

## AL govt behind 800 enforced disappearances

Claims Rizvi

STAR REPORT

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday accused the Awami League government of orchestrating the forced disappearances of at least 800 BNP leaders and activists, along with carrying out extrajudicial killings, over the past 15 years.

Rizvi made these claims while visiting the home of Abdur Rashid, who was injured on August 4, during a clash between protesters, AL men, and law enforcers in Dinajpur and was forced to sell his newborn daughter to fund his treatment.

The Daily Star had previously reported on Rashid's plight on September 8, highlighting how the day labourer and his wife sold their three-day-old daughter for Tk 37,000 to pay for his treatment.

While talking to the press during his visit, Rizvi condemned the previous AL government, alleging it was responsible for such tragic incidents.

"We now hear rumours of Hasina's return. She wants to reclaim her throne and continue her rule," he said.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Pritilata Brigade, a youth-led organisation, staged a protest in the Shahbagh area yesterday, demanding justice for the rape of a 70-year-old woman in Dhaka on September 8. They also called for the safety of women in all spheres of society.

## BODIES ON VAN

Rab arrests DB inspector Arafat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion members have arrested DB inspector Arafat Hossain over the incident of piling up and torching bodies near Ashulia Police Station during the student movement on August 5.

A team of Rab-3 arrested Arafat, inspector of Dhaka district north Detective Police, from Aftabnagar in Dhaka early yesterday, confirmed an official of Rab's Legal and Media wing.

A video of several partially covered bloodstained bodies on a van with some policemen standing by went viral on social media on August 30, raising questions about the possible disrespectful handling of the bodies of quota movement victims.

Bodies covered with bedsheets with hands stretched out can be seen in the nearly two-minute video.

Of the policemen standing beside the van, two were wearing police vests and were seen throwing another body onto the piles.

In the video, DB inspector (investigation) Arafat Hossain was seen walking unarmed.

Another video that went viral on social media showed that the bodies on the van were burning while some policemen were standing nearby.

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAH

Tanwir Muhammad Taqi, a bright youngster and son of cultural activist Rafiur Rabbi, went missing on March 6, 2013.

The 17-year-old left his home on Shaista Khan Road in Narayanganj, heading towards a local library.

Two days later, his body was found floating in the Shitalakkhya River.

The day after his body was discovered, his A-level results were released. Taqi had achieved the highest mark in the world for physics, scoring 297 out of 300.

On March 8, 2013, Rabbi filed a murder case with Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station. On March 18, he submitted a supplementary complaint, accusing seven named individuals, including influential political figure Shamim Osman, alongside 8-10 unnamed others, of being involved in his son's murder.

The case was transferred to the Rapid Action Battalion by order of the High Court in June 2013.

Taqi's parents saw a glimpse of hope days before Taqi's first death anniversary when a leaked Rab probe implicated 11 people in Taqi's murder.

Among them was Azmery Osman, the son of late Jatiyo Party lawmaker Nasim Osman

and the nephew of Shamim Osman.

Col Ziaul Ahsan, the then additional director general of Rab, said at the time they had gathered enough evidence to implicate the 11 suspects and promised that a charge sheet would be filed soon.

Yet, despite his assurances, that day of justice remained elusive.

Ten years passed, and Taqi's family was still waiting.



**The government has changed. I hope the current administration will uplift the fragile and broken judiciary and bring justice to the doorstep of the people.**

RAFIUR RABBI  
Father of Taqi

Lt Col Tanveer Mahmud Pasha, the commanding officer of Rab-11, recently told this newspaper

Rab had reached the final stages of the investigation within the first year of the murder. However, due to "hidden pressure," they were unable to move forward.

For years, Rabbi pointed his finger at former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, accusing her of stalling the investigation.

Hasina gave a speech in parliament following the death

of Nasim Osman in April 2014, where she vowed to "take care" of the Osman family.

From that moment, it seemed, any momentum towards justice for Taqi was lost.

But Rabbi never gave up. He pressed on, hoping that one day the system that had failed him would be held accountable.

That day may finally be here. The tables have turned following Hasina's ouster from power

I hope the current administration will uplift the fragile and broken judiciary and bring justice to the doorstep of the people," Rabbi said.

After years of fighting against a system stacked against him, he is finally beginning to believe that justice for Taqi might be within reach.

In 2013, two cadres of the Osman family -- Yusuf Hossain alias Liton and Sultan Shawkat Bhramor -- confessed in court that Taqi was tortured and killed in Azmery Osman's torture cell.

