the state accountable—such as parliamentary accountability committees, the judiciary, and the press.

My fundamental concern is about how to make reforms irreversible. This concern stems from the bitter lesson that we learned from the experiences of reforms implemented by the 2007-8 caretaker regime. The caretaker government passed close to 100 acts, ordinances, and laws, and created new institutions which were wiped out within a few weeks by the newly-elected AL government in 2009. The ones retained were captured by party members or hollowed out from within. How do we guarantee that the future ruling party will



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

procedures, known as the procedural form of democracy. This form of democracy is in danger of being reduced to pure procedure, without any substance—for example, the rigged elections held by the previous regime. Instead of a hollow procedural democracy, we require a more substantive democracy that emphasises democratic inclusivity and equality and through which we can claim real ownership over the republic, as is proclaimed in the constitution.

We need to imagine more direct forms of citizen engagement, such as periodic referendums and deliberative forums that are discussion-based and

in the electoral system, such as bi-cameral parliament, proportional representation, and elimination of Article 70 (that deters floor crossing by the parliament members). To these proposals, I would add another more direct democratic option for citizens—the power of constituents to recall their representatives if they are not happy with their performances.

To me, the most critical concern is to guard the guardian, that is to prevent political party elites from capturing accountability institutions. As our past experience shows, the conventional checks and balances imposed by a division of

citizens can exercise veto power at multiple points. Examples of such mechanisms currently under discussion include citizens' commissions for police, banking, education etc., composed of a combination of citizens and state officials.

Beyond such commissions, we need purely societal-based regulatory mechanisms (consisting of citizen members only), for which we have no precedents in Bangladesh. But this is exactly what we need to build to safeguard the achievements of the student movement and to ensure that the reforms remain irreversible in the future.

WHO invites vaccine manufacturers to apply for emergency use listing amid growing mpox outbreak

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General announced on 7 August 2024 that he had triggered the process for Expression of Interest for Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of mpox vaccines given worrying trends in the disease's spread. There is a serious and growing outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that has now expanded outside the country. A new viral strain, which first emerged in September 2023, has for the first time been detected outside DRC.

The EUL procedure is an emergency use authorisation process, specifically developed to expedite the availability of unlicensed medical products like vaccines that are needed in public health emergency situations. This is a time-limited recommendation based on a risk-benefit approach.

WHO is requesting manufacturers to submit data to ensure that the vaccines are safe, effective, of assured quality, and suitable for the target populations.



Granting of an EUL will accelerate vaccine access, particularly for those lower-income countries that have not yet issued their own national regulatory approval. The EUL also enables partners, including Gavi and UNICEF, to procure vaccines for distribution.

Mpox is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus, a species of the genus Orthopoxvirus. Mpox can be transmitted to humans through physical contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials, or with infected animals.

There are currently two vaccines in use against the disease, both of which have been recommended for use by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation, or SAGE.

Source: World Health Organisation



High-carb foods that are actually healthy

STAR HEALTH DESK

Carbohydrates have had a rough go of it in recent years, often being blamed for everything from weight gain to type 2 diabetes. But not all carbs are created equal. While processed foods high in sugar and refined grains can be unhealthy, many nutrient-dense, fibre-rich foods are packed with healthy carbs that are good for you.

Oats: Oats are carb-rich food that deserves a place in your diet. A cup of raw oats contains 54 grammes of carbs, but it also packs in 8 grammes of fibre, including a special type called oat beta-glucan. This fibre is known to lower cholesterol levels, reduce the risk of heart disease, and improve blood sugar levels. Oats are also surprisingly high in protein, making them a great option for breakfast or a snack that keeps you full and satisfied.

Bananas: Bananas are a staple in many diets, and for good reason. One large banana contains about 31 grammes of carbs, primarily in the form of starches and sugars. Bananas are also high in potassium, vitamins B6 and C, and beneficial plant compounds. They are particularly good for heart health, thanks to their potassium content, and less ripe bananas contain resistant starch and pectin, which support digestive health.

