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## What's stopping the govt from reforms?

Asks Anu Muhammad about 8 months of interim admin

DU CORRESPONDENT



Noted economist Prof Anu Muhammad has suggested that the interim government prioritise improving law and order, the justice system, and the treatment and compensation of those injured during the July uprising, along with the families of the martyrs.

These areas remain deadlocked, he said, questioning why the interim government has not resolved them in the eight months since it assumed office.

He was speaking at an event titled "Eight Months of the Interim Government: Observation, Review, and Exchange of Views on Its Role and Reform Proposals", organised by the Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee at the Economic Reporters' Forum in the capital yesterday.

"During the last regime, we used to know in advance what the verdict of any case filed in court would be. Even now, we can anticipate the outcome of court rulings – this is very problematic," said Anu Muhammad, a member of the committee.

"Then what has actually changed?" he asked, adding that if the courts function under the influence of external

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## Raped weeks ago, daughter of July martyr found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18-year-old daughter of a July uprising martyr was found dead at her house in Dhaka's Adabor last night.

The college student was allegedly gang-raped while returning from a visit to her father's grave in Patuakhali's Dumki upazila on March 18 evening. A case was filed in this regard with the local police station the following day.

She used to live with her grandmother in Dumki and was preparing for her HSC examinations.

The girl had come to her parents' house in Shekhertek area of Adabor for treatment two days ago, her uncle told this newspaper early today.

She was taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital after she was found hanging, he said, adding that doctors declared her dead there around 10:30pm yesterday.

Adabor Police Station Assistant Sub-Inspector Hasnain Ahmed said it is primarily suspected that the girl died by suicide.

The victim's mother said she and her son went out to pick her another daughter from a nearby madrasa as the family was planning to go to their village home today.

Upon return, she found the door of the victim's room locked. As she did not respond to their calls, they broke in and found her hanging from the ceiling fan.

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## India cracks down on undocumented immigrants

### Over 1,000 'Bangladeshis' held: Gujarat home minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

More than 1,000 allegedly undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants, including women and children, were detained in a crackdown in Ahmedabad and Surat, said Harsh Sanghavi, home minister of the western Indian state of Gujarat.

"This is the biggest operation of the Gujarat police against people living illegally in the state," Sanghavi was quoted by PTI as having told reporters in Surat yesterday.

The detainees are being questioned and their nationality is being determined based on documentary and other evidence, Vikas Sahay, director general of police, told the media in Ahmedabad.

"Once the police establish that they are Bangladeshi nationals, the process of their deportation will be carried out at the earliest in coordination with the central government and Border Security Force," he said.

However, the Indian authorities have informed the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi that some 550 individuals apprehended in Ahmedabad and Surat for residing illegally were identified as Bangladeshi nationals, Faisal Mahmud, the press minister of the high commission, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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In this handout photograph taken and released by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Service yesterday, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky meets with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of Pope Francis's funeral at St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

PHOTO: AFP



ADVISERS' AIDES  
Allegations of corruption against some 'concerning' Says Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday expressed concerns over corruption allegations against the aides to certain advisers of the interim government.

The allegations were levelled against the health adviser's personal assistant and another adviser's assistant private secretary, Rizvi said at a programme organised by the Nationalist Research Forum (NRF) at the Jatiya Press Club.

"Why should a Tk 100 crore corruption allegation be brought against their APS? Why should they be accused of being involved

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## Trump, Zelensky meet on sidelines of Pope's funeral

Trump questions Putin's seriousness over peace deal; Kremlin says ready for talks without 'preconditions'

AGENCIES

Donald Trump and Volodymyr Zelensky met briefly in the hush of St Peter's Basilica on the sidelines of Pope Francis's funeral yesterday in their first encounter since a noisy White House clash, as the US president pushes the Ukrainian leader to make a peace deal with Russia.

Zelensky said they discussed a possible unconditional ceasefire with Russia and were "hoping for results" from a "very symbolic meeting that has the potential to become historic".

The war cast a shadow over preparations for Francis's funeral, and even as it took place, Russia claimed its forces had "fully liberated" the border Kursk region.

Ukraine, however, insisted that its army was still fighting in Kursk, Russian territory, which it hopes to use as a bargaining chip in any future peace talks.

The Ukrainian presidency released photos of the Trump and Zelensky sitting face to face, leaning forward in deep discussion in a corner of the basilica, as the pope's simple wooden coffin lay in front of the altar before the funeral began.

"We discussed a lot one-on-one. Hoping for results on everything we covered. Protecting the lives of our people. Full and unconditional

**"Good meeting. One-on-one, we managed to discuss a lot... It was a very symbolic meeting that has the potential to become historic if we achieve joint results. Thank you, President Donald Trump!"**

PRESIDENT ZELENSKY

"maybe he doesn't want to stop the war."

In a post on Truth Social after his talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Rome, Trump also said maybe Putin "has to be dealt with differently," possibly through additional sanctions targeting Moscow.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, triggering a conflict not seen in Europe for decades.

But the two leaders also briefly huddled inside the basilica with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron, the French president's hand on Zelensky's shoulder.

Trump, while calling on President Vladimir Putin to stop Russia's attacks on Ukraine, has recently blamed Zelensky for the war and the continuing bloodshed.

However, Trump yesterday criticised Putin for attacks on civilian areas of Ukraine in recent days, and said,

"maybe he doesn't want to stop the war."

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### Death anniv. of Sher-e-Bangla today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 63rd death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq.

Abul Kasem Fazlul Huq, popularly known as Sher-e-Bangla or Huq Saheb, was born on October 26, 1873, at his maternal uncle's house at Saturia, a village in Barishal.

He passed away in 1962.

Huq was an eminent public leader who had held many high political posts, including the mayor of Calcutta (1935), chief minister of undivided Bengal (1937-1943) and East Bengal (1954), home minister of Pakistan (1955) and governor of East Pakistan (1956-58).

Marking the day, different political parties, alongside socio-cultural and professional bodies, have chalked out various programmes to observe the day.

## Scientists mulling to dim the Sun to fight global warming

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

British scientists could experiment with techniques to block sunlight as part of a £50 million government-funded scheme to combat global warming.

The geo-engineering project is set to be given the go-ahead within weeks and could see scientists explore techniques including launching clouds of reflective particles into the atmosphere or using seawater sprays to make clouds brighter.

A n o t h e r method involves thinning natural cirrus clouds, which act as heat-trapping blankets.

If successful, less sunlight will reach the earth's surface and, in turn, temporarily cool the surface of the earth.

It's thought to be a relatively cheap way to cool the planet, but critics have warned it could cause catastrophic disruption to weather patterns and even shift rain from areas that are vital for food production.

Other scientists say geo-engineering could reduce the drive to stop burning fossil fuels, which is the root cause of climate change.

The project will be funded by the Advanced Research and Invention Agency, known as ARIA.

The government has set aside £50 million for the controversial experiment, but in total it has been given £800 million of taxpayers' money to use over the next four years.



Farmers from various upazilas selling onions at Baneshwar Hat in Rajshahi's Puthia upazila at a cost of Tk 800-1,900 per maund (37.3242kg) yesterday. They claim traders are stockpiling onions to sell at higher prices ahead of Eid-ul-Adha, with many buyers sending them to districts, including Dhaka, where they fetch nearly triple the price. In Dhaka markets yesterday, local onions sold for Tk 40-65 per kg, unchanged over the past week but up 40 percent from a month ago, when prices ranged between Tk 30 and Tk 45 per kg.

## Newlyweds crushed to death by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recently married couple from Mymensingh was killed after being hit by a train near the Courtbari area of the capital's Uttara yesterday evening.

The victims were Masum, 25, and his wife, Iti Khatun, 19, according to Inspector Faruk Hossain, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost.

Citing witnesses, Joynul Abedin, officer-in-charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said Masum and Iti were walking along the railway lines and attempted to take a selfie when the Gazipur-bound Jamuna Express train ran over them at 6:05pm.

Iti was killed instantly, while Masum was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead around 8:00pm, the police officer said.

Al Islam Shuvo, a witness, said, "They were taking selfies and suddenly the train hit them. The woman died on the spot, and the man was taken to the hospital in critical condition."

OC Joynul confirmed that the couple got married recently, adding that police would further investigate the incident after talking to the relatives.