

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 158

ASHAR 17, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 5, 1447 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE : TK 15.00

## Police struggle as key top posts lie vacant

Sidelining, forced retirements of cops make matters worse

	AVAILABLE POSTS	VACANT POSTS
Additional IGP	29	9
Deputy IGP	152	34
Assistant SP	1,231	332

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police are grappling with operational challenges as more than 400 key posts have remained vacant over the past 10 months, impairing the force's ability to combat crime.

At least 424 vital positions, including nine of additional inspector general of police (IGP) and 34 of deputy inspector general (DIG), are vacant. Also among the vacancies are two positions of additional DIG, 47 of additional SP, and 332 of assistant SP, shows Police Headquarters data.

Besides, 119 top and mid-level officers, including DIGs, additional DIGs, and SPs, have been attached to various

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



People travel on the roof of a train disregarding rules and risking their lives. Despite incidents of deaths from riding on train roofs, many people continue the practice. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Mohakhali area. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Yunus, Rubio pledge to deepen economic ties

Will work towards a stable Indo-Pacific region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh and the United States yesterday pledged to deepen economic ties and reaffirmed commitment to a stable and peaceful Indo-Pacific region.

The issues came up during a 15-minute phone conversation between Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, according to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing.

The discussion was warm, cordial, and constructive, reflecting excellent bilateral engagement between the two nations, it added.

US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## TRIPLE VIRAL THREAT Act now or hospitals may get overrun: experts

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

The simultaneous outbreak of three viral diseases -- Covid-19, dengue and chikungunya -- may overwhelm the country's healthcare system unless the authorities take swift and coordinated actions, warn experts.

At least 22 people died from Covid and 18 more from dengue over the last one month, with chikungunya resurfacing in the country after nearly eight years.

Covid-related deaths were reported mostly in Dhaka and Chattogram divisions, while the majority of dengue fatalities occurred in Dhaka and Barishal divisions. Chikungunya cases remain concentrated in the capital.

Health experts and officials said the next two to three months will be crucial, and the

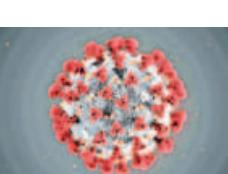
authorities should prepare a comprehensive, disease specific plan for the most affected areas.

### SURGE IN COVID CASES

A total of 569 Covid cases have been detected since January 1. Of them, around 72 percent were reported last month, shows data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

All 22 Covid-related deaths, reported so far this year, occurred last month, and the first one was recorded on June 5.

The deaths follow a sharp rise in infection rate in May. Of the 1,409 samples tested that month, 9.51 percent were positive for Covid -- the highest since January 2023, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).



SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Nahid wants July charter, declaration by August 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

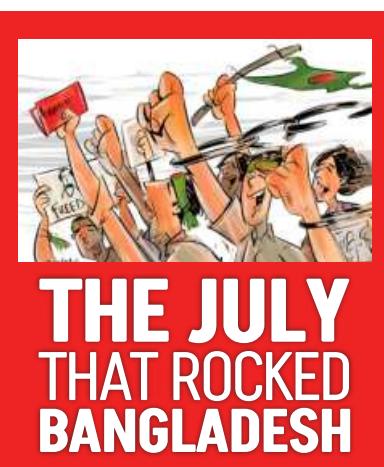
A day after announcing that the National Citizen Party will unveil a "July Declaration" itself, its Convenor Nahid Islam

yesterday hinted that the party still believes the government can prepare the document by August 5.

"We firmly want the July Declaration and the July Charter to be prepared by August 5, that is, the 36th of July. Let all parties make every concession necessary and extend their full cooperation to the



SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



JULY 1, 2024

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Though protests had already begun in response to a High Court verdict reinstating quotas in government jobs, it was on July 1, 2024, that the movement for reforms to the quota system truly took shape. That morning, a small but determined group of students gathered at Dhaka University's TSC, launching a demonstration that would mark the formal beginning of a new phase of mobilisation. One that would soon ripple across campuses nationwide.

The student protesters demanded the reinstatement of the 2018 government

The immediate background to the demonstration lay in a June 5 High Court verdict that declared illegal the government's 2018 decision to cancel the 30 percent quota for children of freedom fighters in recruitment to first and second-class government jobs.

circular that had abolished the quota system in public service recruitment and introduced a merit-based system.

Similar protests were reported from several other public universities across the country, including Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, and Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Groups of job seekers joined the students in these demonstrations.

The immediate background to the demonstration lay in a June 5 High Court verdict that declared illegal the government's 2018 decision to cancel the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## HOLEY ARTISAN CASE Justice may still be years away

Convicts' appeals pending with Appellate Division of SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The wait for justice is likely to grow longer in the case over the Holey Artisan militant attack that claimed the lives of 22 people, including 17 foreign nationals, nine years ago.

Six of the seven convicts, whose death sentence was commuted by the High Court to imprisonment until death, filed four leave-to-appeal petitions with the apex court in May this year, seeking acquittal from the charges in the case. It remains uncertain when the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will dispose of the petitions.

Advocate Md Nahidul Islam, a defence lawyer for the convicts, said it'll take at least six years for the SC to dispose of the petitions if it hears the petitions according to the chronological order of their filing.

But if the court holds hearing on an urgent basis, those can be settled within a year, he told The Daily Star.

Referring to the leave-to-appeal petitions, he said his six clients, now in Kashimpur High Security Jail, were in no way involved in the Holey Artisan Bakery attack.

They were sentenced based on their confessional statements extracted through torture in police custody, Nahidul said, adding that Aslam Hossain Rash, one of the seven convicts, was killed while trying to escape Kashimpur jail in August last year.

The six other convicts are Jahangir Hossain; Hadiur Rahman; Rakibul Hasan Regan; Md Abdus Sabur Khan; Shariful Islam Khaled; and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.

In the Name of Allah,  
The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

9th Death Anniversary of  
**FARAAZ AYAAZ HOSSAIN**

15 April 1996 - 1 July 2016

Nine years have passed since you left us, and not a day has gone by that we haven't thought of you. You left us in grief when you chose to sacrifice your life to protect your friends. Yet you make us immensely proud when we witness your powerful legacy of courage, friendship, and humanity.

You are no longer just our Chotoo, today you are Bangladesh's, and you are the world's.

You live on as a symbol of courage and continue to serve as our moral compass to this day. Though you are no longer with us, your memory, and bravery live on.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love, and support. Please keep our beloved Faraaz in your prayers. May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

Shahnaz Rahman and Family



In the Name of Allah,  
The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful

5th Death Anniversary of  
**LATIFUR RAHMAN**

28 August 1945 - 1 July 2020

Five years since you left us, and you remain as our guiding light. Your strong values of ethics and integrity are still woven into every moment.

You were the pillar of our family and to all those around you. You remain a shining example of honesty, patriotism, and excellence in every sphere of life. We may miss your physical presence, but you live on in all our hearts. You live on in all your strength and as a symbol of ethics.

Though you are no longer with us, your memory, and glorious legacy continues.

To all who have stood by us, we thank you for your love, and support. Please keep our beloved Latifur Rahman in your prayers. May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus.

Shahnaz Rahman and Family

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1