



THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 13, 2024

Protesters announce march towards Bangabhaban

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On July 13, 2024, the Students Against Discrimination announced a fresh set of protest programmes, shifting their strategy from blockades to processions and symbolic marches. At a press conference held at Dhaka University, the organisers declared that students would march towards



Organisers of Students Against Discrimination movement hold a press conference in front of the Dhaka University Central Library on July 13, 2024, announcing fresh programmes to press home their demand for quota reform in government jobs

PHOTO: FILE/COURTESY OF PROTHOM ALO

the Bangabhaban the following day to submit a memorandum to President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Alongside this, students across the country would continue boycotting classes and examinations and submit memorandums to their respective deputy commissioners, urging them to forward the demands to the president.

Hasnat Abdullah, a student of Dhaka University and one of the coordinators of the movement, addressed the media, stating, "Tomorrow, we will march towards Bangabhaban. Students in districts will submit memorandums to their DCs as part of the coordinated programme."

Another organiser, Nahid Islam, criticised the government for its

inaction and attempts at repression. "The government is making plans and preparations to suppress our movement. We have been protesting peacefully. It should have resolved the crisis through dialogue with students from the beginning. If anything goes wrong, the government must bear full responsibility," he said.

Amid these announcements, student leaders also turned their attention to Cumilla, where tensions had escalated following police firing on protesting students on July 11, 2024.

Student coordinator Sarjis Alam, speaking at the press briefing, said, "Today, we—student representatives from Dhaka University, Jagannath

University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, and the Seven Colleges—visited Cumilla University. What happened there overshadowed all other incidents."

He added that they had gone there to hear directly from the protesting students and observe the situation firsthand. "We held a nearly two-hour-long meeting with police officials at the office of the superintendent of police. We made it clear that the students' concerns must be addressed, not silenced."

In another development, police filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station against unnamed protesters, accusing them of vandalising police vehicles and assaulting law enforcers during the Shahbagh demonstration on July 11. The case was filed by Khalilur Rahman, a driver with the transport department of Rajarbagh Police Lines.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) additional commissioner of the Detective Branch, Harun Or Rashid, said the police were investigating whether infiltrators were attempting to hijack the movement and steer it in a different direction.

Inside the ruling party, concerns appeared to be growing. During informal discussions held at the Awami League president's political office in Dhannondi, some leaders reportedly acknowledged a growing wave of public support for the student protests. They warned that any further police crackdown would only deepen anti-government sentiment.

Man sent to jail over attack on Chandpur Khatib

Victim transferred to hospital in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was sent to jail yesterday over the machete attack on a Khatib inside a mosque in Chandpur on Friday.

A Khatib is an Islamic cleric who delivers khutbahs (religious sermons) before Jummah prayers.

The victim, ANM Nurur Rahman, was attacked inside Mollahbari Jame Masjid in Professor Para of Chandpur Sadar shortly after prayers ended on Friday, said Md Bahar Mia, officer-in-charge of Chandpur Sadar Model Police Station.

He said one Billal Hossain was reportedly angered by remarks made by the Khatib during an earlier sermon, which is why he attacked Nurur Rahman after Jummah prayers that day.

At the time, only a few people were present inside the mosque as the prayers had just ended. Billal attempted to flee but was caught by locals. Meanwhile, the injured Khatib was rushed to Chandpur General Hospital, the OC added.

After police were informed, they rescued Billal from the enraged crowd and took him into custody.

Nurur Rahman's elder son Afnan Taki filed an attempted murder case against Billal with Chandpur Sadar Model Police Station yesterday morning.

"After receiving the complaint, we sent him to court," the OC said.

Contacted, Chandpur Court Police Inspector Shahidullah said the court sent the accused to jail after recording his statement.

"We sought a seven-day remand for the accused. But he has voluntarily confessed to his offence, and so the court has sent him to jail," said Abdul Quader, assistant public prosecutor.

Meanwhile, the victim was transferred to Dhaka's Holy Family Hospital on Friday night, and his condition has shown slight improvement, said Nurur's younger son Raihan.

BNP struggles to rein in the rogues

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In a large party, there will always be a few bad people, but the party cannot be held responsible for their crimes," he said.

MEASURES FAILING?

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said the party has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for breaches of discipline. "We, as a party, have decided in principle to take drastic action whenever a party member is involved in any disciplinary violation. Where possible, we are also handing them over to the law. Additionally, we call upon the government to deal with these matters strictly," he told The Daily Star.

Activists of the BNP and its affiliated organisations allegedly became involved in a string of violent and criminal incidents at the local level following the ouster of the Awami League regime through a mass uprising in August last year. In response, the BNP claims to have taken disciplinary action like expulsion against more than 5,000 members, ranging from central leaders to grassroots activists. But those measures seem to be inadequate.

According to a report released last week by Human Rights Support Society, at least 529 incidents of political violence took place across the country between January and June this year, leaving 79 people dead and over 4,124 injured. Of these, 302 incidents resulted from BNP's internal feuds, which left 2,834 injured and 54 dead. Over 140 of the other incidents involved clashes between BNP activists and members of other parties.

The report found most of the violence occurred over establishing local dominance, taking revenge, disputes over party committees, extortion, and grabbing land or property. Prof Dilara Choudhury of Jahangirnagar University's political science department said, "The BNP is not solely responsible for such incidents." She pointed to the country's fragile law and order situation as a contributing factor.

Despite the party's tough rhetoric, she noted, the BNP often targets only those

directly involved in misconduct while ignoring the local leaders under whose watch such activities occur.

Echoing this, writer and political analyst Mohiuddin Ahmad said the problem is hardly unique to the BNP. "The condition of all major political parties is more or less the same," he said.

"Whichever party is in power, or appears likely to come to power, tends to attract a group of miscreants. Everyone knows this; it's not even an open secret anymore. And without them, the party doesn't function and can't be run."

NO CHAIN OF COMMAND?

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has repeatedly asserted that the party is taking the strongest possible action against members involved in wrongdoing.

"The BNP is the only party that does not stay in denial—that is, if someone from our party is involved in wrongdoing, we take action against them," he said during a virtual address from London on February 22.

Days later, at an extended party meeting on February 27, Tarique instructed leaders to stay away from criminal activities. During that same session, at least 105 party leaders spoke of ongoing issues within the organisation, including extortion, land grabbing, and tender manipulation.

But the warnings appear to have had little effect. Between March and June this year, 35 BNP members were killed and 1,105 injured in 409 incidents of internal conflict, according to rights group ASK.

The continued unrest points to a deeper organisational problem, namely, the absence of a functioning chain of command, say analysts.

"Tarique Rahman has taken responsibility and is now leading the party. But distance is a factor. He is leading from afar," said Mohammad Mojibur Rahman, a teacher at Dhaka University.

"While he issues stern warnings in his speeches, I believe that if he were present in the country and able to directly control the chain of command, such incidents would have been less frequent."

Political organisations is a welcome sign.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury defended law enforcers. "If police were inactive, arrests wouldn't have happened in last two days," he said, referring to the Mitford murder.

"There may have been some delays in action, but we acted after verifying information," he said, urging people to contact police instead of taking law into their own hands.

Meanwhile, Rapid Action Battalion Director General AKM Shahidur Rahman said the elite force is focused on regaining public trust following criticism during last year's political unrest. "Gaining public trust is the main task," he said at a press briefing in Karwan Bazar.

Omar Faruk, a professor at the Department of Criminology and Police Science at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, said prolonged political misuse of the police has deeply damaged the institution.

"For 15 years, police have been used politically. That damage is hard to reverse," he told The Daily Star. "Police still don't behave like they should in a democratic country."

He added, "I have spoken to several officers. They believe the police are going through a crisis period, and once it's over, the situation will be under control, gradually."

However, he said the government has to arrange training or counselling programmes to help officers adapt to the situation.

He also said curated efforts are needed to rebuild the trust between the force and the people.

On political ties to crimes, he said the expulsion of accused individuals from

Students, people rally nationwide

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat-e-Islami's Dhaka city (south) unit organised a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

There, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Khan said, "After Sheikh Hasina fled, people were assured that no one would have to pay extortion anymore, and no more lives would be lost at the hands of criminals. But now, we see another group, just like the Awami League, has started extortion again. They are brutally killing their party men."

The National Citizen Party-backed youth front Jatiya Jubo Shakti, from a press conference held at their Banglamotor office, claimed Sohag's killing is part of a series of planned acts of terrorism, extortion, and land grabbing by the BNP and its affiliated and associated organisations.

Tarikul Islam, convenor of Jubo Shakti, said, "If the BNP stops extortion, then 90 percent of its leaders and activists will no longer support BNP, nor will they remain in the Jabo Dal or Chhatra Dal. Extortion is currently BNP's only source of income."

The interim government is scared of the BNP. Given the nature of the violent activities BNP is currently involved in across the country, it's impossible to expect any kind of election in this situation."

The Left Democratic Alliance, in a statement yesterday, said, "Shielding perpetrators based on political affiliation, shifting blame onto political parties to evade government accountability, and failing to enforce exemplary punishment have made

public safety practically nonexistent."

Islami Andolan Bangladesh Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim, while speaking at a programme in Barishal, called the nature of the murder "more atrocious than the killings carried out under Awami fascism".

"The people of Bangladesh are now much more aware. Just as they ousted Awami fascism through the July uprising, they will also overthrow these new fascists."

Hefazat-e-Islam, in a statement, said the BNP, which claims to uphold the ideals and principles of patriotic President Shaheed Ziaur Rahman, must immediately bring its affiliated organisations under control and stop the politics of extortion and violence.

"On the other hand, the interim government must urgently carry out fundamental reforms within the police force to improve law and order. If law and order deteriorate, the interim government cannot avoid responsibility."

