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## REMOVAL OF WORD ‘ADIVASI’ Indigenous group attacked at NCTB; 20 hurt

Two detained; no case filed yet

MASHFIQ MIZAN and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

At least 20 persons were injured yesterday in an attack on an indigenous group and its supporters protesting the removal of a graffiti from textbooks featuring the word “indigenous” (adivasi, in Bangla).

The attack was allegedly carried out by a group identifying themselves as “Students for Sovereignty” in front of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board office in Motijheel.

The attack ensued when some indigenous people and their supporters under the banner, Aggrieved Indigenous Student-Masses, went to the NCTB office to hold a scheduled programme.

The injured include Rupaiya Shrestha Tanchangya, 24, a central leader of the Students Against Discrimination platform; Isaba Suhrat, 25; Rengiyong Mro, 27; Don Jetra; Futonto Chakma, 22; Dhanojatra, 28; Anonto Dhamay, 35; DBC journalist Jewel Marak, 35; Shaily, 27; Donoi Mro, 24; Tanichirang, 30; Toni Chiran; Rahee Nayab and more.

Critically injured – Rupaiya, Don, and Jewel – were taken to Bangladesh Specialized Hospital from Dhaka Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment.

Rupaiya required 12 stitches on her head, while both of Don’s arms were fractured in the attack.

Footage from the scene shows Rupaiya bleeding profusely from her head and lying on the ground as attackers surrounded her, repeatedly striking her with cricket stumps and sticks.

Witnesses said Don sustained his injuries while trying to shield her from the assault.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED



Activists of “Students for Sovereignty” encircle 2 protesters and beat them with sticks outside the NCTB yesterday. The protesters from indigenous communities demonstrated against the removal of an image of a graffiti with the word “indigenous” from a textbook. *Left*, attackers swoop on protesters. *Right*, bleeding profusely, a protester sits on the ground.



## ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE Apex court clears Khaleda, Tarique

No legal bar for ex-PM to contest polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday acquitted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her son, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, and four others of corruption charges in the Zia Orphanage Trust case.

With the Appellate Division scrapping the verdicts of the High Court and a trial court in the case, there is no legal bar now for Khaleda to contest the next national elections, Fahima Nasrin Munni, a pro-BNP lawyer and former deputy attorney general, told The Daily Star.

On February 8, 2018, the trial court sentenced Khaleda to five years imprisonment and others, including Tarique, to 10 years in jail in the graft case.

The HC doubled the jail sentence of Khaleda to 10 years and upheld the trial court’s verdict on the others on October 30, 2018.

Tarique has been in London since 2008 while Khaleda travelled there this month for treatment.

The Appellate Division’s verdict said, “All the appeals are, hereby, allowed by this division’s unanimous decision.”

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## Gaza ceasefire deal agreed

AFP, Doha

Qatar’s prime minister announced that Israel and Hamas had agreed yesterday to a ceasefire and the release of hostages held in Gaza, adding he hoped the deal would pave the way for a permanent end to the fighting.

After mediators earlier said a deal had been reached, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cautioned that some issues in the framework remained “unresolved”, though it hoped the “details will be finalised tonight”.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who holds a largely ceremonial role, said the deal was the “right move” to bring back hostages on October 7, 2023.

The Palestinian group now holds 94 hostages in Gaza. Israel says at least 34 of them are already dead.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim al-Thani told a press conference that the ceasefire would take effect on Sunday.

“The two belligerents in the Gaza Strip have reached a deal on the prisoner and the hostage swap, and (the mediators) announce a ceasefire in the hopes of reaching a permanent ceasefire between the

two sides,” he said.

The first phase of the deal would see Hamas release 33 captives, he added, “including civilian women and female recruits, as well as children (and) elderly people... in return for a number of prisoners who are being held in Israeli prisons”.