Sweet potatoes: Sweet potatoes are a delicious and nutritious root vegetable, rich in carbs and packed with vitamins A and C, potassium, and antioxidants. A half-cup serving of mashed sweet potatoes contains about 20.7 grammes of carbs. The antioxidants in sweet potatoes help protect your cells from damage, reducing the risk of chronic diseases. Plus, their fibre content can aid in weight management by keeping you feeling full longer.

Oranges: Oranges are not only refreshing but also nutritious. These citrus fruits contain about 15.5 grammes of carbs per 100 grammes and are a great source of r. Oranges are particularly high in vitamin C, potassium, and several B vitamins. They also contain citric acid and antioxidants, which can boost heart health, prevent kidney stones, and enhance iron absorption from other foods, helping to prevent anaemia.

Apples: Apples are a beloved fruit with a sweet-tart flavour and crisp texture. Depending on the variety, apples generally contain 14-16 grammes of carbs per 100gms. They are a good source of vitamin C, fibre, and antioxidants. Eating apples has been linked to better blood sugar management and heart health, and early research suggests they may even reduce the risk of certain types of cancer.

Kidney beans: Kidney beans are a legume rich in protein, carbs, and fiber. A 100 gramme serving of cooked kidney beans contains about 21.5 grammes of carbs. They are also packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, including anthocyanins and isoflavones. Kidney beans have been shown to help regulate blood sugar and may reduce the risk of colon cancer.

Chickpeas: Chickpeas, also known as garbanzo beans, are another legume high in carbs and fiber. A 100 gramme serving of cooked chickpeas contains 27.4 grammes of carbs, and nearly 8 grammes of chickpeas are also a great source of plant-based protein, iron, and B vitamins. They have been linked to improved heart and digestive health, and some studies suggest they may help protect against certain types of cancer.

Not all carbs are bad. In fact, many of the healthiest foods are high in carbohydrates. While refined carbs like white bread and pasta may not be the best choice, these nutritious, high-carb foods can be part of a healthy, balanced diet.

So, the next time you are planning a meal, consider adding some of these healthy carbs to your plate. Your body will thank you!

EVERYDAY CARCINOGENS What you need to know to stay safe

Carcinogens are substances that can cause cancer, and they are more common than you might think. They can be found in the air we breathe, the products we use, and even the foods we eat. But just because you come into contact with a carcinogen does not mean you will automatically get cancer. It depends on how much you are exposed to and your genetic makeup.

One of the most well-known carcinogens is tobacco. Whether you are smoking or inhaling secondhand smoke, tobacco contains at least 70 chemicals that can damage your DNA and lead to cancer. Even smokeless tobacco is not safe.



Radon, a naturally occurring gas, becomes dangerous when it accumulates indoors. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and since you can not see or smell it, testing your home is essential.

Then there is asbestos, once commonly used in building materials. If its tiny fibres become airborne and are inhaled, they can lodge in your lungs and cause serious health problems, including cancer.

Even foods can be risky. Crispy, browned foods like roasted potatoes can release acrylamide, a chemical that has been linked to cancer in animals. Limiting these foods might help reduce your risk.

Other everyday carcinogens include formaldehyde in household products, ultraviolet rays from the sun or tanning beds, alcohol, processed meats, engine exhaust, and polluted air.

Understanding these risks and making small changes in your daily routine can help you protect your health and reduce your exposure to these common carcinogens.

Occupational therapy for bullet injury

RABEYA FERDOUS

Many students and normal people experienced gunshot injuries in recent times in Bangladesh. This injury hampered their life very significantly.

A gunshot wound is a penetrating injury caused by a projectile from a gun. Damage may include bleeding, bone fractures, organ damage, wound infection, and loss of the ability to move parts of the body. In severe cases, death may occur.

There are numerous conditions that may arise after gunshot injuries. These include soft tissue injury, muscle injury, nerve injury,

the approach to care.

4. The treatment plan is then implemented, with the necessary interventions and actions being carried out.

Finally, the effectiveness of the treatment is evaluated to determine whether the desired outcomes have been achieved.