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said some parties are trying to blame the BNP by giving this incident a political dimension.

"We took quick action, expelled those involved, and condemned the incident. Then why are you holding a procession? It's just to get political benefits."

"It's the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies to uncover the truth of this incident," he said while inaugurating a free medical camp at Utara.

member of the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, described the situation as a "double bind," where it is nearly impossible for Dhaka to accept all of the US conditions, yet the threatened 35 percent tariff would be devastating for exports.

"The buyers are already suspending work orders," said Shams Mahmud, managing director of Shasha Denims. He highlighted the immediate financial risk for local suppliers, who fear being left with raw materials purchased through back-to-back letters of credit if orders are cancelled.

Faisal Samad, managing director of Surma Garments, calculated the direct impact, saying business costs would increase by at least 27 percent if the tariffs are not lowered, making it impossible to operate profitably. While negotiations are not over, he said buyers are already demanding greater value addition for future business.

For many, the goal is simply to achieve competitive parity. "If the tariff for Bangladesh is fixed at the level of India, Vietnam, and Pakistan," Mahmud said, "then it would be a win-win situation."

RMG sector on edge

FROM PAGE 1

reported, the arrangement would place India on a short list of trading partners that have secured preferential deals with the Trump administration, which has shocked other nations with later turn out to be false," he said.

Pointing to a perceived double standard, Salahuddin added, "You don't really see anyone speaking out the same way about incidents like the killing of a Jubo Dal activist in Khulna or the stabbing of an imam inside a mosque."

On accusations levelled at the BNP without inquiry, he cited the Muradnagar incident as an example. "On the first day, it was alleged that BNP was involved. Investigation showed that the incident was actually a dispute between two brothers, and one of them was affiliated with the Chhatra League."

The developments are compounding existing economic anxieties. Faruque Hassan, managing director of the Giant Group, warned of a slowdown in US consumer spending due to high inflation. "It will ultimately impact Bangladeshi exports to the US," he said.

Despite the headwinds, industry leaders in Dhaka are projecting cautious optimism. Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said he is "very much hopeful that a level playing field of tariff will be ensured," citing the "positive discussion" that took place.

Khan indicated that the BGMEA will sit with the government upon the return of Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin, who led the delegation in Washington, to determine the industry's next steps. "Bangladesh has the capacity to cater to the work

orders," Khan said, suggesting that while business may decrease, there is "no reason to panic."

Industry analysts and business leaders argue that Bangladesh is caught in a difficult position: it's facing a trade issue and geopolitical pressure from Washington.

According to Masrur Reaz, chairman of the think tank Policy Exchange, the conditions set by the US Trade Representative are exceptionally difficult to fulfil. He contends that while Bangladesh focused on the commercial aspects of the tariff issue, the negotiations are influenced by a broader US policy to reduce reliance on Chinese raw materials in the global value chain.

"Even if the Trump administration lowers the tariff for Bangladesh, the rate may not be significantly lower than Vietnam, India, and Pakistan," Reaz said. He suggested a "market-based solution," such as sharing the tariff burden among fabric suppliers, manufacturers, and retailers. In the long term, he added, "Bangladesh needs to improve efficiency by reducing the cost of doing business to be more competitive."

Mostafa Abid Khan, a former

Justice must be served according to the law irrespective of his/her political identity," he said, adding that BNP and its affiliated organisations have been vocal about this.

The BNP leader said people across the country are asking why the authorities remain silent and why proper legal action is not being taken against those trying to create chaos.

Tarique urged the families of the martyrs to raise their voices over the delays in the trials of those responsible for the killing of their loved ones.

He also asked them to remain vigilant against those trying to delay justice.

The BNP leader assured that if his party returns to power, it will prioritise ensuring the trials of those who killed innocent people during the mass uprising and democratic movement.

Is the govt backing the wrongdoers?

FROM PAGE 1

Mitford Hospital. His body was also crushed by large chunks of concrete. Later, his battered and broken body was left on the street as onlookers watched in horror.

"Should we assume that those trying to incite mob violence and unrest are being secretly supported or pampered by the government or some officials in the administration?" he said.

Tarique made the remarks while virtually exchanging views with the families of the 142 martyrs of the July-August mass uprising and to honour the memory of the martyrs of Chhatra Dal.

A wrongdoer is a wrongdoer.

During the event, family members of the victims called for justice and demanded that those responsible for the killings be held accountable.

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Govt mulls a
Tk 7,340cr
flood control
dam in Feni
Says Adviser Faruk-E-Azam

UNB, Feni

The government is taking steps to implement a Tk 7,340 crore project to build flood control embankments along the Muhuri, Kohua, and Silonia rivers in Feni through the Bangladesh Army, said Disaster Management and Relief Ministry Adviser Faruk-E-Azam yesterday.

The project will require top-level technical expertise and flawless



Heavy rains have submerged large areas of Feni. The photo was taken in Fulgazi upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

execution, he said while visiting flood-hit areas in Fulgazi upazila.

The adviser said the current embankments in the region are inadequate for tackling such large-scale floods.

"We need stronger embankments. The proposed project will be implemented with proper technological support and under appropriate authority," he said.

"Natural disasters can't be prevented, but the government is fully prepared to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



Cargo ships remain anchored in the Bhairab river at Noapara in Jashore due to poor navigability during low tide yesterday. The vessels wait for high tide to resume movement, causing delays and driving up transport costs. These ships arrive from different parts of the country, carrying coal, cement, stone, fertiliser, food grains, and other industrial and agricultural goods.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Man robbed,
stripped by
muggers

STAR REPORT

Muggers went so far as to strip a man of his shirt in Dhaka's Shyamoli on Friday, after they had snatched his valuables.

The shocking incident was caught on CCTV, which has gone viral on social media.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Imaul Haque, OC of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police

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People's aspirations still unfulfilled

Speakers tell seminar, call for steps to curb political, economic criminalisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of several political parties yesterday said the national aspirations of the people remained unfulfilled not only after the Liberation War but also following the July uprising.

Speaking at a seminar, they said despite various victories

achieved through movements

over the past century, social inequality continues to plague the country.

They called for urgent steps to curb political and economic criminalisation, hold timely elections based on consensus, and improve law and order to uphold people's aspirations for a democratic Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Absence of
polls worsens
law and order
Says Fakhrul, seeks
quick probe into
Sohag murder

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday blamed the absence of elections for the worsening law and order situation in the country and the rise in killings, saying criminals are taking advantage of the lack of an elected government.

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Woman faked
bomb threat
to stop son's
affair: Rab DG

STAR REPORT

A woman issued a fake bomb threat on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines' Dhaka-Kathmandu flight in an attempt to prevent her son from travelling with his extramarital partner.

Rab Director General and Additional IGP AKM Shahidur Rahman disclosed the information at a press briefing in Karwan Bazar yesterday

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



20-storey building built at
projected cost of Tk 160cr

Funding halted
in 2016

Project lack Rajuk,
ministry clearance

Construction stopped after
external work finished

'Dhaka Tower' lies abandoned for 8 years

DIPAN NANDY

A 20-storey government high-rise in the heart of Old Dhaka has remained abandoned for the past eight years due to administrative irregularities, missing documents, and suspended funding.

Built at a projected cost of Tk 160 crore, the Dhaka Zilla Parishad's "Dhaka Tower" was intended to generate revenue through the rental of shops and commercial spaces — a plan that never materialised.

Construction began in 2011 with a five-year completion target. However, six years later, after the external structure had been completed, it emerged that the project lacked mandatory approval from the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk). It also did not have the necessary administrative clearance from the

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- Last Date of Submission: 31st August 2025

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- আবেদনকারীর পিতা ও মাতার পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙিন ক্ষয়ান কপি
- এস.এস.সি./সমমান পরীক্ষার নম্বরপত্র ও প্রশংসনপত্রের ক্ষয়ান কপি

আবেদনকারীদের জন্য কিছু গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তারিখ:

- আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ: ৬ আগস্ট ২০২৫
- গ্রয়েবসাইটের মাধ্যমে প্রাথমিকভাবে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা প্রকাশ: ২৫ আগস্ট ২০২৫
- 'প্রদত্ত নির্দেশিকার' প্রিস্ট কপিসহ সকল কাগজপত্রের সত্যতা যাচাইয়ের জন্য ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংকের যেকোন শাখা/মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং অফিসে উপস্থিত হওয়ার তারিখ: ২৬ আগস্ট ২০২৫ থেকে ১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৫
- চূড়ান্ত ফলাফল প্রকাশ: গ্রয়েবসাইট (app.dutchbanglابank.com/DBBLScholarship) -এর মাধ্যমে ফলাফল জানানো হবে।
- সরাসরি/ডাকটোরেজ/কুরিয়ারযোগে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী



US Department of State employees clap for recently laid-off employees as they leave the Harry S Truman Federal Building in Washington, DC, on Friday. More than 1,300 State Department employees were fired Friday in a downsizing ordered by President Donald Trump and touted as cutting bloated government -- but which critics predict will hamstring US influence around the world.

PHOTO: AFP

Gaza truce talks faltering over troop withdrawal

Say Palestinian, Israeli sources; at least 79 more killed in the Palestinian territory; US citizen killed in West Bank settler attack

AGENCIES

Talks aimed at securing a ceasefire in Gaza are stalling over the extent of Israeli forces' withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave, Palestinian and Israeli sources familiar with the negotiations in Doha said yesterday, as the continued Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave killed 79 more.

The indirect talks over a US proposal for a 60-day ceasefire are nonetheless expected to continue, the sources said, despite the latest obstacles in clinching a deal.

A Palestinian source said that Hamas has rejected the withdrawal maps which Israel has proposed, as they would leave around 40 percent of the territory under Israeli control, including all of the southern area of Rafah and further territories in northern and eastern Gaza.

