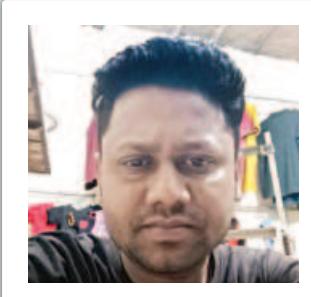


Hastily buried in unmarked graves



SOHEL RANA
WENT MISSING ON JULY 18
FROM JATRABARI
BURIED ON JULY 24



FAISAL SARKER
WENT MISSING ON JULY 19
FROM UTTARA
BURIED ON JULY 24



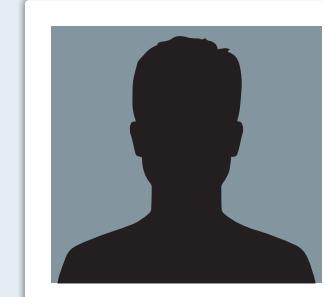
MD ASSADULLAH
WENT MISSING ON JULY 19
FROM UTTARA
BURIED ON JULY 24



RAFIQUL ISLAM
WENT MISSING ON JULY 19
FROM GOPIBAG
BURIED ON JULY 24



MAHIN MIA
WENT MISSING ON JULY 19
FROM MOHAMMADPUR
BURIED ON JULY 24



AHMED JILANI
WENT MISSING ON JULY 20
FROM DEMRA
BURIED ON AUGUST 31

FROM PAGE 1

At least 12 of these 19 people went missing on August 4 and 5 from Dhaka, Savar, Gazipur, Sirajganj, Panchagarh and Bogura amid clashes and police firing.

The fact-finding report by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) cited senior security officials' testimony, saying deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina herself ordered security forces to "arrest the ringleaders of the protests, the troublemakers, kill them and hide their bodies."

However, there is no official account yet of how many bodies were actually hidden by the state apparatus.

The Daily Star investigated 31 cases of unclaimed or missing bodies, but evidence suggests that the actual number is higher.

Over the last two months, we have

pieced together hospital records and police inquest reports as well as records from Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a charity for burial service, and Rayerbazar graveyard, and found evidence of deliberate attempts by state forces to kill protesters and hide their bodies.

THE UNMARKED GRAVES

Anjuman Mufidul Islam is the only burial service in the country that handles unclaimed bodies. We reviewed its register and found that the charity buried 515 bodies from January to November 2024, an average of 47 bodies per month.

However, the body count jumped after the middle of July. Only in the last 10 days of that month, when police, Rab, BGB, Ansar and armed forces members were called in to tackle the protesters, Anjuman sent 45 bodies for burial in the Rayerbazar

"The night he disappeared, we kept our front door open, thinking he would come home at any moment. My son never came home. Now I cannot even find his grave."

RASHEDA BEGUM
Sohel Rana's mother.

graveyard, just two less than its monthly average.

Anjuman's register shows it did not send a single body for burial from August 1 to 11, despite an intensified



Burial of eight unidentified bodies related to the July massacre is underway at Rayerbazar graveyard on July 24, 2024.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Sohel Rana's mother Rasheda Begum weeps as she touches the photo of her son at an exhibition.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

crackdown between August 2 and 5. But in the remaining 20 days, it buried 34 bodies.

We went to see the burial sites at Rayerbazar on January 29. Block 4 of the cemetery contained 114 graves without names or any other identifiable markings. Grave staffers said many were victims of the July

uprising, but could not give a figure.

Analysing Rayerbazar's register, we found that 27 bodies buried in July and 13 in August had dates of death between July 17 and August 5, the final and the deadliest three weeks of Sheikh Hasina's 15-year authoritarian rule, when hundreds were killed and thousands injured by state forces.

Four children

FROM PAGE 12

around a year ago and filmed the incident. Since then, he had been blackmailing her and had raped her multiple times.

On January 29, he forcibly entered the victim's home and raped her again. She filed the case on March 10, said Md Hasan, officer in charge of Terokhada Police Station.

Police arrested Mofiz on Monday night. He was sent to jail by a court yesterday. Mofiz stands accused in six criminal cases, including a murder case, the OC added.