According to patients' conditions, treatment may vary. Overall, the occupational therapist provides the following therapy:

- Functional Range of Motion (ROM) exercises
- Functional strengthening exercise
- Practice Activities of Daily Living (ADL)



vascular injury/haemorrhage, bone injury, pain, spinal cord injury, amputation.

After a gunshot, the patient faces different long-term complications. These are joint contracture, myofascial, chronic, or neuropathic pain, complex regional pain syndrome, central sensitisation, mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, or depression, difficulty to participate in daily activities, etc.

Occupational therapy has a significant role in rehabilitating bullet-injured patients. Occupational therapists help to train up on re-performing daily activities and facilitate community reintegration. An occupational therapist uses specific activities to limit the effects of disability and promote independence in all aspects of daily life.

Mainly, occupational therapists use the following stage during therapy sessions:

1. Upon receiving a referral, the first step involves conducting a thorough assessment of the situation or condition.

2. Following the assessment, the next phase is identifying the specific problem or problems that need to be addressed.

3. With the problem identified, a detailed treatment plan is then developed to guide

like dressing, grooming, brushing, combing hair, etc.

- Functional balance training
- Memory training
- Carer and family training
- Writing practice
- Learn energy conservation techniques.
- Fall prevention
- Ergonomically home, office, or classroom modification
- Provide an assistive device or splinting.
- Stress management
- Social skills training

A person may suffer from any type of disability after a gunshot injury. Students face different challenges to continue their study. In this situation, the occupational therapist can help to make him/her independent from their study-related or other daily task activities. Occupational therapy focusses on functional performance and occupational engagement—staying in school, keeping a job, and maintaining relationships.

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A new hope for spinal cord injury patients

Predicting recovery from a cervical spine injury has always been a tough challenge, often leaving patients and their families in uncertainty. However, a recent study may have discovered a key to more accurate forecasts: preserved spinal tissue bridges, which are intact neural tissue near the injury site.

The Lancet published a groundbreaking study that spanned three countries and included 227 patients with spinal cord injuries (SCI) at the C1-C7 vertebrae, revealing these tissue bridges as a powerful predictor of sensory motor recovery. The research team conducted imaging assessments a few weeks after the injury, followed by neurological check-ups at 3 months and, for most patients, at 12 months.

The results are promising. For every millimetre of preserved tissue bridge, patients saw significant improvements in their ability to move and sense touch. A tissue bridge width of 2.0 mm or more was linked to better recovery at 3 months, while a width of 4.0 mm was particularly telling for long-term improvement.

These findings could transform the way doctors and therapists approach spinal cord injuries, offering a new tool to guide treatment and give patients a clearer picture of their recovery journey. As researchers continue to explore this exciting development, the future looks brighter for those facing the daunting road to recovery after a spinal cord injury.

Is Bangladesh ready to face the hit of Mpox?

GOURI BASAK PAROMA

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the Mpox epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on August 14, 2024, prompting governments throughout the world to reevaluate their readiness. Bangladesh, a highly populated South Asian country, is at a critical juncture as the new, more transmissible Clade Ib type of Mpox spreads fast throughout Africa and beyond, prompting a thorough assessment of its preparedness to face this possible calamity.

The global health community is on high alert following the discovery of the Clade Ib form, which appears to spread more easily through sexual networks, adding a new dimension to the issue. Mpox mostly infects people and animals. It is in the same viral family as smallpox, although the symptoms are milder, such as fever, chills, and body pains. However, it has the potential to cause serious disease and even death in certain circumstances.