Two Israeli sources said Hamas wants Israel to retreat to lines it held in a previous ceasefire before it renewed its offensive in March.

The Palestinian source said matters regarding aid and guarantees for ending the war were also presenting a challenge, and added that the crisis may be resolved with more US intervention.

The White House said on Monday that Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff, who played a major role in crafting the latest ceasefire proposal, will travel to Doha this week to join discussions there.

Delegations from Israel and Hamas have been in Qatar since Sunday in a renewed push for an agreement which envisages a phased



release of hostages, Israeli troop withdrawals and discussions on ending the war entirely.

Meanwhile, the Israeli offensive in Gaza yesterday killed 79 Palestinians, including 30 aid seekers, hospital sources said.

The new deaths of aid seekers add to nearly 800 similar deaths in the last six weeks, according to the United Nations, with Israel's army saying it issued new instructions to troops following repeated reports of fatalities.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's military offensive has killed more than 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, displaced almost the entire population of more than 2 million people, sparked a humanitarian crisis and left much of the territory in ruins.

The United Nations yesterday warned that dire fuel shortages in the Gaza Strip had reached "critical levels", threatening to dramatically

increase the suffering in the war-torn Palestinian territory.

The deaths came as Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz published a picture of the ruins of Gaza, saying, "After Rafah, Beit Hanoun".

Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city that borders Egypt, has been almost destroyed by the Israeli army. Beit Hanoun is a major city in the northern part of the enclave, which is now under heavy siege by Israeli forces.

The violence also spilled into West Bank yesterday where a Palestinian American man was beaten to death by settlers in the Israeli-occupied territory and a second man was shot dead.

US citizen Sayafollah Musallet, 20, also known as Saif, was severely beaten in the incident on Friday evening in Sinjal, north of Ramallah, the ministry said. Hussein Al-Shalabi, 23 was shot in the chest.



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Local Re-Press Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL (Gopalgonj)/PUR/PT/2025/ 255

Dated 12/07/2025

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Genuine Importers/Suppliers/ Authorised dealers for Supply of RO Membrane for PW System of Penicillin Building at EDCL, 3rd Plant Gopalgonj on urgent basis :

Name of item	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
RO Membrane for PW System of Penicillin Building at EDCL, 3 rd Plant Gopalgonj	Tk.2.5% of quoted amount	Tk.1000.00/set (Non-Refundable)	Closing:27/07/2025 at 3.00 PM Opening: 27/07/2025 at 3.15 PM
(Details as per Tender Schedule)			

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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For: Managing Director.

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Action taken against those involved

FROM PAGE 1
in his possession. The DMP also arrested another accused Titon Gazi early yesterday. On Friday, Rab detained accused Alamgir and "Chhotto" Monir.

"Our detective teams are working on the ground, and we are committed to ensuring that all those responsible are brought to justice."

Describing the killing as a "very distressing incident", he called on all segments of society to work together to curb the rising trend of intolerance.

"We have become increasingly intolerant. Even minor incidents are provoking extreme reactions. [Stopping] This is not solely the responsibility of law enforcers -- teachers, parents, university faculty, doctors, and others must step up too."

The home adviser rejected claims of police inaction, saying law enforcers took prompt measures.

"If they had been inactive, these arrests wouldn't have happened within two days," he said, citing other examples of swift police response. "We are not sitting idle. In some cases, there may be brief delays, but action is taken immediately once the information [of any incident] is verified."

Jahangir urged the public not to take the law into their own hands and to inform police immediately in the event of any incident.

Meanwhile, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul in a Facebook

post yesterday said the government is committed to ensuring swift justice in the case.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, denied the allegation, saying those names were not mentioned when the case was filed. "Those who were actual suspects were listed in the FIR."

On the other hand, three BNP-affiliated organisations -- Jubo Dal, Sweekhasebok Dal, and Chhatra Dal -- have also questioned the exclusion of the three names from the police prepared FIR.

Jubo Dal President Monayem Munna told reporters, "Those directly involved in the incident -- who are clearly seen in the CCTV footage -- have surprisingly not been named in the case. Those who delivered the fatal blows have still not been arrested. We don't understand why."

Condemning the murder, he said, "We are deeply concerned about the overall law and order situation in the country. The entire nation is shocked after witnessing this brutal and barbaric act. I strongly condemn and protest this savagery."

Sohag was laid to rest beside his mother's grave yesterday morning in Barguna's Sadar upazila. Shortly after, a human chain was formed in front of the Barguna Press Club, demanding justice for him.

(Our Patuakhali correspondent contributed to this report)

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ADMISSION TEST

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03. No 3rd division/class at SSS/HSC/bachelor's level of education;
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The written test will be held on **Friday, August 01, 2025 from 10:00 am to 11:15 am** at IBA, University of Dhaka.

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An applicant with degree from any program not approved by UGC is ineligible to apply.

The application fee is Tk. 4050 (including online processing fee). The application must be submitted online by **Wednesday, July 30, 2025**. For detailed application procedure, please visit: www.iba-du.edu or <https://www.admission.iba-du.edu>

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Director
Institute of Business Administration
University of Dhaka



Md Rubaiyath Sarwar
is managing director of Innovision Consulting.

MD RUBAIYATH SARWAR

The South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), in collaboration with ActionAid Bangladesh, recently released a survey that focuses on the youth's perception of jobs, education, and the changing political scenario post-July 2024. Although the survey has a clearly defined scope, the results of the poll are being widely misinterpreted in the media, particularly the fact that the poll does not tell us anything about the voting intentions of the youth!

SANEM sampled 2000 youth in the age group of 15-35 years with an urban-rural distribution of roughly 50:50. Male to female distribution is roughly 54 percent to 46 percent. SANEM sampled two districts per division and two upazilas per district. This means they sampled 16 districts and 32 upazilas. The presentation provided by SANEM does not tell us about the distribution of samples in the districts and upazilas. It was an in person survey. Every fifth household was sampled.

We need to unpack certain aspects of SANEM's methodology before explaining how much of this survey can be used to explain whom the youth will vote for if an election were to take place now. The scope of SANEM's survey is beyond the youth's electoral preference. However, as the media has primarily picked up on the electoral preference and a fair degree of misinterpretation is going on, it is important to bring a few points to light.

First, the methodology does not explain whether a ward or a village in the selected upazila was chosen as a primary sampling unit (PSU). It is important to know how many houses were sampled per ward or village, as there is a group effect. We assume that the samples from a ward generally tend to behave similarly due to homogeneity in socio-economic aspects.

Second, there is no explanation of how the 16 districts and the 32 upazilas were selected. The list signals that it was purposively decided. Most of these districts that were selected generally tilted between BNP and



The July-August uprising was led by the youth, yet SANEM survey reveals many are apathetic towards the country's politics.

Awami League. There is a possibility that the constituencies that fell under the PSUs, drawn by the survey, are either pro-BNP or pro-Awami League. As such, the survey results might not have fully grasped the youth's perception regarding the influence of religion-based politics. A much larger sample size with nationwide coverage will be required to capture all types of constituencies in a fully randomised scenario. Therefore, it is necessary to understand whether the upazilas were randomly or purposively selected and the rationale behind their selection.

queries. But for now, we are left in the dark.

Now comes the most significant question that took centre stage in the media. SANEM intended to capture the "youth's view on the upcoming election." Of the respondents, 76.78 percent said they will vote, 4.14 percent said they will not vote, and 13.98 percent are not yet registered voters. While it is remarkable that almost 77 percent are willing to vote, around 77 percent of the respondents said they do not follow national politics closely. Of them, 20 percent said they do not follow national politics at all, 17 percent said they do

this, 1720 respondents surveyed should have been asked whom they would vote for. Note these aspects of the poll: (i) it does not ask respondents whom they would vote for in the next election; (ii) it does not restrict the question to the 77 percent who expressed willingness to vote in the next election; and (iii) and of the total respondents 1935 people responded to the question regarding vote, which is about 97 percent. Does it then mean even those who are not eligible to vote have also responded? Also, why should those who said they will not vote in the next election

respond to the question about voting share in the election?

This brings us to the most important aspect of this study that most of the media and political analysts missed. The survey did not ask "whom will you vote for, if an election happened now?" The survey question was "what percentage of the vote (out of 100 percent) will each of the political parties get in the upcoming election?"

Clearly, this response does not reveal whom a respondent will vote for! Rather, it asks respondents to predict the vote distribution in the next election.

The prediction made by all surveyed respondents has been averaged, and based on that BNP will get 38.76 percent of the total vote, Jamaat-e-Islami will get 21.45 percent of the total vote, NCP 15.84 percent, Awami League (if allowed to participate) 15.02 percent, other religion-based parties will have 4.59 percent, Jatiya party will have 3.77 percent and the rest 0.57 percent.

Again, we do not know the underlying distribution of the respondents' predictions. Did most of the respondents think BNP would get around 39 percent? Or was there a very diverse array of predictions? We do not know!

Assuming that the youth surveyed are truly representative of the broader population, what this survey claims to have discovered is youth's (aged 15-35) prediction about the voting distribution in the upcoming election. This does not reveal young people's voting preferences.

The survey, however, imparts a message, notwithstanding the methodological limitations described above. The poll shows that young people think NCP will perform strongly as a young party in the next election. It also shows that they believe Awami League still holds considerable strength.

Post July 2024, Bangladesh has entered a new era. The series of opinion poll surveys, such as this one by SANEM and ActionAid Bangladesh and the one previously done by Innovision and the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, are positive signs. They usher in the possibility of data-driven decision making. These are early days for large scale opinion research in Bangladesh, and the methodologies will evolve. While that happens, the media and the political analysts must be careful in analysing the poll results and the methodology. Otherwise, as it has happened in the case of SANEM polls, the results will be misinterpreted.