In Chattogram, a court yesterday sent a man to jail on charge of raping a 10-year-old girl.

Citing the case statement, police said Md Youcef, 71, of Sitakunda upazila, raped the girl on Monday evening. Locals later caught the accused.

On information, police arrested Yusuf. The victim's mother lodged the case with Sitakunda Police Station, said Sohel Rana, in charge of Foujdarhat police outpost.

Yesterday, Yusuf was sent to jail after he was produced before a local court, said the police officer.

In Jamalpur's Madarganj upazila, a teenage boy was sued on Monday night over raping a four-year-old girl.

Police said the 16-year-old boy raped the girl on Monday evening, luring her with chocolates.

The victim's mother lodged a case that night. The accused went into hiding since the incident, said Hasan Al Mamun, OC of Madarganj Model Police Station.

In another incident, a case was filed against a 55-year-old man on Monday night over attempting to rape his five-year-old granddaughter in the district's Melandah upazila. The accused is on the run, said Shafiqul Islam, OC of Melandah Police Station.

In another incident, police held Jamal Hossain, 32, a construction worker, on Monday on charge of raping a mentally challenged girl in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila.

Quoting locals, police said Jamal took the 16-year-old girl to a nearby bush and raped her. Hearing her screams, locals rescued the girl and caught Jamal.

In Dhaka's Savar, a youth was sued yesterday over raping an eight-year-old girl in Ashulia area.

According to the case statement, Md Russell, 19, a resident of Bhol's Lalmoni upazila, is a relative of the victim's family. Russell went to the victim's home around two weeks ago in search of a job.

The victim's parents work in garment factories. When the couple went to work around 6:00 am on Monday, Russell raped the girl. Hearing her screams, neighbours rescued the girl and caught Russell.

The victim's father lodged a case with Ashulia Police Station yesterday. Police are trying to arrest the accused, said Kamal Hossain, inspector (investigation) of the police station.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to this report.]

Court orders to freeze Tk 600cr

FROM PAGE 1

The three-storey building and the land is valued at Tk 3.3 crore, according to the property registration documents.

The court has also ordered the confiscation of a flat in Gulshan owned by Rehana's daughter and former British minister Tulip. This flat, purchased in 2002, is valued at Tk 43.24 lakh.

Additionally, two plots of land in Kaliakoir registered to Rehana — one measuring 8.5 decimals and another 1.55 decimals — will be seized. These are valued at Tk 8.75 lakh and Tk 3 lakh, respectively. Her flat in the capital's Segunbagicha, valued at Tk 18.15 lakh, will also be seized.

Two flats owned by Radwan in Niketan, valued at Tk 1.73 crore and Tk 3.08 crore, will be seized.

THE BANK ACCOUNTS

In various bank accounts, around Tk 1.29 crore of Hasina and over Tk 81 lakh Rehana and over Tk 2.72 crore in joint accounts of the two sisters have been frozen.

As per ACC records, Joy's Tk 1.17 lakh, Putul's Tk 2.76 crore, and Radwan's Tk 1.27 crore have been frozen.

The list contains Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust's Tk 47.81 crore, Centre for Research and Information's Tk 55.74 crore, Awami League's Tk 37.82 crore, and Suchona Foundation's Tk 31.60 crore.

Additionally, the court has ordered the freezing of multiple accounts of Rehana's husband Shafiq Ahmed Siddiqi, their family members Bushra Siddiqi and Shaheen Siddiqi, Abu Siddiq Memorial Trust, and Thames Industry.

The court has also ordered the freezing of Tk 5 in mobile banking service Nagad accounts of Hasina and Rehana.

Celebrating a life devoted to Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

Acclaimed not only as a distinguished economist, he is also widely revered as a researcher, political scientist, and public intellectual.

Prof Sobhan played an active role in the Bangalee nationalist movement in the 1960s. He served as a roving ambassador for the Mujibnagar government, tirelessly seeking global support for Bangladesh's liberation.

Born in Kolkata on March 12, 1935, into an illustrious family, with connections to the Nawab family of Dhaka from his mother's side and a reputed Murshidabad family from his father's side, Prof Sobhan has made significant contributions to the economic and social landscape of Bangladesh.

