



Dipjol's team has already delivered aid by truck in Cumilla and Feni.



Directors Mostafa Kamal Raz and Rafat Mazumder Rinku in Feni.



Airin visits Noakhali to help the victims.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## Artistes rally to support flood victims across Bangladesh

**Some have personally delivered relief materials to affected areas, while others have made financial contributions to support the victims. Their collective efforts are providing much-needed assistance to those struggling in this dire situation.**

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As Bangladesh grapples with severe flooding, celebrities have united to support those affected by this disaster. Regions such as Feni, Noakhali, Lakshimpur, Cumilla, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Rangamati, and Khagrachari are experiencing one of the worst floods in recent history. In response, many in the entertainment industry have taken action.

Some have personally delivered relief materials to affected areas, while others have made financial contributions to support the victims. Their collective efforts are providing much-needed assistance to those struggling in this dire situation.

Young artistes Arosh Khan and Tasnuva Tisha have journeyed to Feni to offer support. The actors, along with others, have formed groups to deliver relief supplies to affected villages by boat. In Feni, they organised dry food distributions and Arosh made two consecutive visits to flood-hit areas to provide support.

Actress Rukaiya Jahan Chamak has taken the

initiative to support flood victims in Noakhali. She has provided clean drinking water, dry food, and essential medicines, doing her part to bring relief to struggling communities.

Singer

Asif Akbar has addressed the ongoing flood crisis by launching the Asif Akbar Foundation. He announced this initiative, explaining that the foundation's main goal is to raise funds to support flood victims and assist in relief efforts during various natural disasters across the country. He shared his vision, saying, "I have fan clubs in all 64 districts. I plan to form teams of 11 members from each club who will actively stand by people in their districts during such disasters."

Musician Zunayed Evan from the band

Ashes has also travelled to the flood-hit areas to aid victims. Joining him in these efforts are director Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raaz, Shakal Ahmed, Rafat Mozumder Rinku, Emel Haque, and actors Airin and Rashed Simanto, along with many others, who are actively contributing to the relief efforts.

Producer and actor Monowar Hossain Dipjol has once again stepped up to support flood

victims. He is leading efforts to distribute relief supplies to those in need. His team has already delivered aid by truck in Cumilla and Feni, and they have also reached remote areas by boat to ensure help reaches the most affected regions.

Actor Siam Ahmed has pledged to donate two months' earnings to support the victims, sharing this decision in a heartfelt video on Facebook. He also called on other media professionals to contribute according to their abilities. His wife, Shamma Rushafy Abante, a digital content creator, has pledged to donate one month's earnings as well.

Additionally, actresses Azmeri Haque Badhan and Zakia Bari Mamo have promised to provide clothing for those affected by the floods. Artistes including Mehazabien Chowdhury, Tasnia Farin, Apu Biswas, Ananta Jalil, Barsha, and Imran Mahmudul have contributed various food supplies to aid the victims.

A concert held in the Dhaka University area successfully raised both relief supplies and funds for flood victims. The event, titled *Joruri Shongjog*, featured performances by over 30 bands and artistes, including Shironamhin, Sonar Bangla Circus, F Minor, Arghadeb, Sayan, and Krishnakoli. Their efforts have significantly contributed to providing aid to flood-affected communities.

Additionally, the Film Directors Association, the Film Actors Association, the Actors Guild, Get Up Stand Up, and the Bangladesh Artistes Society are all actively working under their respective banners to provide much-needed relief to flood victims.



Arosh Khan and Tasnuva Tisha have travelled to Feni to offer support.

## Ritabhari Chakraborty demands justice for sexual assault survivors



Tollywood actor Ritabhari Chakraborty has come forward with bold accusations of sexual misconduct within West Bengal's entertainment industry.

Without naming anyone specifically, Chakraborty called for exposing those responsible and urged India West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to initiate an investigation akin to the Hema Commission, which recently shed light on similar issues in the Malayalam film industry.

In a Facebook post on Monday night, she wrote, "The Hema Commission report exposing sexual assaults in the Malayalam film industry has left me wondering why the Bengali film industry isn't taking similar steps. Many of the reports echo experiences I've had or ones that actresses I know have faced."

## Rokeya Prachi removed from Telepab VP post

Rokeya Prachi, a renowned actress and director, has been removed from her position as vice president of the Television and Digital Program Producers' Association of Bangladesh (Telepab), amid allegations of disciplinary breaches.

Director Shazzad Hossain Dodul, general secretary at Telepab, confirmed the news. While Prachi will retain her membership in the association, she has lost her influential role as vice president.

Dodul indicated that an official statement, detailing the specific breaches committed by Prachi, will be released to the media shortly. As of Tuesday afternoon, Prachi has not provided any comments regarding her dismissal.



## NEWS

### Dhaka should engage with Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 12  
the 1970s, with the largest one being in 2017. Currently, Bangladesh shelters more than a million Rohingya.