The tariff turbulence is hitting Southeast Asia



Tamanna Tabassum
is assistant professor at the
Bangladesh Institute of Governance
& Management (BIGM).

TAMANNA TABASSUM

The tariff upsurge initiated by US President Donald Trump, notably against China, has been viewed as a protectionist strategy to safeguard American jobs and trade deficits. Like a stone thrown into a pond, the US tariffs have sent ripple effects far beyond the borders of the US. The economies of the Global South are the most affected, including many countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa, with emerging markets, export dependencies, and developing infrastructures. The tariff turbulence, created due to the imposition of high tariffs by Donald Trump on China, has disrupted the economic stability and development trajectories of countries in ASEAN. These economies are not bystanders in global trade tensions; they are intensely involved in global pricing and the global value chain. Nevertheless, Southeast Asian economies are now being squeezed by Chinese exports on one hand and US tariffs on the other. Chinese goods that were originally targeted for the US markets now

have to find new markets because of the US imposition of high tariffs on Chinese exports. And the obvious markets are in Southeast Asia. Therefore, when titans clash, the tariff turbulence hits ASEAN.

According to an article co-authored by former Indonesian Minister of Trade Mari Pangestu, Southeast Asia is about to be hit by a tsunami of cheap Chinese goods. A high influx of Chinese goods into the Indonesian market will adversely affect the job market as well as the manufacturing industries of Indonesia. China has a massive comparative advantage in textile manufacturing industries due to its substantial technological command, which makes it almost impossible for Indonesian textile industries to compete with China. For instance, the dumping of cheap Chinese fabric in Indonesia is often cited as one of the main reasons behind the decline and subsequent closure of Indonesian textile giant Sritex on March 1. Thus, Indonesia faces

the biggest challenge in its domestic market from the dumping of Chinese goods.

US tariffs on Chinese goods will also have a hostile impact on Malaysia's solar panel manufacturing industry. Although the US was initially a stronghold of solar module manufacturing, things changed in 2010 when China acquired a comparative advantage, leading to the shutdown of many US solar panel manufacturing plants. The Biden administration has tried to support this industry through subsidies and announced tariffs on solar panel imports from Southeast Asia of up to 271 percent, citing anti-dumping and anti-subsidy grounds. These tariffs have been increased further under the Trump administration. As a result, many of China's leading solar manufacturing companies are closing or cutting back the operations of their plants in Malaysia. China has also announced the shutdown of solar panel manufacturing operations in Thailand and Vietnam. Experts say that Chinese exports have already put some Malaysian industries out of operation, and US tariffs will have a further detrimental impact. Some of the tariff exemptions can partially protect semiconductors, which are Malaysia's largest export category to the US. Nonetheless, new tariffs will still negatively impact many other Malaysian industries such as furniture, textiles, rubber, plastics, etc.

According to Chinese customs data, China's largest export market in 2023 was ASEAN, with an annual value of \$523.7 billion.

Since the Chinese economy is not growing as fast, China needs to increase its exports and investment in ASEAN. However, rising Chinese exports are exerting significant pressure on ASEAN's domestic manufacturers. Thus, the relationship between China and ASEAN is becoming more complex.

Southeast Asian countries are also experiencing high imports of various low-cost Chinese products through Chinese e-commerce giants such as Temu, Shein, and apps like Lazada, owned by Alibaba, which compete extensively with local manufacturers. The range of Chinese commodities that Malaysian consumers can buy has been growing. Apart from the consequences of US tariffs on China, challenges such as overcapacity of Chinese manufacturers, the slowdown of the Chinese economy, and reduced consumer spending in ASEAN have led to increased exports of Chinese products to significant parts of Southeast Asian markets.

To address this situation, Indonesia, ASEAN's largest economy, is strengthening its anti-dumping legislation. Moreover, the Indonesian government is looking to impose duties of up to 200 percent on Chinese imports. It has already banned e-commerce firm Temu over fears that its small enterprises could be destroyed. Meanwhile, Temu suspended operations in Vietnam in December 2024, amid a crackdown on e-commerce platforms. In Thailand, 58 products, including steel and

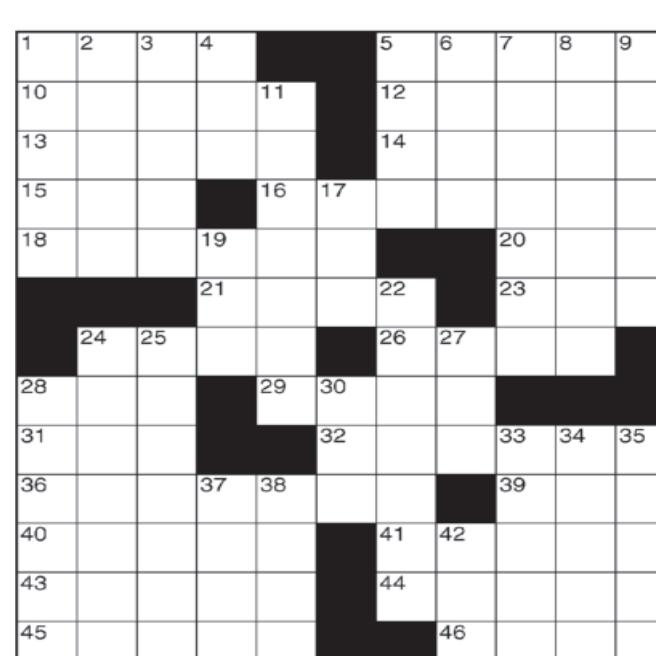
furniture, have been identified as targets for anti-circumvention duty. To manage low-cost imports and protect local manufacturers, Thailand introduced a seven percent VAT on imported goods below \$40. This has led to a 20 percent reduction in imports in this category, particularly from China.

In 2024, the US overtook China as Southeast Asia's largest export market. However, access to US markets is under greater threat under the current Trump administration. US decisions may give global companies more reasons to increase investment in Southeast Asia due to their stable and growing domestic markets, increasing income per capita, and business-friendly atmosphere towards all parties. According to World Bank and IMF projections, ASEAN as a whole is likely to grow faster than China over the next three years due to its growing economies. Moreover, ASEAN economies have attracted Chinese overseas investment for a variety of reasons, including proximity, FTAs, historical relations, and Chinese support regarding new technology, capital, and trading partnership. Despite the advantages, a high influx of Chinese goods into the Southeast Asian market will heavily affect local manufacturers, resulting in large-scale job losses and the shutdown of local infant industries, leading to trade friction with China. Therefore, with pressure from both superpowers (the US and China), should Southeast Asia be optimistic about its economic growth in 2025?

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Dance unit
5 Disinfectant's targets
10 Salon worker
12 Clarifying words
13 Brighten
14 Singer Ronstadt
15 Suffer
16 Frying mess
18 Shred
20 Really impress
21 Son of Seth
23 Young man
24 Mint product
26 Effortless
28 Take in
29 Cut
31 Maximum amount

32 Player at the plate
36 Serving aid
39 According to
40 Blender speed
41 Matt of movies
43 Borders
44 Sacked out
45 Monopoly cards
46 Midmonth day
DOWN
1 Work byproduct
2 Shire of "Rocky"
3 Glorify
4 Parrot or puppy
5 Arizona river
6 Throw off
7 Some tuxes
8 Stepped aside
9 Caught
11 Bristles at
17 Old hand
19 Kayo count
22 "Folly" (Alaska)
24 Conspire
25 Blow up
27 Six-legged worker
28 Put a limit on
30 Presidential nickname
33 Broken
34 Skip the ceremony
35 Talks crazily
37 Prepared to drive
38 Hardy heroine
42 Clay, later



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

S	A	V	A	G	E	A	F	A	R
E	X	I	L	E	D	R	I	T	A
W	E	E	O	N	E	D	R	E	W
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‘SHOOT ME, I BARE MY CHEST’

Film and exhibition honouring Abu Sayed premieres at Drik

The global premiere of the film and exhibition, *Shoot Me, I Bare My Chest—A Counter-Forensic Investigation into the Killing of Abu Sayed*, took place on Friday, July 11, at DrikPath Bhobon.

The initiative explores the killing of Abu Sayed, a student activist at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, who was tragically killed during a protest on July 16, 2024. His death became a pivotal moment in the July Uprising, which ultimately led to the downfall of Sheikh Hasina's government.

While the official narrative initially claimed that Abu Sayed was killed by protesters using bricks and firearms, in-depth counter-forensic investigations led by Drik Picture Library in Bangladesh and Forensic Architecture in the UK have uncovered a radically different story.

Through meticulous analysis combining interviews, photogrammetry, heatmaps, satellite imagery, and photographic and video evidence, the investigation challenges the official account—revealing police responsibility and the use of excessive force against protesters.

The event was moderated by Dr Shahidul Alam, photographer, activist, and managing director of Drik. Speakers included Jumanah Bawazir, advanced researcher, Forensic Architecture; Tasneem Khalil, editor-in-chief, Netra News; Nicholas Alistair Masterton, researcher of technology, Forensic Architecture; Goljar Rahman Ador, photojournalist at Kaler Kantha, Rangpur; Asaduzzaman Arman, staff cameraman at NTV, Rangpur; Tawhidul Haque Siam, student and university correspondent from Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur; and Parvez Ahmad Rony, network coordinator and photojournalist, Drik.

The exhibition is curated by ASM Rezaur Rahman.

The findings of this counter-forensic investigation expose major inconsistencies in the official story, implicating deliberate actions by law enforcement and contradicting claims that protesters were responsible for the violence. The exhibition and film offer a powerful, thought-provoking investigation into the political dynamics surrounding Abu Sayed's death, while shedding light on broader implications for justice and truth.

The film and exhibition will remain open to the public until July 26, every day from 3pm to 8pm on Level 2 of DrikPath Bhobon.



