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PHOTO: ORCHID CHANGMA

Influence of the July uprising on youth activism

The July uprising has left an indelible mark on youth activism in Bangladesh, rekindling a spirit of collective resistance.

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nurture the belief that change will come.”

Volunteering in a non-profit, non-political, and secular voluntary organisation whose primary objective is to promote quality education among underprivileged children, Mashiat Mustaq says firmly, “The uprising has not changed any of our goals and methods for providing quality education to underprivileged children of Bangladesh.” Still, she reflects

on Hema Chakma’s observation: “People are much more vocal now. We have a long way to go to understand how it will serve us.” The shifting energy hints at new possibilities for grassroots education efforts in a changing society.

The July uprising has left an indelible mark on youth activism in Bangladesh, rekindling a spirit of collective resistance and reimagining the possibilities of grassroots movements. It has shown that unity, even among diverse political

ideologies, can dismantle entrenched systems of oppression. Yet, as the initial fervour wanes, the enduring challenge lies in translating revolutionary energy into sustainable change. Institutional reform, inclusivity, and the empowerment of marginalised voices demand a persistence that outlasts the moment of revolt.

The true test of this generation’s activism is whether it can withstand the disillusionments that inevitably accompany the slow grind of systemic

change. The July uprising gave the youth of Bangladesh a blueprint for collective action, but the path forward requires balancing idealism with the realities of governance and reform. If they succeed, the uprising will not merely be remembered as a moment of disruption but as the seed of a more inclusive and democratic society.

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