

## President for more initiative to execute RTI

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday urged the Information Commission and other public and private organisations to take more initiatives to raise awareness about the Right to Information Act (RTI) to ensure its proper implementation.

In a message marking “International Right to Information Day 2024,” the president expressed hope that people’s empowerment over government and social institutions would be strengthened through the united efforts of all in removing existing barriers to the act’s implementation.

To ensure the free flow of information, like in other countries, the president expressed satisfaction over the celebration of “International Right to Information Day 2024” today.

President Shahabuddin emphasised that it is the democratic right of the people to access information, as it empowers them and helps in making informed decisions.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus presented the art book “Art of Triumph” to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday. The book features graffiti by Bangladeshi students following the July revolution. PHOTO: PID

## Mahmudur Rahman returns home after long exile

UNB, Dhaka

Mahmudur Rahman, the editor of Amar Desh, returned to the country yesterday morning after spending over five and a half years in exile.

He arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from Turkey on a Qatar Airways flight at 9:20am.

Leaders from the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Dhaka Union of Journalists, and the Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad welcomed him at the airport.

Coming out of the airport, Mahmudur Rahman greeted his supporters while standing in a convertible car.

Addressing the crowd, Mahmudur Rahman said, “Once, the youth of Bangladesh used to consider Che Guevara as a symbol of revolution; now they see Abu Sayed as their ideal.”

The Amar Desh editor said he fought against the fascist Awami League

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# Rabbi’s martyrdom yet to get recognition

Sisters struggle to get official acknowledgement for their 17-year-old brother

NILIMA JAHAN

In the early hours of August 5, two young women were frantically searching for their 17-year-old brother, Ismail Hossen Rabbi, who had gone missing after leaving home the previous day to join the Anti-Discrimination student movement, breaking the lock on their tin-roofed house.

After hours of desperate searching, an Ansar member at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue showed them several photographs. Among them, they found Rabbi – lying lifeless on a stretcher, a single gunshot wound visible on his forehead, part of his brain exposed.

“Seeing the photo of my brother, my whole universe turned upside down,” said Mim Akter, one of Rabbi’s sisters.

The sisters requested the morgue authorities to release their brother’s body but were told they first needed to prove their relationship.

When they asked how to do so, the authorities instructed them

to bring police officers from the Jhigatola police box, who had reportedly left Rabbi at DMCH.

“However, when we sent our maternal uncles to the Jhigatola police box, they were chased away,” Mim said.

“We begged the morgue authorities, explaining that the police wouldn’t come, but they didn’t



listen,” Mim added. “We were terrified they would disappear his body, just as we had heard happened to other students.”

Later that afternoon, when protesting students arrived to retrieve the bodies of others,

the sisters asked for their help. With the students’ assistance, they managed to recover Rabbi’s body from the morgue and, after pleading repeatedly, secured a death certificate from Ward 7.

However, the certificate only listed his name and date of death, without mentioning the cause, even though his forehead visibly bore a bullet wound.

Mim and her sister Mitu then hurriedly carried the body away, fearing the police might stop them.

“All my life, I thought my brother would carry our coffin one day. Never in my worst nightmare did I imagine that we would be carrying his,” Mim said. “There are even videos of us, with the help of students, carrying my brother’s body from the hospital,” she added.

Despite possessing ample evidence – including photographs of Rabbi’s body, videos of their struggle to retrieve him, and a death certificate – the sisters remain unable to secure their brother’s martyr status.

Rabbi’s name is absent from the martyr list, leaving them uncertain where to seek recognition for his sacrifice.

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## New Islamic platform formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new Islamic platform, “Sadharan Alem Samaj,” was launched yesterday at an event in Dhaka.

Ridwan Hasan was named convener, with Rokib Muhammad as the member secretary.

The committee also includes nine joint conveners and ten members.

During a discussion titled “People’s Expectations from Future Bangladesh” at the Institute of Diploma Engineers, the platform’s leaders called for the country to be governed according to Islamic principles.

They criticised previous regimes for failing to uphold Islamic values, despite Islam being the state religion in the constitution.

The speakers urged unity among Muslims, stressing the need to set aside differences for the greater good of the community.

Family members of two victims of the July movement also spoke, demanding justice.