- » Ceasefire would take effect on Sunday
- » Thousands across Gaza celebrate deal
- » Biden hails agreement, says worked with Trump
- » UN chief hopes truce will remove aid obstacles

Demonstrators in Tel Aviv calling for the release of the hostages embraced as news of the agreement spread, while thousands across Gaza celebrated the deal to halt the hostilities that have devastated much

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## MASS UPRISING Deaths on July 19 three times the reported number

Finds study by ITJP and TGI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new report has unveiled the names of 148 people who were killed on July 19 during the July-August uprising – three times higher than initially reported.

Of them, 40 are under the age of 18 years, according to a report by the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) and the Tech Global Institute (TGI).

“The unlawful and targeted use of force by the police directed against the protesters constitutes gross human rights violations and if proven could amount to crimes against humanity,” the report said.

The report was unveiled yesterday at a programme titled ‘The July Revolution: Evidence of Atrocities’ held at the Bangla Academy auditorium.

Three children aged under 10, ten children aged between 10-15, 11 who were 16-17 and 33 who were 18-21 died that day across the country.

The highest number of deaths took place in Dhaka city: 124. Narsingdi and Narayanganj counted seven deaths both. Four died in Rangpur, two in Madaripur, and Mymensingh, Bogra, Sylhet and Savar counted one death each.

In Dhaka, 24 deaths were counted in Mirpur, while Rampura and Banasree areas counted 23 deaths. At least 13 died in Mohammadpur, 12 in Badda, 9 each in Jatrabari

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## Rights bodies, student orgs slam attack

Advisers pledge  
thorough probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several organisations yesterday strongly condemned the attack on indigenous students and their supporters protesting the removal of the term “adivasi” (indigenous) from textbooks.

They urged the interim government to take tough action, demanding the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the attack.

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul and Adviser Mahfuj Alam also condemned the incident.

In separate Facebook posts, they said two persons have been detained over the incident already. The advisers also pledged action after a thorough investigation.

The incident occurred in front of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) office in Dhaka’s Motijheel, where witnesses reported that members of the group “Students for Sovereignty” assaulted the protesters, using cricket stumps. The

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## Won’t tolerate delay in July proclamation

Say students;  
Yunus sits with  
parties today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination and its platform for citizens, the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, have said they will not tolerate any more delay in making the proclamation of the July uprising.

At a press conference at the organisation’s offices in the capital last night, they threatened to launch a nationwide movement if the government continued to drag its feet on the issue.

“The issuance of the July proclamation is not merely an organisational issue for the Students Against Discrimination; it is directly tied to the present and future security and existence of our entire nation,” they said.

They called for an immediate announcement of the proclamation

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## GOAT SCANDAL Ex-NBR member Matiur placed on remand in arms case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former NBR member Mohammad Matiur Rahman, who stirred controversies after his son bought a goat for Tk 15 lakh last year, was placed on remand in an arms case yesterday.

A team of police detectives arrested Matiur and his first wife, Laila Kaniz Lucky, from a residence at Dhaka’s Bashundhara Residential Area early morning.

Police also recovered a shotgun, 24 rounds of bullets, and three mobile phones from their residence.

Hours later, investigation officer Md Rubel Mia, a sub-inspector of Vatara Police Station, produced Matiur before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Nazmin Akhter with a 10-day remand prayer.

The former member of the

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People celebrate the news of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## MONEY LAUNDERING Task force to probe Hasina’s family, 10 business groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have been included in the list for investigation along with 10 major business groups by a government task force.

Earlier on January 6, the financial institution division of the finance ministry asked the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) to form teams comprising members of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the Criminal Investigation Department of Police (CID) to investigate the country’s 10 major business groups’ alleged money laundering and other misdeeds.

The move comes as the interim government has intensified its efforts to recover money allegedly laundered by the corporate giants that thrived under the Awami League rule.

The ten business groups are: S Alam Group, Beximco Group, Summit Group, Bashundhara Group, Gemcon Group, Orion Group, Nabil Group, Nassa Group, Sikder Group and Aramit Group.

The investigation will be led by the ACC, while the BFIU will provide secretariat service to the task force.

The BFIU last week restructured its teams and has asked the ACC, the NBR and the CID to form separate teams to probe the 10 groups and Hasina’s family members.

The business groups and the Sheikh clan have allegedly

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