

# ‘BUK PETECHI GULI KOR’ remembers the heroes of July



PHOTOS: SHAHBAZ NAHIAN

SHAHBAZ NAHIAN

The essence of the events Bangladesh witnessed during the student-led mass uprising in July and August, which escalated into a bloodied revolution, ultimately toppling the regime of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and giving rise to what we now call a new Bangladesh, is truly inexplicable.

The memories and spirit of the revolution are firmly etched in our hearts, accompanied by a fair share of bittersweetness. This chapter has undoubtedly become permanent, especially for those of us who were in the streets, directly witnessing both the gruesome brutalities and the unity of the people.

On that note, visual materials served as monumental catalysts in this revolution. Photographs and videos of the atrocities circulated on social media almost every day. The macabre scenes caused outrage, nearly leading to a civil war, and only strengthened the collective zeal of the people.

*Buk Petechi Guli Kor*, the ongoing exhibition at the second-floor gallery of Dhaka’s DrikPath building, is not just a trip



down memory lane from July to August; it starkly reminds us of what must never be forgotten regarding the mass uprising and the cost of achieving the feeling of freedom.

“We have a tendency of forgetting, then moving on with life. But for those who have lost limbs, those who have lost their loved ones, time is unfathomably motionless. They will never forget what happened,” said ASM Rezaur Rahman, the curator of the exhibition.

“One of our main intentions behind the exhibition was to collect as many visual documents as possible in one place. Not

only because of historical value and to remind future Bangladesh of what happened, but these will serve as evidence in the future court trials against those who were on the wrong side of history,” he further added.

The DrikPath gallery walls, proudly and with the utmost care, carry over a hundred images, of revolt to resistance and finally victory, that reverberate the spirit of the revolution. The exhibition is open to all from 3pm to 8pm every day, until September 29.

*The author is a freelancer for Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star.*

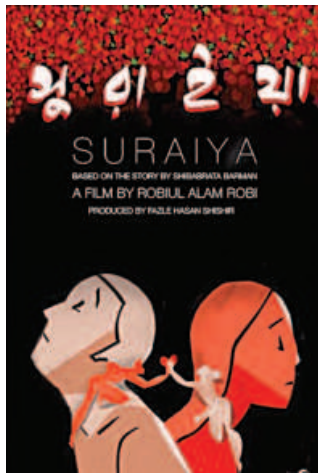
## ‘Suraiya’ to be featured in Tasveer Film Festival

The Bangladeshi film *Suraiya*, directed by Robiul Alam Robi, has been chosen for the Tasveer Film Festival and Market in Seattle, USA.

The film is based on the novel of the same name by Shibabrata Barman.

Director Robiul expressed his excitement, stating, “This is a wonderful news for us. It’s a significant achievement to witness South Asian projects receiving such recognition at a major event like this.”

Previously, *Suraiya* was selected for South Korea’s prestigious Busan Film Market, where it received mentorship and screenplay workshop assistance from PAS, France.



## Director Rinku GRANTED BAIL



A Dhaka court has granted bail to television director Rafat Mozumder Rinku in a case related to the murder of college student Mohammad Naimur Rahman during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement in July-August, in the Gulshan area of the capital.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifuzzaman passed the order after hearing arguments from both the prosecution and defense.

The defense argued that Rinku’s name was not in the FIR and he had no ties to the former ruling Awami League or its student wing. They claimed he was falsely implicated in harassment, resulting in the court granting bail.

During Thursday’s hearing, the investigating officer of the case was present in court and briefed the judge on the progress of the investigation.

# NEWS

## Constitutional changes

FROM PAGE 16

said, “One method of deciding on a constitution will be by conducting a referendum. Referendums are debated. Referendums are not the will of the people, rather those are always the will of the majority. Before even going for a referendum, we have to focus on reforming the political parties.”

Lawyer Mustafizur said the authorities must invite all political parties to the table to change the constitution.

“This includes parties like Hefazat-e-Islam who always professed an exclusionary view of the society. Hefazat will get a seat at the table. Are we prepared to negotiate with them? This is already a divided nation. Is there a reason to introduce more divisions?” he questioned.

Zahed raised the question whether Bangladesh can be both an Islamic state and a religion-neutral state.