Blackpink returns with first new track in three years

Just days after debuting their fresh new song *Jump* live in South Korea, Blackpink officially released the studio version and its cinematic music video last Friday—and it has since topped iTunes charts in 47 countries.

The track, their first in almost three years, features contributions from writers like TEDDY, Diplo, and Zikai, with production by Diplo, 24, and others.

Blending bold guitar riffs, dynamic rhythms, and powerful vocals, the song highlights each member's unique style while exploring new sonic territory.

According to YG Entertainment, the music video was filmed in Korea with Grammy-winning director Dave Meyers to reflect Blackpink's evolving artistic



identity.

The group's next global tour is scheduled for July 12–13 at Sofi Stadium in Los Angeles, following their concert comeback in Seoul.

Their last album, *Born Pink*, was released in 2022.

Nawshaba's Tollywood debut set for Durga Puja release

Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed's much-awaited Tollywood debut *Joto Kando Kolkatetei (The Calcutta Case)* is finally set for release this Durga Puja.

Directed by Anik Dutta and featuring Abir Chatterjee in the lead, the film was completed in 2022 but faced delays until Friends Communication recently confirmed its theatrical premiere with a motion poster.

Inspired by Feluda, the story blends mystery and nostalgia, with Nawshaba portraying a Bangladeshi woman tracing her roots in Kolkata. "The project feels magical," she shared, recalling how an unexpected message from the director led to her casting.

The film holds special meaning for Nawshaba, as her late father was a Feluda fan. The actress was recently seen in the web series *Kanagoli*.



Shama Rahman and Afzal Hossain headline rain-drenched cultural evening



(L) Afzal Hossain and Shama Rahman during their performance. (M) The ensemble that enchanted the evening. (R) Chanchal Chowdhury, Zahid Hasan and Afzal Hossain share a light moment.

DOWEL BISWAS

As Dhaka shimmered beneath days of rainfall, a quiet enchantment stirred inside the Sheraton Ballroom last Friday; however, this wasn't just another evening of performances. *Badol Diner Prothom Kodom Phul*, hosted by MW Magazine Bangladesh, unfolded more like a dream shared between memories and monsoon.

Rabindra Sangeet artiste Shama Rahman and veteran actor director Afzal Hossain held the room in rapt attention, drawing on monsoon moods, Tagorean longing, and the stillness that lives between songs and poems.

An hour after guests from all over Dhaka had gathered, the room lights dimmed by 6pm, and thunder rumbled

from hidden speakers. The emcee, Sarah Alam, appeared with an umbrella in hand, depicting an image straight from a Jibanananda Das poem.

Monsoon, that perennial muse of Bengali art, returned in full spirit. The scent of wet earth, the shimmer of distant rivers, the melancholy of old letters and long-forgotten songs—all emerged through the evening's tapestry of voice and verse.

Rumana Chowdhury, editor and publisher of MW Magazine, captured the essence best. "The joy of getting drenched as a child, the thrill of stormy winds, the image of a *kodom* in hand while drifting into imagination... these are invitations to unlock the chest of memory," she said. "This event was built from that feeling."

Shama Rahman began with *Badol Diner Prothom Kodom Phul*, the quintessential Rabindra Sangeet that feels less like a song and more like monsoon itself. Afzal Hossain followed with Tagore's *Ashaar*, recited like a letter drawn out from rain-stained pages.

The dialogue between them—through poetry and song—was deeply emotional, subtle, and unhurried. The musical selections were deliberate. Jibanananda's *Pochis Bochhor Pore*, Sunil Gangopadhyay's *Okhane Ke, Keu Na Batas*, and Rabindranath's *Aji Jhorer Rate* and *Megher Por Megh Jomeche* were delivered with restraint, allowing each syllable to sink.

Midway through, Afzal turned to Shama and asked, "How did it all begin?" "It was my mother," Shama replied.

"Her love for Rabindra Sangeet drew me in. I started at seven, and I've never stopped learning." The simplicity of her answer mirrored the honesty of her voice.

The crowd included some of Dhaka's cultural and corporate figures: Mahfuz Anam, Monirul Islam, Anisul Haque, Chanchal Chowdhury, Arifin Shuvoo, and Afsana Ara Bindu, among others. Yet the atmosphere remained warm, personal, and unaffected by formality.

Rumana Chowdhury described the programme as "a response to the silent tug of memory," one where a single tune or storm wind could awaken a season from deep within.

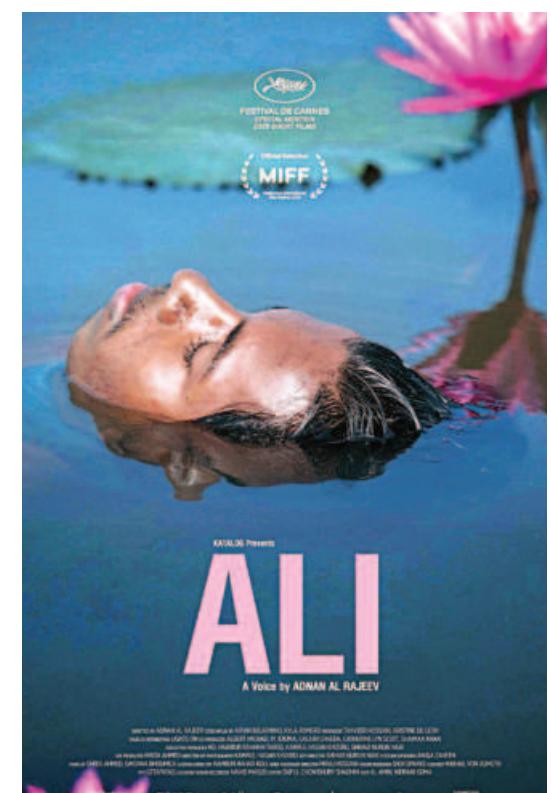
The event will be broadcast on Mastranga Television at 10:30pm tonight (July 13).

Adnan Al Rajeev's ‘Ali’ heads to Melbourne International Film Festival

Adnan Al Rajeev's short film *Ali*, which made history as the first Bangladeshi short to compete in the Main Competition at the 78th Cannes Film Festival and win a Special Mention, is now heading to Australia.

The film has been officially selected for the 73rd Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), marking its Australian premiere. Bangladeshi producer Tanvir Hossain confirmed the news, calling the MIFF selection another major achievement following Cannes.

The film will be screened on August 8 at 6:30pm and August 18 at 9:15pm. This international recognition continues to position *Ali* as a landmark project in Bangladeshi cinema, expanding its reach to global audiences.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF DRIK/RAHAT KARIM

Cops gathering info on polls candidates

FROM PAGE 1
candidate's party affiliation, political position, criminal and police history, educational background, and other identifiers. Officers were also asked to verify and include each candidate's parents' names, address, phone numbers, and national identity numbers.

According to police sources, the drive will continue until the election and will cover not only candidates but also their close associates and party workers. The data, compiled by the Special Branch at each station, is being sent to the PHQ for use in constituency-specific security planning.

The information will help determine where additional deployment is needed, whether to increase mobile patrols, and if police or Rapid Action Battalion presence should be enhanced. It will also guide individual security measures for candidates.

An officer in charge of a Dhaka district police station,

speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "A secret cell has been formed to work on this."

"We received a list of possible candidates for the upcoming election around five days ago. We are now conducting investigations and cross checking data as per instructions."

At least six other OCs confirmed the development. However, no PHQ official would comment on record, citing the matter as top secret and confidential.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam said police are also preparing a list of individuals involved in asserting territorial dominance, particularly in Dhaka.

He made the remarks after visiting the Dhaka District Police Lines and the Traffic and Driving School at Mill Barrack in Old Dhaka yesterday.

"Political parties also have an important role to play in improving the overall law

and order situation. Their cooperation is essential in this regard," he said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, BNP Standing Committee member Salauddin Ahmed said, "If it [data collection drive] is routine work, then it is okay. But if it is done with any dishonest intention, then there is cause for concern."

Contacted, Dr Tawhidul Haque, associate professor at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research at Dhaka University, said, "Law enforcers can take various steps to ensure a peaceful election."

"However, the initiative may not be well-intentioned, as it effectively places candidates under surveillance. Such steps must be taken with caution to prevent misuse."

He added that candidate information should be maintained solely by the Election Commission. "If a candidate commits any wrongdoing, there are legal provisions to take action."

But if multiple agencies collect information without proper coordination, it could become a tool for abuse."

COPS TO BE TRAINED FOR POLLS

The PHQ has also initiated a first-of-its-kind training programme for police personnel across the country ahead of the upcoming general election.

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said the training is part of the election preparedness plan.

The election date will be announced by the Election Commission, not by us. However, we aim to complete all preparatory work by December," he told reporters after inspecting the living conditions of police personnel at Mill Barrack in Dhaka.

Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general at the PHQ, said, "Initially, the training will be provided to officers in Dhaka and will then be gradually expanded to other districts."

WHO sends Saima

FROM PAGE 12
daughter of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, for fraud, forgery and misuse of power, said the report published on Friday.

WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus notified staff in a brief internal email that Saima Wazed would be on leave from Friday and that

WHO Assistant Director General Dr Catharina Boehme would "serve as the Officer in Charge" in her place.

Boehme would reach the SEARO office in New Delhi on Tuesday, Tedros added.

The charges against Saima Wazed stem from her bid to be appointed regional director.

She took office in January, 2024 but her campaign was shadowed by claims that her mother used her influence to ensure her daughter's election.

The ACC investigation into these claims began in January.

According to the formal charges, Saima Wazed is alleged to have provided

false information about her academic record during her campaign for regional director, violating Section 468 of the Bangladesh Penal Code (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and Section 471 (forging a document).