Rabbi claimed that after Nasim and Shamim Osman met Hasina, she ordered the then director general and additional director general of Rab to halt the investigation. From then on, all progress in the murder case stopped, he said.

After Rab's findings were leaked, Rabbi asked why Shamim Osman and his son Ayon Osman weren't named.

Rab official Ziaul Ahsan told him he was instructed not to include them, Rabbi said.

Initially, police investigated the case and quickly found links to the Osman family.

Three days after Taqi's murder, a detective gave Rabbi an audio recording of a conversation between Nasim Osman and his son Azmery.

"After hearing it, I was sure

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## TAQI MURDER

# Hasina's fall brings new hope for justice

## ATTACKS ON STUDENT PROTESTS

## 'Ensure justice for martyrs, injured'

Ganosamhati says at least 22 killed, 227 injured in Mohammadpur, Adabor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 22 people were killed in the Mohammadpur-Adabor area of the capital during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement that ousted the Awami League government.

Additionally, 227 people were injured, while two are still missing, according to a list prepared by Ganosamhati Andolon, unveiled at a programme at the Bengali Medium High School in the capital.

"Based on the information we have gathered, we have currently listed 22 people as killed, 227 as injured, and two as missing. The digitisation of this list is also underway. Next week, the summarised list along with supporting documents will be submitted to the advisers of the ministries of health and home affairs," said Faiyaz Firoz, an organiser of Ganosamhati in Mohammadpur-Adabor.

At the event, the family members of the slain and injured protesters recounted their experiences and placed various demands.

Mahbubur Rahman, father of a deceased named Shaikat, said they faced harassment when they tried to file cases.

He also demanded preparing a full-fledged list of the deceased and injured and unveil it immediately.

Sister of another deceased Mahin said, "My brother left behind two children while he was the only breadwinner of our family. We have no respite from this endless distress."

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## Several women attacked, harassed in Cox's Bazar

Videos show some men hitting them with sticks

STAR REPORT

Several women were harassed and assaulted by a group of men in Cox's Bazar, with footage of the incidents circulating on social media.

The Daily Star analysed at least seven videos, and found a group, led by one Mohammad Farokul Islam, attacked women at the sea beach and Lal Dighi areas of Cox's Bazar on the night of September 11.

In one video, Farokul, who was wielding a stick, and his associates were verbally abusing a woman at the beach and forcing her to do sit-ups while holding her ears.

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## Hindu Jagran Manch protests attack on minorities

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Hindu Jagran Manch, a platform advocating for the rights of Hindus, demonstrated in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday, protesting against what they described as torture, vandalism, arson at religious sites, land grabbing, and other atrocities targeting the minority community.

The protesters blocked the Shahbagh intersection in the afternoon, bringing traffic in the area to a halt. Police were deployed to ensure no untoward incidents occurred.

At the protest, the group reiterated their eight-point demand, accusing the government of failing to take effective action to address their concerns.

The key demands include formation of a minority protection committee, establishment of a dedicated ministry for minority communities,

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## Hilsa eggs: a delicacy out of reach for many

Price increased by 150pc in 2 yrs, now selling at Tk 3,000 per kg



SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

Do you love hilsa eggs? If so, you're not alone. For many families, especially the little ones at home, these delicate, flavourful eggs are a cherished treat. But this season, getting your hands on this once-affordable delicacy may prove a real challenge.



The price of hilsa eggs has skyrocketed by 150 percent in just two years. What was priced at Tk 1,200 per kilogramme in 2022, and Tk 1,500 in 2023, has now surged to Tk 3,000 per kilogramme in 2024.

This hike has turned what was once a common indulgence into a rare and costly luxury, increasingly

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## 'Govt did nothing to stop attacks on shrines'

Alleges Farhad Mazhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet and writer Farhad Mazhar yesterday termed the vandalism of shrines across the country pre-planned and said the government took no steps to prevent the attacks.

"Firstly, it is a criminal offence. However, the new government did not take any action to prevent such attacks. Secondly, these attacks on shrines were pre-planned and carried out after public announcements. We have seen these announcements on social media," he said.

Mazhar made these remarks while addressing a human chain at the National Museum premises in the capital.

The event was organised by Bhab-baithaki -- an idea

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Pedestrians cross a busy road amid moving traffic yesterday. Some slow down to let cars pass, while others speed up to seize gaps between vehicles. One person is even talking on the phone while crossing. Such reckless behaviour increases the likelihood of accidents. The photo was taken in the capital's Sonargaon intersection.