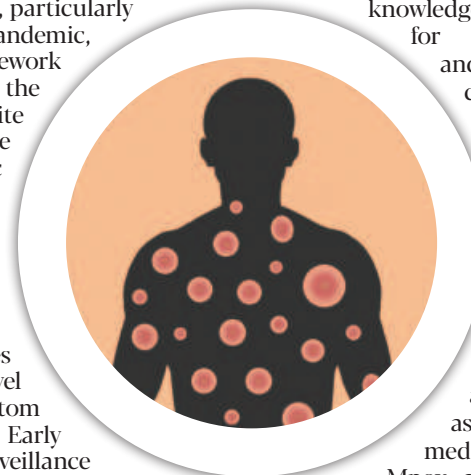
Bangladesh's previous experience with health emergencies, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, serves as a framework for its response to the Mpox danger. Despite being pressured, the country's public health system has demonstrated resilience and adaptation in recent years. However, the distinct properties of mpox and its novel version need a custom response plan. Early detection and surveillance are one of the most significant difficulties Bangladesh confronts.

Dhaka airport has implemented a system to handle passengers with Mpox symptoms, in response to the World Health Organisation's global public health alert. The airport is providing leaflets, and arrival health desks are staffed by doctors 24/7. Passengers' temperature is screened using thermal scanner archways, and those with symptoms will be sent to designated hospitals via ambulance if necessary. The airport's health team recommends avoiding close contact with suspected or confirmed cases, wearing medical masks, avoiding skin-to-skin contact, using disposable gloves, and regularly cleaning hands with soap or alcohol-based hand rubs.

Health authorities need to set up a strong surveillance system, evaluate

its laboratory's competence, and promptly train healthcare professionals about mpox symptoms and diagnostic procedures. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh made progress in strengthening its diagnostic capacities; nonetheless, testing for Mpox necessitates specialised knowledge and equipment. In order to upgrade facilities, the nation must evaluate its present laboratory infrastructure and look for outside assistance. Two worldwide Mpox vaccines are still not widely available in Bangladesh, and in order to obtain vaccination doses, the health ministry must work with foreign groups. It is important to have a well-defined vaccine priority plan that targets high-risk populations and healthcare workers.

Bangladesh is getting ready for a possible epidemic of Mpox by concentrating on producing necessary drugs and vaccinations locally. To investigate these options, the government should communicate with pharmaceutical corporations. In order to share resources,



knowledge, and best practices for mpox preparedness and response, regional cooperation—especially within the context of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)—may be indispensable. Bangladesh has significant expertise and assets at its disposal, such as its handling of prior medical crises. However,

Mpox and its new variant's distinct qualities necessitate a customised, all-encompassing strategy. Early planning, vigilant monitoring, strong public relations, and multinational collaboration are essential for success.

By taking proactive steps now, Bangladesh can strengthen its resilience against Mpox and other potential health emergencies. As the global health landscape evolves, Bangladesh's ability to adapt and respond effectively will be crucial for protecting its population and contributing to global health security. Continuous assessment, adaptation, and collaboration will be essential in navigating this new chapter in global public health.

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Magnificent MUSHY

Playing his first Test in Pakistan, Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim fell just nine runs short of what would have been his fourth Test double hundred.

Mushfiqur got to his 11th Test ton on way to scoring 191 off 341 deliveries. In terms of most Test centuries by any Bangladesh cricketer, Mushfiqur remains just behind Mominul Haque who has 12.

This was also Mushfiqur's fifth Test ton away from home -- most by any Bangladesh player, surpassing Tamim Iqbal who has scored four centuries overseas.

Mushfiqur overtook Tamim as Bangladesh's leading scorer in away Tests, taking his run tally to 2381. He overtook Tamim, who has 2329 runs in 59 innings.

This was also the 37-year-old batter's 68th innings in away Tests, more than any other player in Bangladesh.



After Mushfiqur Rahim and Mehedi Hasan Miraz [bottom] helped Bangladesh dominate proceedings for the most part, the Tigers also finished the fourth day of their first Test against Pakistan on a high in Rawalpindi yesterday. Pacer Shoriful Islam removed Pakistan opener Saim Ayub to leave the hosts at 23 for one, still trailing by 94 runs.

