



“Ukraine belongs in the European Union... We must strengthen Ukraine. And we must weaken Russia.”

Denmark PM Mette Frederiksen

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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# Panic grips NBR officials

## ACC opens investigations into five more officials over alleged graft

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The relief that followed the end of a disruptive strike by tax officials at the National Board of Revenue has quickly given way to anxiety and regret, as the government started a clampdown on those involved. Just days after business leaders mediated a resolution, authorities have begun forcing senior officials into retirement and expanding corruption probes.

In a flurry of actions on Wednesday, the finance ministry ordered the retirement of four senior NBR officials, invoking a provision in the public service law that permits such removals “in the public interest”. A day earlier, a commissioner from the Chattogram Customs House was suspended for his alleged role in the shutdown that brought port operations to a standstill.

In parallel, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday launched investigations into five additional NBR officials over alleged corruption and irregularities, raising the total number of officials under the graft watchdog’s scrutiny to 16. Most of those targeted are

linked to the NBR Reform Unity Council, the platform behind the recent protests.

These measures follow two months of intense turmoil at the tax authority. NBR officials, protesting an IMF-backed ordinance to restructure the powerful



revenue body and demanding the removal of NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan, had enforced a shutdown of port and customs services on June 28-29. Their action stalled the port of Chattogram, the lifeblood of the nation’s trade, a measure described by many as “extreme and unprecedented”.

Alarmed by the economic haemorrhage, prominent business figures stepped in to

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A man transporting pineapples on his bicycle, from Jangalia to Jaichhatra Bazar at Madhupur, Tangail, to sell them yesterday. In one trip, a farmer or a hired cyclist carries 100 pineapples. The use of bicycles to transport the famous fruit of the upazila has declined in recent years amid the rise of battery-run auto-rickshaws.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

## CONSENSUS TALKS Political parties agree on regulating presidential pardons

### Decide to have HC benches in divisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties yesterday agreed on two major reform proposals: setting up permanent High Court benches in every division and regulating the presidential clemency power through legislation.

The agreement came on the ninth day of the second phase of talks between the National Consensus Commission and political parties at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

All parties backed amending article 100 of the constitution to allow one or more permanent High Court benches at the divisional level, subject to consultation with the Supreme Court.

They also agreed to revise article 49 to mandate a new law for presidential pardons, with the consent of the victim’s family as a key condition.

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the consensus commission, said there was broad consensus on both issues.

“The power of presidential clemency has been widely abused in the past, especially in the last 16 years. All parties acknowledged the need to revise article 49 and ensure that any use of clemency follows a structured legal process, including input from victims’ families,” he said.

He noted that the Judicial Reform Commission had earlier made recommendations in this regard. The proposed changes aim to prevent political misuse by establishing clear standards, procedures, and a system of recommendations.

Article 49 currently allows the president to pardon, reprieve, and commute. The amendment would regulate this power through law.

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## Mob beats 3 of a family dead in their own home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A mob beat three members of a family to death and left another injured in Cumilla’s Muradnagar upazila yesterday.

The incident took place at Karaibari village, confirmed Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bangrabazar Police Station.

“Around 9:30am, a group of villagers attacked the family at their home,” he said, adding that the family was involved in drug trade. Tipped off, police rushed to the spot and found Ruksana Akhter Rubi, 58; her son Md Russell, 35; and daughter Tasfia Akhter Happy, alias Jonaki, 28, lying dead inside the house.

Rubi’s younger daughter, Ruma Akhter, 27, was critically injured and sent to Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

According to police, Rubi was accused in 16 cases, Russell in nine, and Jonaki in five – most of them related to narcotics.

Speaking to The Daily Star

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## PUBLIC SERVICE ORDINANCE ‘Insubordination’ clause dropped

BAHARAM KHAN

The advisory council yesterday approved a draft amendment to the Public Service Ordinance by scrapping the provision for punishment on grounds of “insubordination” and dropping several other controversial clauses.



Our demands were more, but even so, we welcome the government’s initiative as a ‘lesser evil’ step.

Nazrul Islam, co-general secretary of the Bangladesh Secretariat Officers and Employees Unity Forum

Instead, provisions have been kept to penalise employees for “disobeying lawful orders of superior authorities” or “violating legal orders, directives or circulars of the government”, The Daily Star has learnt from people familiar with the proceedings.

The existing ordinance, which took effect on May 25 amid huge uproar, allows for punishment without investigation within 14 working days in two stages.

Under the proposed amendment, a three-member inquiry committee will be formed, and the entire process must be completed within 28 working days.

The ordinance also requires that the inquiry committee complete its probe within a specified timeframe.

Failure to do so will be considered an act of inefficiency on the part of the committee members, and this will be reflected in their annual

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## THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 4, 2024

## Protesters call for nationwide strike

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Dhaka was once again filled with chants against discrimination on July 4, 2024, as students staged a five-and-half-hour blockade at the city’s Shahbag intersection – marking the fourth consecutive day of demonstrations for the reinstatement of the 2018 circular that abolished the quota system in government jobs.

The day’s events began with

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Vehicles stuck on Kakrail road around 1:20pm yesterday as the city experienced heavy traffic due to the rush on the last working day of the week and HSC exams.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## US TARIFF TALKS First day ends without major decision

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

A high-level meeting between Bangladesh and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) ended in Washington, DC, yesterday without a major decision, despite the looming expiry of a 90-day negotiation window on July 9.

The meeting, held at the USTR headquarters, was led by Bangladesh’s Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin and National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman. Brendan Lynch, assistant US trade representative for South and Central Asia, represented the US side.

The talks were described as “friendly” and “positive” by a Bangladesh official familiar with the discussion. Bangladesh expects an agreement on the contentious reciprocal tariff issue, which has been under negotiation since early April following President Donald Trump’s announcement of sweeping new tariffs.

A follow-up meeting

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A story of  
resilience &  
beauty  
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Iran’s nuke  
program set  
back by up to 2  
years: Pentagon  
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## এনসিসি ব্যাংক-এর সিস্টেম আপগ্রেডেশন ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম সাময়িক বন্ধ থাকবে

গ্রাহকদের আরও উন্নত সেবা প্রদানের জন্য আমাদের কোর ব্যাংকিং সিস্টেম আপগ্রেড করা হচ্ছে। এই লক্ষ্যে আমাদের সকল ধরনের ব্যাংকিং সেবা ও লেনদেন (কনভেনশনাল ও ইসলামিক) নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচী অনুযায়ী বন্ধ থাকবে।

০৮ জুলাই ২০২৫ রাত ৮ টা  
থেকে  
১৩ জুলাই ২০২৫ সকাল ৮ টা পর্যন্ত

সাময়িক এ অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত। আপনার যেকোনো প্রশ্নোত্তরে আমাদের কল সেন্টার নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

এনসিসি ব্যাংক আপনার সাথে সব সময়।

এনসিসি ইসলামিক

১৬৩১৫  
কল সেন্টার

এনসিসি ব্যাংক  
অপারেশনাল সার্ভিস