



## March for Unity today

Announce student coordinators following govt move for a declaration on July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination has announced that it will hold a March for Unity programme at the Central Shaheed Minar today in support of the interim government's initiative to prepare a declaration of the July uprising based on national consensus.

As of 2:30am today, the student leaders had not made it clear whether they would formally proclaim the July uprising as they had announced on Sunday.

"Our heartfelt appeal to the people of Bangladesh, spontaneously participate in this programme," Arif Sohel, member secretary of the platform, told reporters after a near four-hour meeting at the office of Students Against Discrimination at the capital's Banglamotor.

Hours after the students made the announcement on Sunday, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters that the government had no involvement in the student leaders' proclamation event.

However, the interim government last night said it took an initiative to prepare a declaration of the July uprising based on national consensus.

After the government announcement, there was uncertainty about whether the students would hold their event. They then began the meeting.

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Sand traders have encroached upon the Shitalakhya in the Ichakhali area of Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila, narrowing down the width of the river. Although the authorities set up demarcation pillars along the river, their efforts to protect it from encroachers have been in vain. A demarcation pillar is seen next to the arm of an excavator. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Cops complicit in crimes must be brought to justice: Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus yesterday said that police personnel found guilty of crimes must be held accountable while the innocents have nothing to fear and should be allowed to perform their duties.

He instructed the field-level administration and police officials from 33 districts of Dhaka, Chattogram, Mymensingh, and Sylhet divisions to work on maintaining law and order, fostering communal harmony, and

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Disagreements must not harm the nation Says Tarique, hopes to return to country soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said that there might be



differences of opinion but it should not reach a point where it harms the country.

"We must be careful not to create a situation in which desires of the people get ignored," he told a rally in Nilphamari.

The BNP, other political parties, and the people from all walks of life ousted the autocrat, Tarique said, urging everyone to unite to rebuild the country.

He also underscored the need for bringing back

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## TURMOIL IN MOZAMBIQUE

### Bangladeshis' homes, shops being attacked

Many go into hiding fearing for their lives as country engrossed in post-polls violence

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Law enforcers only watch as some Mozambicans loot shops and set fire to homes belonging to Bangladeshis. Sometimes, the groups extort money from Bangladeshis by threatening to attack them, their homes or businesses.

This is what over a dozen Bangladeshis said over a conference call between this paper and them on December 25. They joined from different provinces of the country.

Ziaul Islam, a Bangladeshi living in Zigi of Zambezia, told The Daily Star, "We have to pay around 20,000 metical [over Tk 37,300] to ensure our security. We have to pay them [natives] whenever they discover our hideouts."

Ziaul claimed that almost every Bangladeshi involved in business has been attacked, and they are now moving from one hideout to another after leaving their homes behind.

Mozambique, an eastern African nation, has been engrossed by violence and anarchy following its presidential election and the contentious results.

The unrest spread after Mozambique's top court on December 23 declared Frelimo party presidential candidate Daniel Chapo the winner of October's elections, prompting opposition supporters to make good on their promises to continue protests.

Amid the turmoil, 5,000 to 8,000 Bangladeshis in Mozambique are living in fear, insecurity, and uncertainty.

Ziaul is among the worst affected. The man from Cox's Bazar went to Mozambique in 2019 on a tourist visa and started working in the shop belonging to his elder brother.

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## Nation sees tectonic shifts in politics

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Seismic. That is perhaps the one word close enough to describe Bangladesh's transformation in 2024. The year will remain etched in the nation's annals as a watershed. A deeply entrenched despotic regime had crumbled in the face of a mass uprising that traces its roots back to a fledgling student campaign against government job reservations. With an interim government in charge until the next elections, the nation feverishly awaits a raft of reforms that will finally usher in the much-vaunted Bangladesh 2.0.

The year had begun with the national elections -- which even hardcore Awami League enthusiasts would agree -- had become meaningless after the heavily one-sided and rigged editions of 2014 and 2018. Designated opposition parties and independents were blatantly keen to have the blessings of the ruling Awami League before taking the field. There was little doubt that without the ruling party's endorsement, no one would win the elections. Bangladesh had become a de facto single-party state. Political diversity and opposition existed only on paper. It was no surprise that the 2024 election appeared to have further cemented the Awami League's grip on power.

The student protests began like faint trickles leaking through a sturdy dam that held for years. There was no indication of a strong current on the other side. What began in July as a few hundred students protesting against government job quotas on a handful of university campuses, expected to fizzle out within a few weeks, if not days, turned into a deluge that would sweep away the dam.

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Jimmy Carter passes away at 100

World leaders offer condolences

REUTERS, Washington

Jimmy Carter, the earnest Georgia peanut farmer who as US president struggled with a bad economy and the Iran hostage crisis but brokered peace between Israel and Egypt and later received the Nobel Peace Prize for his humanitarian work, died at his home in Plains, Georgia on Sunday. He was 100.

US President Joe Biden directed that January 9 will be a national day of mourning throughout the United States for Carter, the White House said in a statement.

"I call on the American

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Women try to warm themselves by the fire at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Inset, a man holds the body of his newborn son, who reportedly died due to hypothermia, ahead of the funeral at the Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza Strip on Sunday. Israel's war on Gaza has displaced almost all of the enclave's 2.4 million residents who are bracing for another bitter winter without electricity and adequate food.

PHOTO: AFP



What makes Dhaka-Mawa expressway so deadly?

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31 Kurdish, Turkish-backed fighters killed in Syria

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Australia win MCG thriller

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## গণমাধ্যম বিষয়ে জাতীয় জনমত জরিপ

গণমাধ্যম সংস্কার কমিশন-এর চাহিদার ভিত্তিতে বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো কর্তৃক দৈবচয়ন পদ্ধতিতে দেশব্যাপী নমুনা এলাকাসমূহে ০১-০৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫খ্রিঃ 'গণমাধ্যম বিষয়ে জাতীয় জনমত জরিপ' পরিচালিত হবে। রাষ্ট্রীয় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ এ জরিপে তথ্য দিয়ে সহযোগিতা করুন।



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