PHOTO: AFP

Decision on Shakib expected after first Test: Faruque

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed informed the board will make a stance regarding a murder case filed against Shakib Al Hasan following the conclusion of the ongoing first Test between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

"The good news is that we finished the fourth day well... I don't think we have considered taking any stance on this matter at the moment," Faruque told reporters yesterday in Mirpur after an unofficial meeting with a few board directors at BCB office.

On Thursday, a case was filed with Adabar Police Station accusing Shakib, along with former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Obaidul Quader, 156 named individuals, and 400-500 unidentified people, of involvement in the killing of garment worker Mohammad Rubel.

Amid such a situation, on Saturday, a legal notice was sent to BCB by a Supreme Court lawyer, asking the BCB to bring Shakib back to the country for a proper investigation into the murder case.

However, the newly elected BCB boss denied receiving such a notice until Saturday.

"We are yet to receive the legal notice. I can't comment on that. A case has been filed, an FIR to be specific. There will be an investigation, and then it will proceed in some direction.

"We may tell you about the legal notice [after the end of first Test] as we expect to get it by this time," Faruque said, further informing that they are working on reforming the current standing committees; including cricket operations, which became vacant after the resignation of Jalal Yunus.

Meanwhile, Faruque said that they have decided to donate Tk one crore to the Chief Adviser's relief fund and send 3,000 packets of dry food and other necessary items through the Bangladesh Army to flood-affected people.

Wickets in first hour vital: Miraz

SPORTS REPORTER

All-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz said that a fiery first hour from the Bangladesh bowlers on Day 5 of the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi can create an unlikely opening for the Tigers in a contest that seemingly is heading towards a draw.

Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam reaped the rewards during a sizzling spell in the last hour of play when he dismissed Pakistan opener Saim Ayub (1) and had the duo of Abdullah Shafique and Shan Masood guessing as the hosts finished the day at 27 for one, still trailing by 94 runs after bundling out the Tigers for 565 earlier.

From the other end, Hasan Mahmud provided adept support with strict line and lengths which boosted confidence in the Tigers' camp to make use of the morning session which should indicate if the Test will see a result other than a draw.

"Our bowlers will have a great chance in the first hour. If we bowl well in the first hour, we will be in a good position," Miraz told reporters after the day's play.

"We have a great chance tomorrow. If we get a few wickets in the first hour, we will get a chance to win. The bowlers need to bowl in good areas. I was fielding at slips and it felt really good to see the way they bowled in the last hour."



Throughout the four days, it has been a challenge for the bowlers to stamp their authority on a Rawalpindi wicket which has maintained the tradition of being a batters' paradise. While pacers have fared better than spinners at the venue, spinners will have a role to play, largely in providing breathers to the quicks in between spells. They can also hope to make use of the turn the Day 5 pitch may provide.

Miraz attested to the visibility of cracks on the surface and will look to do the job with the ball after an impressive 77 with the bat.

"The wicket looks good right now. There are a few cracks and there is a

little bit of spin as well," Miraz said. Earlier, Mushfiqur Rahim stood tall with the bat after the Tigers were reduced to 218 for five on Day 3. The 37-year-old starred with a 191-run knock but fell short of his fourth double century. He stitched a 114-run stand with Liton Das (56) and set a Bangladesh record with a 196-run seventh-wicket stand with Miraz to propel the Tigers to 565.

"We're really happy because we've scored 500 runs after a long time. The credit goes to him [Mushfiqur]. He kept supporting me and told me to keep going as it was an excellent wicket," Miraz said.

'Hamza will be a great addition'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera is looking forward to Leicester City's Hamza Choudhury as a 'great addition for the team' after the midfielder received his Bangladesh passport and sent a letter to the Bangladesh Football Federation expressing his desire to represent the Red and Greens.

During a press briefing on Saturday, BFF general secretary Emran Hossain Tushar informed that Hamza's parents collected his passport from the Bangladesh High Commission in London on Friday and the footballer has also sent a letter to the BFF, wishing to play for Bangladesh.

Speaking on the issue, Cabrera praised the England-born midfielder for his leadership quality as well as his technical ability.