Rohingya repatriation to Myanmar and improving trade with the neighbouring country and the other ASEAN countries are the major objectives of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been maintaining relations with the Myanmar junta since it assumed power for Rohingya repatriation.

The emergence of a de facto statelet on its border that aspires for permanent autonomy will require Bangladesh's interim government to expand the scope of its engagement with the AA, the ICG said.

Despite the challenges Bangladesh faces domestically, it also has a key role in Rakhine State as do other outside actors, it said.

"While strengthening ties with the group, Bangladeshis envoys should emphasise the importance of treating

the Rohingya humanely and with dignity," the report said.

To stabilise the borderlands and address drivers of irregular migration, Dhaka should also allow for more humanitarian aid to the area and trade across the frontier.

"Finally, Dhaka should improve security in the refugee camps, reduce the influence of armed groups there and allow a genuine Rohingya civil society movement to emerge."

The ICG said the other foreign governments should explore how they can work with the AA and neighbouring states to improve humanitarian access and expand assistance for all ethnic communities affected by conflict in central and northern Rakhine State.

For neighbouring states and other outside actors, the emerging situation in Rakhine State creates quandaries, not least the question of how to work with a de facto authority like the AA amid an

international system that for legal and practical reasons privileges relationships with nation states.

Despite the dilemmas, the ICG said neighbours and donors will likely find that the greatest potential for positive humanitarian and security impact by working with Rakhine State's de facto administrators toward mutual goals.

The AA forces have been accused of serious human rights abuses against the Rohingya, including the attack on August 5, for which the group denies responsibility.

Rakhine State requires leaders of both the Rakhine and Rohingya communities to rise above their historical animosity and defuse communal tensions.

"The AA should incorporate more Rohingya into its administration and commit to supporting an independent investigation into allegations of abuses against civilians, which should begin as soon as practicable."

### Seek resolution at UNHRC session

FROM PAGE 12  
responsibility of accounting for the past to steer the country toward a rights-respecting future," said Lucy McKernan, deputy UN Geneva director at HRW.

"The government should support a Human Rights Council-backed investigation into recent abuses while also seeking UN backing for an independent domestic inquiry into the former government's 15 years of rights violations," she said.

The interim government should urgently implement measures to bring civilian oversight over security forces, disband the notorious Rapid Action Battalion, reform institutions in line with international human rights standards, and revise abusive laws.

To effectively follow through on its commitments to justice and accountability amid a highly divisive political environment, the interim government should ask the UNHRC to establish an independent mechanism with a comprehensive mandate to investigate, collect, store, and analyse evidence and cooperate with credible and

independent national and international judicial bodies toward accountability for the July and August violence and its root causes, the rights organisation said.

A UNHRC mandated investigation would have the greatest independence and credibility for Bangladeshis, who distrust domestic institutions and could avoid the political interference that could undermine purely domestic measures, it said.

The HRW suggested that the council resolution should also mandate OHCHR to monitor the human rights situation in Bangladesh through the transition period until there are free and fair elections, and report back regularly.

The HRW said the recent protests reflect the frustration that Bangladesh's economic progress has been unevenly shared.

Social protection should be reformed to guarantee an adequate level of protection for all, and to ensure that no one is excluded from public benefits because of their inability to pay bribes or because they lack social or political connections, it said.

It called upon the interim government to reform institutions, the security

sector, and its justice and legal system, all of which have been deeply eroded under the previous government and earlier administrations, to bring about lasting, human rights changes.

The interim government should welcome the technical assistance of OHCHR to ensure the full independence of legal and judicial bodies, the rights organisations said.

In addition to disbanding the Rapid Action Battalion, the interim government should implement robust human rights training protocols across all security forces and remove laws that enable impunity for security force abuse, Human Rights Watch said.

"Without deep institutional reform and UN support to ensure independence and transparency, the hard-won advancements in Bangladesh could be easily lost," McKernan said.

"The UN and member states should demonstrate their support for all Bangladeshis by backing fact-finding and accountability measures and by investing in rights-based institutional and security sector reform," she said.

### Two girls found dead

FROM PAGE 12  
the victims' families searched for them but could not find them.

Early yesterday, locals found the bodies beside a road in Sadekpur area.

On information, police recovered the bodies, said Mohammad Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police

Station. "We have sent the bodies to Brahmanbaria General Hospital morgue for autopsy. The reasons for the deaths will be known after autopsy," he added.

Contacted, the hospital's Medical Officer Anik Dev said, "We have found multiple injury marks in the private parts of the girls. After primary

investigation, we assume that they were raped around four days ago. However, further investigation is required for this to be confirmed."

Maimuna's father Abdul Barik, hinting at the possible involvement of a madrasa teacher, said they want a proper investigation and punishment of the people responsible.

### Reject writ petition for banning AL

FROM PAGE 12  
Islam during a hearing on the writ petition yesterday.