“Multiculturalism is more relevant than secularism in the context of our country,” said Prof Md Rabiul

Islam, chairman of the department of law and justice at Jahangirnagar University, referring to the separation of church and state.

“Ours is neither an inclusive nor an exclusive society. The Bangalee vs Bangladeshi dichotomy within the constitution should be replaced by the term ‘People of Bangladesh’. You are calling it the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, but the society is so ethnocentric.”

Treating everyone equally is the definition of justice, said Quazi Omar Foysal, faculty member of the department of law at American International University of Bangladesh.

Advocate Hasnat Qayum, the main coordinator of Rashtrachinta, pointed out that the constitution does not allow common ownership of property as practised by the indigenous communities.

Speakers also questioned whether the incumbent government has the mandate to change the constitution.

Dr Sharif Bhuiyan, a lawyer of

the Supreme Court, said the interim government does not have the mandate to frame a new constitution.

“We need an elected parliament for this. But they can start the process. They can start taking people’s perspectives into consideration.”

Speakers also expressed worries that an elected government may not be willing to change the constitution in a way that serves the people’s interests.

“For that, we need a pluralistic parliament,” said writer and journalist Aminur Rashid.

“Which previous constitutional amendment was done for the sake of the people?” said Rabiul.

Mentioning that changing the constitution is an expensive job, Pymhe questioned whether the interim government have the required resources.

Barrister Sara Hossain, executive director of BLAST, moderated the programme held at Dhaka University’s RC Majumdar Auditorium.

## ‘Ice has started to melt’

FROM PAGE 16

Speaking to ANI, Fakhrul said Verma’s visit has led to many positives for both countries. “There has been a question about our relationship since the last election in Bangladesh. The high commissioner’s visit to our office definitely improved the situation. The ice has started melting.”

He said his party has assured India that if they come to power, they will not allow the soil of Bangladesh to be used by separatist organisations. In the past, there have been reports of militant outfits of India’s northeast sheltering in Bangladesh.

“We discussed normal relationship between the two countries. We mentioned the water-sharing issues, the border killings, and the existing trade imbalance. India’s main issue was the security problem,” Fakhrul told ANI about his meeting with the Indian high commissioner.

He said, “The Bangladesh-India relationship had been very good at all times. But there were some misunderstandings regarding the relationship of the BNP with India. I hope this [relationship] will be

better this time. They [India] will try to understand our situation. We, especially, have reiterated that India should try to feel the pulse of the people of this country. They should not put all the eggs in one basket. They should develop relationship people to people.”

About the meeting between Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, the BNP secretary general said, “Definitely, it is very significant. After the change in Bangladesh politics, the foreign adviser meeting Jaishankar must be very significant, and we believe that the relationship will be strengthened after this meeting.”

“The cooperation between the people of India and Bangladesh should be stronger. People-to-people relationship is key to strengthening the relationship between India and Bangladesh.”

Responding to a query, Fakhrul said, “I don’t know yet if the government made any official request

to India to send Sheikh Hasina back to Bangladesh. But I think that the former prime minister should come back to face the allegations against her, and she should be accountable.”

Meanwhile, the BNP says it has alerted its units about the safety of the Hindu people ahead of Durga Puja to be celebrated from October 9 to 13.

“We are very much concerned about the wrong narrative that the Hindu community is facing a serious problem in Bangladesh. I don’t think that any serious problem is going on. After every change, there are some problems that are political, not religious or communal. Some events happened. These are all political in nature, not communal. But we are very alert to safeguard the minorities of our country. Especially, ahead of the Puja, we have already instructed our units throughout the country to be alert.”

The BNP also believes that Bangladesh would soon make the transition from the interim government to a democratically elected one.

## HK court jails former editor

FROM PAGE 16

to 21 months while Lam was given a sentence that allowed him to be released immediately on health grounds.

District Court Judge Kwok Wai-kin noted evidence from Lam’s lawyer yesterday that he had serious autoimmune and advanced kidney disease, and prison could further endanger him.

Chung smiled as the judge said his colleague Lam would be released, and Lam’s wife wept. Chung would have to serve around 10 months in jail given earlier remand custody.

Stand News, once Hong Kong’s leading online media outlet, was known for its hard-hitting reports about the city’s 2019 pro-democracy protests and later the national security crackdown.