"He (Hamza) will be a great addition for the team, not only for his quality -- what he can provide because of his quality as he is definitely a very top-level player -- but I think he can provide a lot of things off the pitch as a leader with his experience in the Premier League at the top-flight," Cabrera said of his impression about the 26-year-old footballer.

"He has also played for all the youth teams of England. So I think he'll definitely be a very good example off the pitch and he will definitely be a great addition. Hopefully he will be with us very soon," hoped the Spaniard.

Emran, meanwhile, informed that the federation has already asked for an NOC from the English FA regarding the player's availability for Bangladesh, and once it gets the NOC, the certificate will be forwarded to FIFA's players' status committee for approval.

Meanwhile, Cabrera called up 14 players for next month's two-match FIFA friendly series away to Bhutan, with the rest to be called up later.

Cabrera informed that these 14 players will be joined by the players of the Bashundhara Kings as well as a few from the U-20 team, which is currently in Nepal for the SAFF U-20 Championship. The 14 players will undergo a training camp at the Bashundhara Kings Arena on August 26 and after the others join, the final squad of 23 will be announced on August 29, a day prior to the team's departure for Bhutan.

"The priority was to play at home, but in the end it didn't happen. Going to Bhutan is a bit more challenging, mainly because of the altitude and also it's during the Bhutan Premier League, plus the fact that we'll play on an artificial turf," Cabrera said when asked about the team's original plan of securing FIFA ranking points through these two matches, which are scheduled for September 5 and 8.



Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis celebrates his century against England in the second innings of the first Test at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday, helping the visitors set a victory target of 205 for the hosts.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Leverkusen have to be more aggressive'

REUTERS, Monchengladbach

Bayer Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso asked for more character after his side beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-2 in the Bundesliga season opener on Friday through yet another stoppage-time winner.

Leverkusen were awarded a penalty deep into added time and Florian Wirtz scored on a rebound to earn the visitors the three points after Gladbach's Ko Itakura fouled substitute Amine Adli.

"It was an intense first Bundesliga game for us. A lot of things happened in the second half, it was full of emotion right to the end. We did well in many phases," Alonso told a press conference.

"But we weren't always so compact today, we were also a bit passive in some phases. We have to do that better. We have to be more aggressive.

"It's difficult to explain why we always score late goals. We can't train that and I can't influence it. It's the mentality of the team."

Champions Leverkusen, who set a European record of 51 consecutive



games without loss across all competitions last season, kept their unbeaten streak intact with a number of late equalisers.

"We said at halftime that we must not let up and not think that the game is over," said former Gladbach player Granit Xhaka.

"At the end of the first half, we started not being consistent

enough in our passing game and losing easy balls. Here at home, Gladbach never die, you could see that in the (goals for) 1-2 and 2-2."

Xhaka gave Leverkusen the lead with a screamer from outside the box in the 12th minute but did not celebrate out of respect for his former club.

"I had the feeling that we made it unnecessarily difficult for ourselves," added Wirtz, who scored two goals on the night, including the decider.

"We were asleep when it came to conceding goals. We let it slip away ourselves, even though we were actually in control, although we didn't have the ball the whole time.

"I just wanted to decide the game. I know that in the end it will be a lucky win. (But) we are happy that we won and that I was able to score the follow-up shot."

Leverkusen came into the game off a German Supercup win, where they beat VfB Stuttgart 4-3 on penalties after scoring a late equaliser to snatch a 2-2 draw over 90 minutes and lift the trophy on Saturday.



Manchester United players were left distraught after Joao Pedro's 95th-minute header handed Brighton a 2-1 win on Saturday. The win saw Brighton stay perfect in the Premier League, providing a dream home league debut to their 31-year-old boss Fabian Hurzeler.

PHOTO: AFP



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Mushfiqur scales Asian summit

ASHEFAQ UL-ALAM

It is difficult to say whether Bangladesh stalwart Mushfiqur Rahim likes climbing mountains in real life, but when it comes to scaling the hypothetical mountains that exist in cricket, the veteran wicketkeeper-batter has conquered many.