Basir Ahmed, father of Shahadat Hossain, said no one had visited him since his son’s death.

He appealed for financial assistance from the interim government.

## Two more dengue deaths, 321 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At least two dengue patients died and 321 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Among the deaths, one is from Dhaka South City Corporation while another is from Dhaka North City Corporation areas, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 143 while total number of cases climbed to 27,705, of which 15,486 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 2,942 dengue patients are undergoing treatment, of which 1,420 are from outside Dhaka.

A total of 24,620 patients have been released till yesterday and 14,025 of them are from outside Dhaka.

## LT TANJIM KILLING

## One more arrested in Cox’s Bazar

UNB, Cox’s Bazar

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-15) arrested one more key suspect in Cox’s Bazar over the killing of Lt Tanjim Sarwar Nirjon.

Lt Tanjim, 23, was stabbed to death during a drive to prevent a robbery in the upazila early Tuesday.

The accused, Md Sadek, 41, was arrested during a joint drive conducted by Rab-15 and other law enforcement agencies in Fasiakhali under Chakaria Police Station early yesterday.

Md Abul Kalam Chowdhury, additional superintendent of police and senior assistant director (Law and Media) of Rab-15, confirmed the matter.

Acting on secret information, the joint force launched a raid around 2:15am and arrested Sadek, one of the suspects named in the murder case.

Sadek, a resident of Fasiakhali, admitted his involvement in the killing during primary interrogation, according to Rab officials.

Following his arrest, Sadek was handed over to Chakaria Police Station for further legal proceedings.

According to media reports, six people were arrested in Cox’s Bazar’s Chakaria upazila in connection with the murder.

## Nine Bangladeshi teens return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Nine Bangladeshi teenagers, aged between 16 and 18, returned home through Benapole check post Thursday night after spending two years in an Indian jail.

Petapole Immigration Police handed over the teenagers to Benapole immigration authorities around 9:30pm, said Omor Faruk Majumder, officer-in-charge of Benapole Immigration Police.

The returnees hail from Kishoreganj, Khulna, and Narayanganj districts.

OC Faruk said that the teenagers were lured to India by human traffickers two and a half years ago with promises of well-paid jobs. However, the brokers abandoned them at Kolkata’s Sealdah railway station, where they were subsequently arrested by Indian police. The court sentenced them to two years in prison.

Arifa Akter, an official from Jessore Justice and Care, and Toufiquezzaman from Rights Jessore, said the teenagers are currently being sheltered at their homes in Jashore and will be reunited with their families soon.

## CUSTODIAL TORTURE AND DEATH

# Justice still eludes Jonny’s family

They’re yet to get compensation; appeal hearing not finished 4 years after lower court verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Four years have passed after the concerned lower court finished the trial proceedings and delivered its verdict in a case filed for the custodial torture and death of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment-waste trader from Mirpur, 10 years ago.

The High Court is yet to conclude hearings of the appeals lodged by the convicted accused, challenging the trial court verdict.

The HC bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan started hearing the appeals on July 10 and held hearings for three working days till July 31.

The bench is scheduled to resume the hearing on October 24, the concerned lawyers told The Daily Star.

The jurisdiction of the bench

led by SM Kuddus Zaman has been reconstituted by the chief justice a few weeks back as a routine work.

The HC bench could not start the hearing earlier as the



**On September 9, 2020, a Dhaka court sentenced former SI Zahidur and former assistant sub-inspectors Qamruzzaman Mintu and Rashedul Islam of Pallabi Police Station to life imprisonment and sentenced police informers Sumon and Russell to seven years in jail.**

convicted accused have failed to prepare the essential paper book for the case on time, according to the lawyers.

Meanwhile, family members of Jonny, whose custodial torture and death in 2014 had

sparked outrage in the country, are still awaiting the HC verdict in the case.

The lower court delivered its judgment on September 9, 2020, sentencing 5 people,

including 3 police officials, to different jail terms.

A group of 25 to 26 police officers – including the then sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station Zahidur Rahman –

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Workers cross the Buriganga river to get to Keraniganj amid heavy rain. Many like them rarely have the luxury to stay indoors and avoid work during unfavourable weather conditions. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN