



JU in full bloom
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Malaysian ex-PM Mahathir blasts 'old world' Trump
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We need more than air purifiers to clean up Dhaka's air
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You have made me endless...
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NCP, protesters block Shahbagh for ban on AL

Govt calls for patience; protesters to hold rallies in Dhaka, elsewhere today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding a ban on the Awami League, different political parties and student organisations blocked the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday afternoon and vowed not to leave until their demand was met.

The blockade began around 5:00pm, shortly after Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser (south) of the National Citizen Party, urged people to block Shahbagh and not leave until the government issued a notification stating that the AL had been banned.

Hundreds of protesters were still at Shahbagh as of filing this report early today, keeping the intersection closed to traffic and chanting slogans.

Addressing the crowd late last night, Hasnat said there would be a rally at Shahbagh at 3:00pm today.

"At the same time, mass gatherings will also be held at every place across the country where people demonstrated during the July uprising," he said.

The AL and its associated bodies must be declared terrorist outfits and banned, he said.

He said the protesters had two other demands – an amendment to the International Crimes Tribunal Act to hold the trial of Awami League as a party and the announcement of the July Proclamation.

"It is a battle between the pro-Bangladesh forces and those of fascism."

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Hundreds gathered in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday afternoon and blocked the busy intersection, demanding a ban on the Awami League. The protesters vowed not to leave the area until the government fulfils their demand. Inset, they were demonstrating at Shahbagh intersection when the photo was taken around midnight.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, ANISUR RAHMAN

HOSPITALS, DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES

95% pvt facilities running without renewed licences

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Thousands of private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres continue to operate without renewing licences due to lax monitoring by the authorities, raising serious concerns over patient safety and quality of treatment.

Out of 19,627 registered private hospitals and clinics across the country, only 914 or 4.66 percent renewed their licences till April 27 this fiscal year. The number was 2,754 in fiscal 2023-24, shows data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Similarly, 1,790 or around 5 percent of the 35,597 private diagnostic centres renewed licences so far, compared to 5,735 last fiscal year.

Annual licence renewal is intended to ensure that medical facilities meet standards for safety, staffing, hygiene, and other requirements – areas where many healthcare providers often fall short.

Health experts warned that the failure of a vast number of medical facilities to renew licences poses serious risks to patient safety

and undermines the quality of healthcare and hygiene.

Patients may receive subpar treatment, and a lack of oversight could lead to the use of substandard medical equipment or unsafe practices, they cautioned.

which a government committee recommends approval based on an inspection of the medical facility.

To complete the renewal, the health service provider must submit several documents, including an updated trade licence, income tax

STATUS OF LICENCE RENEWAL

YEAR	PVT HOSPITALS, CLINICS	DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES
FY2024-25 (Till April 27, 2025)	914 out of 19,627	1,790 out of 35,597
FY2023-24	2,754	5,735
FY2022-23	3,214	6,205

SOURCE: DGHS

It is mandatory for every private hospital, clinic, and diagnostic centre to renew its licence annually. Failure to do so may result in closure of medical facilities for non-compliance.

The renewal process starts with an online application from a health service provider, after

certificate, and environmental and narcotics clearance.

This correspondent spoke to four DGHS directors to understand the reasons behind the low number of licence renewals.

One of the directors said the submission of an environmental

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Govt moves to amend ICT Act to try organisations

Probe report in case against Hasina likely Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday said initiatives have been taken to amend the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Act to try organisations those involved in crimes against humanity.

The government announcement came amid demonstrations by the National Citizen Party (NCP) in front of the CA's residence Jamuna, and at Shahbagh, demanding a ban on Awami League as a political party and a clear judicial roadmap for their trial.

Meanwhile, ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam said its investigation agency is likely to submit the probe report on Monday in a case filed over the atrocities during the July uprising against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

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INDO-PAK MILITARY ESCALATION

Fighting rages on for the third day

Rivals engage in war of words as heavy shelling continues along LoC; death toll crosses 50

AGENCIES

India and Pakistan yesterday accused each other of launching fresh strikes involving drones and artillery for the third consecutive day, raising fears of a wider conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Islamabad said Indian actions were pushing the region "closer to a major conflict", and New Delhi, citing "numerous ceasefire violations" along the de facto border in Kashmir, vowed to respond forcefully to what it called Pakistan's "nefarious designs."

With six more deaths reported – 5 in Pakistan and one in India – the toll from three days of violence surpassed 50.

The escalation follows last month's deadly attack on tourists in the Indian-administered Kashmir, which claimed 26 lives. New Delhi blamed Islamabad for the attack, a charge Pakistan has firmly denied.

On Wednesday, India conducted air strikes on what it called "terrorist camps" in Pakistan. For the first time in over 50 years, the strikes targeted cities in Pakistan's mainland provinces.

Fear of a wider conflict has driven many villagers away from border areas in both

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➤ Pakistan says India brought 'countries closer to a major conflict'

➤ India vows response to Pakistan's 'nefarious designs'

➤ US says it will not intervene in conflict; Saudi Arabia, Iran step up mediation efforts

➤ India suspends IPL; Pakistan moves PSL to UAE

JULY MURDER CASE

Ivy arrested, sent to jail



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanjanj

Former Narayanjanj City Corporation mayor Salina Hayat Ivy was arrested in a July uprising murder case early yesterday following a night-long standoff with police at her residence in the city.

The stalemate unfolded after Ivy refused to leave in the dark of the night when a police team arrived at the house in the Deobhog area around 11:30pm on Thursday to take her into custody.

Police then waited overnight as her supporters gathered outside and chanted slogans against the move to arrest her. After nearly six hours, she came out and boarded the police vehicle at dawn.

Ivy, who was re-elected mayor with the Awami League's ticket in 2022 for

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Golden grains swirl in the air as farmers thresh freshly harvested paddy on a hot summer's day. They're quite happy with this year's harvest. Currently, Boro paddy is going for Tk 1,200-1,300 per maund in the wholesale market. The photo was taken recently in the Rajbandh area of Khulna city.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

No democracy, rule of law sans press freedom

Asif Nazrul tells NOAB 20th anniversary event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without press freedom, there can be no rule of law, human rights, or democracy in the country, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has said.

He made the remarks while addressing the 20th anniversary celebration of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) at a city hotel yesterday.

Speaking about the criminal cases filed against at least 266 journalists after the political changeover of August 5, 2024, the adviser said he repeatedly promised action against those bringing false charges against journalists.

He, however, added that it will take time to address the issue since a case must be proven false in the trial after investigation and the filing of a charge sheet.

"Only after this process is complete and the case is proven false can we take action. We cannot act before that," he said. "We have no legal options at this

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