Mushfiqur yesterday reached another such mountaintop in the first of two Tests against hosts Pakistan, becoming the first Bangladesh player to score a Test century in Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, and Sri Lanka – hence conquering the Asian summit.

Now, there is one more Asian country that hosts Test cricket – the UAE – but it does not have Test status and serves as a neutral venue.

On the other hand, there is Afghanistan, the newest member of the Asian Test club, but due to security concerns, Test cricket is yet to be played on Afghan soil.

In his maiden Test innings in Pakistan, Mushfiqur made 191 off 341 balls in Rawalpindi, a knock that oozed class, exemplified his patience, and put his watertight defence on display.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim let out screams of joy as he reached his 11th Test ton on Day 4 of their first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi yesterday. Mushfiqur, however, fell just nine runs short of what would have been his fourth Test double hundred but the batter's 341-ball 191 helped Bangladesh to a commanding position.

PHOTO: AFP

41,551 accused in two cases filed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Within a span of 24 hours, two cases have been filed accusing around 41,551 people on charges of attempting to murder, and attacking a police station and looting firearms in Chattogram.

The case with the attempted murder charge has been filed against 351 people including the former education minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, and 1,200 unnamed people early yesterday.

Just a day earlier, on Friday, another case was lodged, accusing 40,000 unnamed people on charges of attacking on duty police personnel, vandalising property, looting firearms and ammunition, and setting fire to the police station.

Both cases were filed with the Kotwali Police Station in CMP, SM Obaidul Haque, Officer-in-Charge of the police station, confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Police, however, declined to elaborate when asked why the cases were registered with so many unnamed people as accused. No one was arrested in these cases till filing

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Humpback whales use tools!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Humpback whales have joined an exclusive list of animals that not only use but also manufacture their own tools, a new study conducted off the coast of Alaska has found.

Researchers have known that humpbacks create "bubble nets" to hunt. Now, they have found that the giant marine mammals don't just use these unique nets but also manipulate them in a variety of ways to maximise their food intake.

"Many animals use tools to help them find food but very few actually create or modify the tools themselves," said Lars Bejder, an author of the study, published on Tuesday in the journal Royal Society Open Science.

In the study conducted in southeast Alaska, scientists followed and observed solitary humpback whales that blow and craft complex bubbles to catch krill.

The whales have previously been documented to blow bubbles in patterns that form nets with internal rings.

Researchers have now found that mammals actively control details of the bubble nets like the number of rings, the size and depth of the net, and the spacing between bubbles.

The careful approach, "wholly unique" to humpbacks, lets the behemoths capture up to seven times more prey in a single feeding dive without using extra energy.

"This impressive behaviour places humpback whales among the rare group of animals that both make and use their own tools for hunting," Dr Bejder said.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Justice Manik undergoes surgery after attack

Earlier Sylhet court sent him to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, a retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, was hospitalised last night shortly after he was sent to the Sylhet Central Jail.

According to hospital sources, Manik underwent surgery at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and was placed under post-operative observation.

Earlier in the day, while being taken before a judge, Manik sustained critical injuries after coming under attack by unruly people on the court premises in Sylhet, said Md Sagor Mia, deputy inspector general (DIG) prisons of Sylhet.

"He was bleeding internally, and one of his testicles was ruptured from the beating. As his condition was critical, we rushed him to the hospital after he was handed over to the prison authority.

"Police usually arrange treatment for critically

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

SEVEN YEARS OF ROHINGYA CRISIS Worry over fresh influx grows

PORIMOL PALMA

A fresh wave of violence forcing displacement of Rohingya people in Rakhine is a cause for concern for Bangladesh as the country failed to repatriate the Rohingyas who came here in 2017 and before.

The decline in international aid and the birth of 30,000 babies a year at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar is also putting to test Bangladesh's ability to manage the camps where criminal activities are common.

"The reports of fresh displacement of Rohingyas and their attempts to enter Bangladesh are worrisome. Several hundred Rohingya people entered Bangladesh over the last weeks," said a foreign ministry official.