Under the colonial-era sedition law, the maximum sentencing is two years imprisonment and a fine of HKD5,000 (US\$642).

Western diplomats witnessed the sentencing, including representatives from the United States, the European Union, France, Britain, Canada and Ireland.

Liz Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, said earlier that the office was calling on Hong Kong authorities to review the court’s decision in line with obligations under international human rights law.

Twenty-three member states of the Media Freedom Coalition, including the US, UK and Canada, have similarly signed a statement, urging “Hong Kong and China authorities to abide

by their international human rights commitments and legal obligations, and to respect freedom of the press and freedom of speech in Hong Kong.”

A spokesperson for Hong Kong’s government said in a statement that the government “strongly disapproved of and rejected the fact-twisting remarks and baseless smears” by the coalition. Hong Kong and Chinese officials have said the security clampdown was needed to maintain stability after the pro-democracy protests.

Judge Kwok wrote in a verdict in August that “the political ideology of Stand News was localism” and “the line it took was to support and promote Hong Kong local autonomy”.

Hong Kong’s mostly youthful localist movement emerged in the 2010s amid political tensions with Beijing, emphasizing local identity and culture, as well as greater autonomy. Some supporters called for Hong Kong independence.

## DC’s vehicle

FROM PAGE 16

got punctured, we immediately stopped a CNG-run three-wheeler and took the mother and the son to the nearby Hope Hospital and then to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital, where the child was declared dead around noon,” the DC said.

Later the district administration made arrangements to send the mother to Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Rubina’s husband Shahin runs a small restaurant in Ramu.

## Israel rejects truce proposal

FROM PAGE 16

year in solidarity with Palestinian groups fighting in Gaza.

“There will be no ceasefire in the north,” Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X. “We will continue to fight against the Hezbollah terrorist organization with all our strength until victory and the safe return of the residents.”

Those comments dashed hopes for a swift settlement after Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, whose government includes Hezbollah elements, had expressed hope for a ceasefire.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, heading to New York to address the United Nations, said he had not yet given his response to the

truce proposal but had instructed the army to fight on. Hardliners in his government said Israel should reject any truce and keep hitting Hezbollah.

Israeli airstrikes overnight hit around 75 Hezbollah targets in the Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon, including weapons storage facilities and ready-to-fire launchers.

The Israeli military said dozens of Hezbollah targets were attacked, including terrorists, military buildings and weapons depots, in several areas yesterday morning.

Around 45 projectiles were fired from Lebanon towards the western Galilee area, some of which were intercepted with the rest falling on open ground, said the Israeli military.

## Global activists

FROM PAGE 2

Yunus also said his government would welcome criticism of its activities and vowed that the interim administration would uphold freedom of speech.

“This government isn’t bothered by any criticism. In fact, we are inviting criticism,” he said, adding the government “won’t restrict any voices” in the country.

Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, formerly a Hong Kong-based human rights activist, and Julia Bleckner, a senior researcher of Human Rights Watch, also spoke during the meeting.

## Tigers eye

FROM PAGE 16

guessing by preparing two wickets, adjacent to each other, each with vastly contrasting outlook, escalating the mystery that awaits Bangladesh today.

The first wicket is said to have a green tinge on the surface, while the other, built on darker soil, cautions a vastly different set of challenges.

The weather forecast has also decided to keep up with the mystery surrounding the conditions. As of today, it has been forecasted that the first three days of the Test will see rain pour down, and interrupt proceedings.

Despite all of these uncertainties, the biggest unknown perhaps is how the Bangladesh batting will come through in this match. While the bowlers managed to take serious tests of the Indian batters in Chennai, the batters produced underwhelming displays in both innings – getting bundled out for 149 and 234 – and could never challenge the might of the Indian bowling attack.

## BFIU seeks

FROM PAGE 16

and deposit plus scheme (IDPS) accounts in their names, organisations or companies within the next five business days.

It also asked banks to freeze the accounts of former Cumilla AL MP AKM Bahauddin Bahar and his daughter Tahsina Bahar Shuchona, former mayor of Comilla City Corporation.

Besides, the accounts of Bahar’s wife Mehrunnisha, his two other daughters Ayman Bahar and Aziza Bahar, and Tahsin’s husband Saiful Alam Roni have been frozen.