Following the hearing, the bench set September 1 as the date for issuing an order on the writ.

Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan, executive director of Sarda Society, a rights organisation, filed the petition with the HC as a public interest litigation on August 19, seeking its order to ban AL as a political party and cancel its registration for the indiscriminate

killing of students and general public during the anti-government movement.

In the petition, he implored the HC to pass an order fixing the tenure of the current interim government at three years, rename the institutions that were named after Sheikh Hasina, bring back Tk 11 lakh crores laundered abroad, and transfer officials who were appointed on contract during past regimes of the AL government.

During yesterday's hearing, Attorney General Asaduzzaman told the HC that the person who submitted the writ

petition has no "locus standi" to file such a petition as his organisation's constitution does not allow him to do so.

He also said the writ petitioner did not include the Awami League as a party in the petition and did not serve any notice to AL prior to filing the writ.

He argued, therefore, the writ petition was unacceptable.

The attorney general then asked the HC to fine Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan for submitting the petition and taking up the court's time unnecessarily.

### Hasina faces 5 more cases

FROM PAGE 12  
Magistrate Md Saddam Hossain.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former AL lawmakers Shamim Osman and Ramesh Chandra are among the accused.

The magistrate recorded the statement and asked the officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station to register it as a First Information Report (FIR).

In Mohammadpur, Hasina and 21 others were sued for the killing of Mansur Miah, a machine operator at Buriganga Filling Station in Bosila on July 19.

The victim's brother Ainal Haque filed the case with a Dhaka court which asked the Mohammadpur Police OC to register it as an FIR.

Quader, Asaduzzaman, former AL lawmakers Ali Arafat and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, former DB chief Harun Or Rashid and former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman are among the accused in the case.

Khorshed Alam brother of Miraz Hossain, who was killed on August 5, filed another case against Hasina and 91 others with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Belal Hossain.

The magistrate recorded his statement and asked the Demra Police OC to register it as an FIR.

Hasina and 40 others were sued for the killing of 21-year-old Nahidul Islam at Mirpur 10 on July 19.

The victim's brother Md Sabuj filed the case with a Dhaka court, which

asked Mirpur Police OC to register it as an FIR.

Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy are among the accused.

In Rajshahi, SM Salahuddin Ahmed Shamim Sarkar, convener of Bagha upazila Chhatra Dal, filed a case against Hasina, former state minister for foreign affairs Shahriar Alam, and 52 others on charges of abduction and torture, said Bagha Police OC Abu Siddique.

According to the case statement, under the direct instruction of Hasina and the other accused, Salahuddin was picked up in front of the Bagha New Bus Stand on May 21, 2023.

He was tortured and shot in the leg before being handed over to the police, who later framed him in a false case, Salahuddin mentioned in the case.

### Hasan Mahmud, Nowfel, S Alam

FROM PAGE 12  
education minister Mohibul Hassan

Chowdhury Nowfel; former Chattogram city mayor AJM Nasir Uddin; former MPs Abu Reza Nadvi, Abdul Motaleb, Abduch Salam, and Fazle Karim Chowdhury;

Central Awami League Office Secretary Biplob Barua; Central Awami League member Aminul Islam; Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shyamal Dutta; and S Alam Group chairman's personal assistant

Akij Uddin, among others.

The rest of the accused are leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliate organisations.

According to the case statement, under the leadership of Hasan Mahmud, the accused razed hills in the area for real estate companies in the port city.

The accused had been selling soil collected from the hills in Chattogram and other places through a syndicate.

However, due to fear, no one dared to speak out against them at the time, the statement added.

On December 30, 2017, a landslide in the Rajanagar area under Rangunia killed three people, including a child.

The statement states that the landslide occurred as a result of the accused's indiscriminate hill-cutting as the forest department and local administration were unable to take action against them.

### Murder case filed

FROM PAGE 12  
Divisional Commissioner Zakir

Hossain, former DIG (Rangpur range) of police Abdul Baten, ex-commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police

Mohammad Moniruzzaman, former deputy commissioner Mohammad Mobasher Hasan, and former superintendent of police of Rangpur Mohammad Shahjahan.

Dilruba Akter, wife of victim Muslim Uddin Milon, filed a complaint with

the court of Rangpur Metropolitan Magistrate Raju Ahmed Babu, yesterday, said lawyers Palash Kanti Nag and Mofazzal Hossain Bakul.

The magistrate asked Rangpur Kotwali Police Station to record the complaint as a case.

Besides, many unnamed people were accused in the case.

According to the case statement, on July 19, a clash broke out between students and Awami League leaders and

activists during a quota protest in the City Bazaar area. The incident escalated when police opened fire indiscriminately under the orders of the accused.

Milon was hit by a bullet at that time and taken to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Under pressure from the accused, the body was hurriedly buried without an autopsy, the plaintiff alleged in the case statement.