His academic journey began at St Paul's School in Darjeeling, India, followed by Aitchison College in Lahore, Pakistan.

His pursuit of higher education led him to the University of Cambridge, where he earned a master's degree in economics. He began his working career at Dhaka University's economics department in 1957 and retired as a professor of economics in 1977.

Prof Sobhan was one of the economists whose ideas shaped Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's six-point programme, which became the basis for Bangladesh's struggle for sovereignty.

In the early 1960s, he became well known for his newspaper writings on the economic disparities between East and West Pakistan.

The task forces dealt with topics ranging from the economy, environment, and energy to the revival of the jute industry. However, none of

APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER

The court ordered appointing administrators to look after the properties of Joy, Putul, Rehana, Radwan and Tulip.

On December 17, last year, the ACC launched a probe into allegations of embezzlement of Tk 80,000 crore against Hasina and her family members from nine projects, including the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

On December 22, 2024, the commission also launched an investigation into allegations that Hasina and Joy laundered \$300 million to the United States.

On Monday, the ACC approved the charges against the deposed prime minister and her family members in six cases filed against them over the alleged misuse of power to obtain plots under the Purbachal New Town Project.

Three people were killed in the attack, which both sides said was the biggest so far on Moscow. Russia's army said it intercepted 337 drones around the country.

Zelensky, who met Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler in Jeddah on Monday, left the White House late last month without signing an agreement pushed by Trump that would give the United States control over Ukrainian mineral resources.

Zelensky has said he is still willing to sign, although Rubio said it would not be the focus of yesterday's meeting.

Rubio, who is accompanied by national security advisor Mike Waltz, said the aid suspension was "something I hope we can resolve" in the talks.

Rubio said the United States had not cut off intelligence for defensive operations.

Asked whether the overnight drone attack could derail peace talks, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said: "There are no (peace) negotiations yet, so there is nothing to disrupt here."

For its part, Russia has escalated strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure and said it had taken 12 settlements in its Kursk region that Ukraine had captured in a bid for bargaining leverage.

In the infamous White House meeting last month, Zelensky refused to bite his tongue in the face of criticism from Vice President JD Vance, with the Ukrainian leader questioning why his country should trust promises from Russia.

He has since written a repentant letter to Trump.

Faced with Washington's pressure, Ukraine will lay out its support for

Bangladesh

the succeeding elected governments, which included the Awami League and the BNP, implemented the recommendations.

Many of the suggestions of the task forces remain relevant even today as the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus strives to rebuild institutions through reforms.

In 1993, Prof Sobhan founded the Centre for Policy Dialogue to pursue an argumentative approach to socioeconomic and political development of the country. Currently, he is the chairman of CPD.

His work extends beyond the halls of academia and think tanks. Throughout his career, he has consistently collaborated with policymakers, international organisations, and global forums, applying his expertise to address a broad range of issues.

His influence extended beyond Bangladesh, as he has become a sought-after speaker on development economics and social justice, sharing his insights into how countries in the Global South could pursue growth while reducing inequality.

One of the most defining aspects of his career has been his insistence that true development can only be achieved when economic growth is inclusive, sustainable, and people-centred.

He has repeatedly argued that development policies should not only focus on GDP growth but must also ensure that the benefits of that growth are equitably distributed among all sections of society.

Prof Sobhan, who has held a number of important professional positions, has published a large number of books, research monographs, and articles in professional journals.

Ukraine, US start partial truce talks in Jeddah

FROM PAGE 12

are to meet in the French capital tomorrow. EU and Nato representatives and the Ukrainian defence minister will also take part.

Kyiv officials said the "largest drone attack in history", in which hundreds of drones slammed into Moscow and other areas overnight, was intended to push Russian President Vladimir Putin to agree to the aerial and naval ceasefire.

"This is an additional signal to Putin that he should also be interested in a ceasefire in the air," said Andriy Kovalenko, a national security council official responsible for countering disinformation.

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Faced with Washington's pressure, Ukraine will lay out its support for

Protest march foiled by police

FROM PAGE 1

The women were kicked after they fell to the ground. They have left us with no choice but to create a mass movement for the home adviser's removal," she said.

Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramma Division Police, said at least eight police personnel were assaulted