The ACC also alleges she misrepresented her qualifications by claiming an honorary role at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, which the university disputes, to secure her WHO position.

The charges were detailed by ACC Deputy Director Akhtarul Islam, the report said.

Saima Wazed is also accused of having misused her power and influence to collect about \$2.8 million from various banks for the Shuchona Foundation, which she used to head.

The ACC case did not provide complete details on how the money was then used. Those charges include: allegations of fraud and misuse of power under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property); as well as Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947.

Since the charges were laid, Saima Wazed has been unable to travel properly in the SEARO region as she faces arrest in Bangladesh, Health Policy Watch said in its report. Sheikh Hasina fled the country last August during the mass uprising.

The ACC investigation into these claims began in January.

According to the formal charges, Saima Wazed is alleged to have provided

Swiatek crushes

FROM PAGE 12
title could have been as easy.

She dropped only two games in her semi-final against Belinda Bencic and was even more ruthless in the final, clinching victory with a backhand winner.

At 4-0 down Anisimova was facing a first-set wipeout but she was powerless to halt the rampant Swiatek, who sealed the first set 6-0 in just 25 minutes.

The American won just six points on her serve in the first set and committed 14 unforced errors.

Anisimova could not stem the tide in the second set, double faulting again in the third game to give her opponent game point and then netting a backhand.

The crowd got behind her but to no avail as Swiatek kept up her level, serving out to win and celebrating before consoling her devastated opponent.

BSF shoots

FROM PAGE 12
faced resistance from BSF personnel."

The BGB official said the Bangladeshi hurling stones at the BSF personnel, prompting the Indian border guards to retaliate with sound grenades. As the group refused to retreat, BSF opened fire, injuring Shafiqul.

He was rushed to Dowarabazar Upazila Health Complex, where he succumbed to his injuries around 2:30am, Zakaria added.

In Thakurgaon, Md Rasel was shot dead by the BSF along the Minapur border of Harlipur upazila early yesterday, said BGB sources.

According to BGB and local sources, BSF members from Parij camp under BSF-87 Battalion opened fire on a group of 7-8 people who illegally entered Indian territory. Rasel was critically injured but the other members of the group reportedly escaped unhurt.

Rasel succumbed to his injuries while being taken to a local hospital in India, said

Abdullah Al Moin Hasan, BGB 42 Battalion CO in Dinajpur.

BGB held a flag meeting with BSF at the zero line yesterday evening.

At the meeting, BSF admitted to the shooting, stating that a patrol team from Parij camp opened fire around 4:00am when the group illegally crossed the border.

The BGB official said he strongly protested the killing, terming it a clear violation of border protocols.

"We told them [BSF] that the BSF can detain individuals, who cross the border illegally, and later hand them over to BGB for legal action instead of resorting to lethal force," he said.

The BSF will hand over Rasel's body today (Sunday), he said.

Rasel's father Niaz Uddin said his son went out on Friday evening and did not return. On Saturday morning, the family was informed that Rasel had been shot dead by BSF.

[Our] correspondents from Sylhet and Thakurgaon contributed to the report.]

Fuel to engines cut off

FROM PAGE 12
did not do so," it said.

The aircraft quickly began to lose altitude.

The switches then returned to the "RUN" position and the engines appeared to be gathering power, but "one of the pilots transmitted 'MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY'", the report said.

Air traffic controllers asked the pilots what was wrong, but then saw the plane crashing and called emergency personnel to the scene.

Civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu told reporters that investigators probed in a "mature, transparent" way.

"This is a preliminary report. We want the final report to come in, so let us wait for it," he said.

Earlier this week, specialist website The Air Current, citing multiple sources familiar with the probe, reported it had "narrowed its focus to the movement of the engine fuel switches", while noting that full analysis will

"take months -- if not longer". It added that "the focus of the investigators could change during that time".

The Indian agency's report said the US Federal Aviation Administration had issued an information bulletin in 2018 about "the potential disengagement of the fuel control switch locking feature".

Though the concern was not considered an "unsafe condition" that would warrant a more serious directive, Air India told investigators it did not carry out suggested inspections as they were "advisory and not mandatory".

Air India was compliant with all airworthiness directives and alert service bulletins on the aircraft, the report said.

The investigations bureau said there were "no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GEnx-1B engine operators and manufacturers", suggesting no technical issues with the engines (GE) or the aircraft (Boeing).

The investigations bureau said there were "no recommended actions to B787-8 and/or GE GEnx-1B engine operators and manufacturers", suggesting no technical issues with the engines (GE) or the aircraft (Boeing).

"We are still saying our door is still open for reforms, not for power sharing. If this door closes, people will never forgive you."

The rally was moderated by NCP Chief Organiser (north) Sarjis Alam, and also addressed by, among others, Joint Convener Tasnim Jara, Chief Organiser (south) Hasnat Abdullah, Joint Chief Organiser (south) Mejbah Kamal, and Sathkira NCP member Moniruzzaman.

No party

FROM PAGE 12
and everything and rebuild Bangladesh."

Nahid said the party did not agree, and instead, it demanded polls within months.

"We are still saying our door is still open for reforms, not for power sharing. If this door closes, people will never forgive you."

The UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) stipulates that states heading an investigation must submit a preliminary report within 30 days of an accident.

US and British air accident investigators have taken part in the probe.

Suresh Mistry, who lost his daughter Kinal in the crash, told AFP his family was still coming to terms with the loss.

People's aspirations

FROM PAGE 3

The seminar, titled "Unfulfilled National Aspirations and the July Uprising", was organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Bangladesh Jasod) at Jatiya Press Club.

One-minute silence was observed at the beginning of the programme in remembrance of those killed during last year's July uprising.

Presiding over the event, Bangladesh Jasod President Sharif Nurul Ambia said the country continues today. "Governments come and go, mass movements and uprisings erupt time and again, blood is shed, cries of the oppressed echo and none of it has brought us true democracy. The cycle of exploitation remains unbroken," he said.

Referring to last year's uprising, he said, "Many have become disheartened. We must ensure the success of this uprising. We cannot allow it to fail under any circumstances."

BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, speaking as the chief discussant, said the July uprising was rooted in the people's long-standing struggle to reclaim ownership of the state.

"The core principle of the constitution is the people's ownership. It was for this ownership that people made such sacrifices during the July uprising. We do not want division over this ownership," he said.

"Let us honour the skilled and accomplished people, not just for one day, but for a lifetime -- with respect for their excellence, values of life, values of society, honesty, and dedication," he added.

Concluding the event, the organisation's president Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said Bangladesh must focus more on developing

Focus more on developing

FROM PAGE 4
generations," said the organisation's secretary-general Nasir Ud-Doula during his welcome speech.

A documentary showcasing the history, heritage, and success stories of the six districts was presented at the event.

In its commemorative

souvenir, the Samity listed a total of 181 honourees selected for their excellence and impact. The list included 56 from Mymensingh, 33 from Kishoreganj, 30 from Tangail, 26 from Jamalpur, 20 from Sherpur, and 16 from Netrokona.

Several of the honourees who attended the event also addressed the gathering. Among them, Bangla Academy President Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said Bangladesh must focus more on developing

its economy and industrial base. "Our biggest weakness is the lack of political progress. This is something we all must pay attention to," he added.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, emphasised the importance of skills in national development. "In today's world, skills are of utmost importance. The more skilled a country is, the more developed it becomes," he said.

"Let us honour the skilled and accomplished people, not just for one day, but for a lifetime -- with respect for their excellence, values of life, values of society, honesty, and dedication," he added.

Concluding the event, the organisation's president Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq said Bangladesh must focus more on developing

and business to contribute actively to vital sectors such as agriculture, education, and healthcare.

Among the honourees were Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Farhina Ahmed; Sonali Bank Managing Director Md Mazibur Rahman; former cabinet secretary ASM Abdul Halim; Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Md Rezaul Maksud Jahedi; renowned folk singer Kuddus Boyati; lyricist Shahidullah Farazi; several former members of parliament; and individuals from various other fields.

Women's national cricket team captain Nigar Sultana Joty was also among those recognised.

Yunus sending

FROM PAGE 4

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina also used to send mangoes to Modi, a practice widely known as "mango diplomacy".

Following Hasina's

departure -- she fled to India and is reportedly being sheltered by the Indian government -- relations between Dhaka and New Delhi have been strained.

Bangladesh sought extradition of Hasina, but India is yet to give any response. Also, India is pushing in Bangladeshis.

"I think this is good. Sending mangoes by the interim government means a willingness from Bangladesh to normalise ties with India," said a former diplomat.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal organised the programme at a hotel in Dhaka to mark the first anniversary of the July-August uprising and to honour the families of the martyred members of Chhatra Dal.

"I would like to urge the government to investigate these incidents quickly and ensure the actual offenders are identified and brought to justice," he said while addressing a views exchange meeting with the families of the 142 martyrs of the July

uprising.

Otherwise, Fakhrul warned, the nation will not forgive the government and hold it responsible for creating such issues at a time when the country is heading towards the restoration of democracy.

He also called upon BNP leaders and activists to remain calm in their democratic struggle.

"To those who have made

sacrifices, I ask you to wait a

little longer with patience.

Ensure that no one among us commits any wrongdoing.

BNP has never supported

injustice and it never will.

BNP has always stood for

the rule of law and will continue to do so," he said.

A comprehensive approach to obesity in heart failure patients

Obesity and heart failure (HF) often go hand in hand, and addressing this connection is crucial for improving patient outcomes. Here is a breakdown of the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of obesity in individuals with heart failure:

Diagnosis: While Body Mass Index (BMI) is a common measure for obesity, it is not always the best indicator, especially for those with a BMI under 35. In such cases, other methods like waist circumference or body composition can provide a clearer picture of a person's weight-related health risks.