"Our border guards are careful. They are preventing attempts by Rohingyas to enter Bangladesh," the official added, requesting anonymity.

Bangladesh maintains that sustainable repatriation of the Rohingya people is the only solution. At least 1,000 Rohingyas were set to return to Myanmar in November last year. The initiative failed as new conflicts erupted in Rakhine state, the official added.

Two earlier attempts at repatriation also failed.



After Myanmar launched a violent military crackdown in Rakhine on August 25, 2017, about 750,000 Rohingya people entered Bangladesh.

The Gambia later filed a genocide case against Myanmar with the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court is investigating the human rights violation. The UN adopted several resolutions.

But the Rohingya people did not agree to return, saying the condition in Rakhine was not safe, even though the rebel group Arakan Army and Myanmar military signed a ceasefire in October last year.

After November, AA engaged in renewed clashes with the junta and took control of the vast majority of Rakhine State. Over 320,000 people were displaced in Rakhine and Chin states.

Human Rights Watch said in recent months, the Myanmar military and the ethnic Arakan Army have committed mass killings and arson attacks against Rohingya communities.

On August 5, nearly 200 people were reportedly killed by drone strikes and shelling on civilians fleeing fighting in Maungdaw town, according to Rohingya witnesses. About 630,000 Rohingyas remain in Myanmar.

"Rohingya in Rakhine State are enduring

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Metro service resumes today after over a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail is set to resume its service today, over a month of suspension following attacks during the recent mass student protests.

However, the Mirpur-10 and Kazipara stations will remain closed as those were badly damaged in the attacks, metro rail officials said.

The Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) announced on their verified Facebook page that, as before, the train service will not operate on Fridays.

The metro rail will follow its previous schedule.

Metro had brought much-needed relief to the city dwellers, reducing commute time by offering a convenient alternative to the congested roads.

Commuters enjoyed the ease of purchasing tickets and navigating the city without the hassle of traffic jams.

But people started to suffer on the streets again after the metro rail services were suspended on July 18 as the Mirpur-10 and Kazipara stations were vandalised during the quota protests.

The familiar struggle of catching overcrowded buses returned, with

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Drop Shakib from national cricket team Demands legal notice served on BCB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice has been served on the Bangladesh Cricket Board, asking it to remove cricketer Shakib Al Hasan from the national cricket team as he is accused in a murder case.



Supreme Court lawyer Sajib Mahmood Alam sent the notice to the BCB on behalf of another SC lawyer Md Rafiqur Rahman yesterday.

The notice also asked the BCB to bring Shakib back to the country from abroad for the purpose of a proper investigation into the murder case.

The lawyer, in the legal notice, said that since a criminal case has been lodged against Shakib, he cannot be on the national cricket team as

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Students yesterday sorting the relief materials that have poured into TSC of Dhaka University for the flood victims. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Gaza talks set to resume in Cairo as fighting rages

AFP, Cairo

Negotiators geared up for a crucial weekend of Gaza ceasefire talks yesterday, as Hamas said it was sending delegates to Cairo but would not participate in the discussions, and fighting raged in the Palestinian territory.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent months trying to broker an end to the war in Gaza between Hamas Palestinian militants and Israel.

The war, sparked by Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel, has devastated Gaza, displaced nearly all of its population at least once and triggered a humanitarian crisis.

The White House said progress had been made at the latest round this week, although the possible permanent presence of Israeli troops along the Gaza-Egypt border has emerged as a major sticking point.

Previous bouts of optimism during months of on-off ceasefire and hostage release negotiations have always proven unfounded.

A senior Hamas official said a delegation from the Islamist group was heading to Cairo, but that they would not engage in the talks. Instead, they would meet with senior Egyptian officials for updates on the negotiations.

The delegation would "be briefed... but this does not mean it will take part in the negotiations", the official told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said Hamas would insist Israel withdraw all its forces from all of Gaza, including "from the border area with Egypt", known as the Philadelphi Corridor.