

# 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 HEHREL



## '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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

## 41,551 accused

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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

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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 Muhaimeenul 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."