Risk assessment and evaluation: People with obesity may have lower levels of natriuretic peptides, which are commonly used to diagnose heart failure.



This can make it harder to diagnose HF in those with obesity, especially if symptoms like shortness of breath or fatigue are present. Additionally, conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnoea, and atrial fibrillation are often linked to obesity, and addressing these can help improve heart failure treatment.

Management

• **Lifestyle changes:** Weight loss and exercise can improve heart function, but making these changes is not always easy or sustainable.

• **Medications:** For people with heart failure and obesity, medications like GLP-1 antagonists (semaglutide and tirzepatide) have shown promise in reducing weight and improving symptoms. However, careful monitoring of kidney function and other treatments is essential.

• **Surgery:** Bariatric surgery may help reduce heart failure symptoms, but it carries risks, so it's vital to manage heart failure carefully before and after the procedure.

Overall, managing obesity in heart failure patients requires a balanced approach, combining lifestyle, medication, and sometimes surgery, under careful medical supervision.

Source: Journal of the American College of Cardiology

Home remedies for dengue viral infection

DR ABDULLAHEL AMAAN &
DR KHAINOOR ZAHAN

Dengue, an Aedes mosquito-borne viral infection, has been a crucial public health concern during the monsoon in our country for its worrying statistical value. Individuals who have recovered from primary infection from one serotype of dengue virus get a lifelong immunity against the same serotype, but the risk of developing severe dengue would be higher following infection by any other serotypes (secondary infection).

Severe dengue is potentially fatal. Severe dengue, characterised by vascular leakage due to disruption of the endothelial cell layer in the vascular system, is preceded by thrombocytopenia (rapid fall in platelet count), indicating disruption of thrombopoiesis. These processes in the pathogenesis indicate the requirement of both immunomodulators and antivirals for treatment. Despite its life-threatening complications, there is still no specific antiviral medication available for dengue infection.

However, researchers continue to actively pursue identifying potent compounds with promising anti-dengue activities via in-depth understanding of

dengue pathogenesis. Medicinal plants, which are known to possess both immunomodulatory and antiviral activities, have long been considered as potential alternatives for the management of viral fever worldwide.

Among all the potential medicinal plants considered for dengue treatment, papaya has been studied extensively. Papaya is used to treat several digestive disorders, as it has antimicrobial, antimalarial, antihelminthic, liver protective, and immunomodulatory effects. Several compounds, such as papain, flavonoids, L-tocopherol, ascorbic acid, and others present in papaya leaves, possess therapeutic properties.

The antioxidants present in papaya leaves exhibit anti-tumour and immunomodulatory effects. Metabolites in papaya leaf extract such as carpaine and quercetin are known to possess antimalarial and anti-dengue activity. Carpaine is the principal alkaloid component contained in the papaya leaf extract, and it has been reported to be a major contributor towards anti-thrombocytopenic properties. Carpaine also possesses antitumor activity and antihelminthic activity. Papaya leaves also contain chemical compounds, like pseudo carpaine, which impart a bitter taste to the

leaves. Use of papaya leaf extract to increase the platelet count in dengue-affected patients is a topic of debate. Whether the natural increase in the platelet count observed in dengue patients after the defervescence phase is being mistaken as the effect of papaya leaves has been addressed by several studies. The anecdotal evidence is supported by studies indicating a rapid increase in platelet count in a test group of dengue patients following administration of papaya leaf extract. Thrombocytopenic mice treated with papaya leaf extract showed increased levels of thrombopoietin, a chemical that enhances platelet production.

Papaya leaf extract has also been reported to exert significant inhibition of haemolysis along with red blood cell membrane stabilisation. Thus, the immunomodulatory effect of papaya leaf extract, particularly with regard to the platelet count enhancing effect, has been established.

In this context, papaya leaf juice seems to be a potential candidate against dengue viral infection.

The writers are the assistant professors of neonatology at the Institute of Child & Mother Health (ICMH), Maitrait, Dhaka, and a public health specialist, respectively. Email: abdullahelamaan@gmail.com, khainoorzahan@gmail.com

Harnessing AI to enhance traditional medicine

On 11 July 2025, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) released a new report titled Mapping the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Traditional Medicine. The report, presented at the AI for Good Global Summit, highlights the transformative potential of AI in enhancing traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (TCIM), used by billions globally.

The brief showcases AI's role in areas like personalised care, drug discovery, and biodiversity conservation. Examples include AI-powered diagnostics in Ayurvedic medicine, machine learning models identifying medicinal plants in Ghana and South Africa, and AI analysis of compounds for blood disorders in South Korea.

A key focus is the need for high-quality, inclusive data to reflect the diversity of traditional medicine, emphasising the importance of preserving Indigenous knowledge through initiatives like India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. The brief also stresses safeguarding data sovereignty, with a call for community-led data governance models to protect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

With the TCIM market expected to reach nearly \$600 billion by 2025, the report calls for action in several areas: developing legal frameworks for AI in traditional medicine, building digital literacy among practitioners, and establishing global standards for ethical AI use.

By combining AI with the wisdom of traditional medicine, a new, more inclusive era of healthcare could emerge—one that benefits all.

Source: World Health Organisation



Stem cell-derived islet cells show promise for type 1 diabetes treatment

Researchers have made a significant advancement in the treatment of type 1 diabetes, a condition where the immune system destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. In a recent clinical trial, scientists tested stem cell-derived islet cells (zimislecel) as a potential treatment for this disease.

Zimislecel is created by turning embryonic stem cells into functional pancreatic islet cells, which are responsible for insulin production. The treatment involves a single infusion of these

cells into the bloodstream, delivered via the portal vein, alongside an immunosuppression protocol to prevent the immune system from attacking the new cells.

In a phase 1-2 trial, 22 patients with type 1 diabetes received zimislecel. After at least 12 months of follow-up, 14 patients were still being monitored. The results were promising: all patients had some level of insulin production, and many saw significant improvements in blood sugar control. In fact, 10

patients were able to stop taking insulin altogether.

However, the trial was not without risks. Two patients died during the study period—one at 20 months and another at 30 months—due to complications related to immunosuppression, which is used to prevent the rejection of the new cells.

While the treatment is still in its early stages, these results offer hope for a potential breakthrough in managing type 1 diabetes by restoring the body's ability to produce insulin. Further studies are needed to confirm these findings and ensure the long-term safety of this approach.

Source: The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)



A Bangladeshi scientist to TIME100 Health List of Global Health Influencers

STAR HEALTH REPORT

TIME has named Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, Executive Director of icddr,b, to the 2025 TIME100 Health, its annual list recognising the 100 most influential individuals in global health.

This recognition highlights Dr Tahmeed's pioneering contributions to maternal and child health, nutrition, and evidence-based health solutions in resource-limited settings. Under his leadership, icddr,b has strengthened its global impact through cutting-edge research and lifesaving interventions that have reached millions across Bangladesh and beyond.

Dr Tahmeed will join fellow honourees at the TIME100 Impact Dinner: Leaders Shaping the Future of Health on May 13 in New York, where he has also been invited to deliver an inspirational toast—a TIME tradition spotlighting voices that shape the future of global health. His remarks will be featured editorially and on TIME's social platforms.

His selection not only honours his own achievements but also serves as an inspiration to young Bangladeshi scientists and researchers—showing that through hard work, passion, and unwavering dedication, they too can earn a place on the global stage.

"It is a profound honour to be included in TIME's 2025 Health100 list," said Dr Tahmeed. "This recognition is not mine alone—it belongs to the brilliant scientists and staff of icddr,b, to our collaborators around the world, and to the communities we serve. I am deeply grateful to TIME for this spotlight, which I hope will help bring greater urgency to the fight against malnutrition and the need to invest in science that improves lives—not in war, conflict, or division, but in equity, health, and human dignity."

The art of boredom in healing your brain

TASHRIF AREFIN

There is an Italian term, *il dolce far niente*, that calls for intentionally letting go—to prioritise simply being alongside doing. It gives the brain the pause it needs to recharge so that it can be more productive. Yet in today's hyperconnected world, this kind of purposeful idleness has become increasingly difficult to access.

Boredom might just be the rarest experience of our time. In an age where every empty second is instantly filled with a scroll, a swipe, or a screen, the simple act of doing nothing has become almost extinct. We carry endless entertainment everywhere. As a result, many people never access the brain's default mode—the space where thoughts about life's meaning and personal purposes arise—and this could have been fuelling today's mental health crisis.

Neuroscientist Alicia Wolf, a researcher at Rensselaer Institute, says it is critical for brain health to let ourselves be bored from time to time as our brain shifts to default. Being bored, the researcher says, improves social connections. Boredom can also foster creative ideas, replenish our work mojo, and provide an incubation period



for embryonic work ideas to hatch. Our brain gets a much-needed rest when we are not working it out too hard. Interestingly, famous writers have said their most creative ideas came when they were moving furniture, or taking a shower. These eureka moments are called insights.

This idea aligns with what author Arthur Brooks told Sean Kelly in a podcast: if you were put into an fMRI machine and asked to 'think about nothing,' the parts of the brain that would light up are the same ones involved

in contemplating and exploring life's meaning. He added that the problem today is that most young people are not even looking for the meaning. And the reason they are not even looking is they are not in the parts of the brain where they need to be to look. As Brooks puts it, we are using our brains wrong.

So ditch that outdated adage, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop," and alongside your to-do list, create a to-be list: a time when you can be mindfully present. Set aside 10-20 minutes a day where you intentionally will not do anything productive. No phone. No music. Just sit or lie down in nature.

Let your thoughts drift without judgement. Also, next time you are in a waiting room or in a line, do not pull out your phone. Let yourself just exist in that moment. It might feel awkward at first. That is good. Alongside, what you can try is to just sit and stare. Watch the clouds, the ceiling fan, or just a tree. Do not try to think; just let your brain breathe.

Let your mind wander. And sometimes, do not be afraid to do nothing because that is exactly what your brain needs to begin.

Tashrif Arefin came up with this article out of boredom. Email: meghdoot.drmrca@gmail.com

Mastering portion control for healthier eating habits

It sounds simple enough: just avoid overeating. But managing portion sizes is often more challenging than it seems. Many people unknowingly consume more than they intend to, which can lead to weight gain and other health issues. The key to success lies in understanding what a true serving size looks like—and often, it is smaller than we think.

A "serving size" is a standard measure of food that helps you gauge how much to eat. Instead of memorising complex measurements, it is easier to compare serving sizes to everyday objects. For instance:



- Vegetables or fruit: the size of your fist
- Pasta: about one scoop of ice cream
- Meat or fish: roughly the size of a deck of cards
- Chips: a cupped handful
- Apple: the size of a baseball
- Potato: like a computer mouse
- Cheese: the size of two dice or your thumb (from tip to base)

At home, portion control becomes easier with a few simple tricks. Use smaller plates and bowls to naturally limit the amount of food you serve. When preparing meals, serve yourself appropriate portions and avoid going back for seconds. It can be helpful to store any leftovers in pre-measured portions, and freezing excess food in individual servings ensures you do not overeat later.

Dining out also presents challenges, but they are manageable. You can ask for smaller portions or share dishes with a dining companion. If you have dessert, consider splitting it—most restaurant servings are much larger than needed.

At the supermarket, be mindful of bulk-sized snack packs, which often encourage mindless munching. Instead, choose single-serving packages to keep portion sizes in check.

By following these simple strategies, you can make it easier to stick to healthy portion sizes, helping you enjoy your meals without overindulging. Managing portion control is not about restriction—it is about learning what a true serving looks like and making it work for you.

Grass meets its gilded era

KHALID HOSSAIN

There was a time, not long ago, when men's tennis kept one foot in the future but the other firmly in the past. Change was always on the horizon; but, like a sun that never quite set, the old gods lingered.

For nearly two decades, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic redefined the sport. However, as Centre Court prepares to witness Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner face off in the Wimbledon final, there is no longer an iota of confusion that the new era is deep rooted.

The 2025 final at the All England Club is the verification: in Alcaraz and Sinner, tennis has found its new centre of gravity. Their names now orbit the Grand Slam calendar the way the terrific trio once did; and today's meeting will mark the seventh consecutive major claimed by the deadly duo.

Just five weeks ago in Paris, they produced one of the greatest matches in Grand Slam history. That French Open final was, in Alcaraz's own words, "the best match I have ever played so far", while Sinner said, "I don't know if it'll get better than Paris [2025], because I don't think it's possible."

A five-hour and 29-minute epic at the clay colosseum had everything: athleticism, emotion, nerves and resilience. Sinner had three match points; Alcaraz, however, as he so often does, found another level from the brink of despair.

But if Paris was where Sinner slipped, London might be where he lands. The Italian has parked the pain of that defeat

SINNER (WORLD NO. 1) VS ALCARAZ (2)

Head-to-head

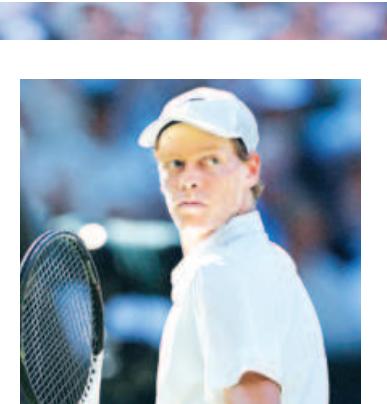
Alcaraz leads 8-4 (won last 5)

Grand Slam finals record

Alcaraz 5-0, Sinner 3-1

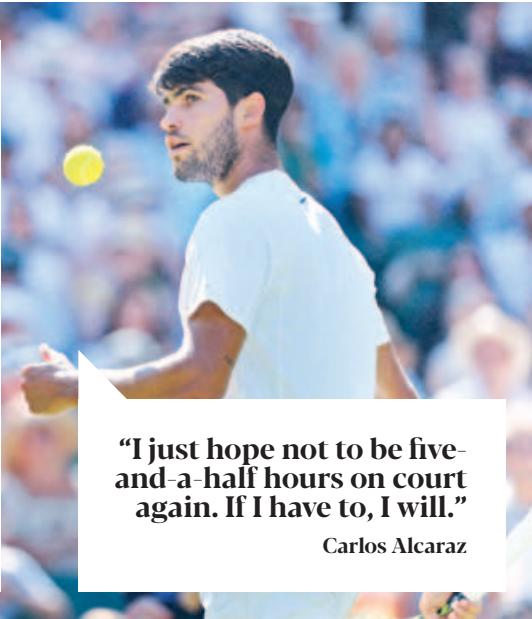
Streaks

Alcaraz 24-match winning streak; Sinner 4th straight Slam final



"Hopefully it's going to be a good match, like the last one."

Jannik Sinner



"I just hope not to be five-and-a-half hours on court again. If I have to, I will."

Carlos Alcaraz

and stormed into his first Wimbledon final by dismantling a hobbled Djokovic in straight sets. In doing so, he beat the man who had featured in six consecutive Wimbledon finals prior to this edition; symbolically closing the curtain on an era.

"It's just age... the wear and tear of the body," Djokovic admitted, as his wait for an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam continues.

Alcaraz, already a two-time defending champion at Wimbledon, will arrive on the back of a career-best 24-match winning streak. The 22-year-old Spaniard has never lost a Grand Slam final.

And therein lies the narrative: this is

"The things we are doing right now are great for tennis," he said. Few would disagree.

Sinner, for his part, knows the odds: "He [Alcaraz] is the favourite. He's again in the final. It's very tough to beat him on grass. But I like these challenges," said the 23-year-old Italian.

If Sinner's icy baseline precision and recent hard court dominance make him a methodical counterweight to Alcaraz's dynamism and willpower, their rivalry could mirror the balance once provided by the Big Three.

In Alcaraz and Sinner, tennis may have found its next great axis.

In this Wimbledon that began with speculation and sentiment about a fading champion, it now ends with clarity.

History suggests the grand finale on the hallowed lawns will be tight. Expect fire, finesse, and perhaps another five-set epic.

Liton in focus as Tigers vie to level series

SPORTS REPORTER

As Bangladesh take on hosts Sri Lanka in the second T20I in Dambulla today in a bid to level the three-match series, all eyes will be on skipper Litton Das, who has so far failed to inspire an underperforming side since assuming captaincy full-time in May.

Since being named captain of the T20I side till the next year's ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, Litton has led Bangladesh to back-to-back series defeats against the UAE (2-1) and Pakistan (3-0) and a defeat today would hand him a third straight series defeat as captain.

The visitors are trailing the series 1-0 after losing the series opener in Pallekele by seven wickets on Thursday, which was also their sixth straight defeat in the format.

The woeful defeats have been an outcome of the team's collective failure, and Litton's sporadic form has aggravated Bangladesh's problems.



The batter has made 147 runs in seven innings since gaining captaincy with a highest score of 48 off 30 against Pakistan, and has not scored a half-century in the format in his last 13 innings.

All seven of those matches were played in placid batting surfaces, and while fellow top-order batters Parvez Hossain Emon (216) and Tenzin Hasam Tamim (231) scored at a rapid rate of 175.60 and 159.31 respectively, Litton, with his strike rate of 124.58, squandered the early momentum.

In the first T20I against Sri Lanka, Emon and Tenzin once again gave Bangladesh a good start, making 46 runs in just five overs before Litton's 11-ball six to dampened their efforts.

Apart from Litton's own form, his captaincy has also been below par so far. In just seven matches as captain, he has tried out 20 different players in the playing XI, and from the looks of it, he and the team management have not been able to lock down their best XI yet.

In the series opener, Bangladesh opting for four genuine openers in the starting XI, omitting Jaker Ali and not picking pacer Mustafizur Rahman were decisions that raised many eyebrows.

Bangladesh are surrounded with similar selection issues ahead of the crucial game in Dambulla today, where they have never played a T20I and have only featured in five ODIs, having last played there in 2017.

For both Bangladesh and Litton, the challenge will be to address the issues swiftly, otherwise, they will sink deeper into the mire of their own making.

BAN-PAK T20I SERIES

Big relief for BCB as media rights sold

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) heaved a sigh of relief after managing to sell its worldwide media rights for the national team's upcoming three-match home T20I series against Pakistan.

Although the media rights were expected to be sold through an open bidding, scheduled for Thursday (July 10), the board had to sell it in a different way after companies who showed interest for the series did failed to meet the floor price.

It has been learnt that the board had offered a floor price of Tk 4cr for the media rights of the series but none of the interested companies offered even half of the figure.

"The offer prices were just nonsense. Then we talked to a few of the interested companies separately and eventually got an amount which almost fulfilled our target," a BCB director, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star.

The director, however, didn't disclose the name of the company or the amount the board received from the sale.

"We can't reveal the figure right now as the company which bought the media rights need to sell it to the broadcasters. But we will reveal it after the series," he added.

However, it has been learnt that T-Sports, a local private television channel, will broadcast the series, scheduled between July 20 and 24.

Earlier in April, the BCB had failed to sell media rights for the two-Test home series against Zimbabwe as neither broadcasters nor marketing agencies showed any interest. The BCB had to telecast the series on state-owned BTV free of cost.

All three matches will be played at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka.

Earlier, Bangladesh had toured Pakistan for a three-match T20I series in May-June and lost the series 3-0.



KL Rahul etched his name in history with a gritty 100 on Day 3 of the third Test against England at Lord's -- his 10th Test ton and second of the series -- becoming only the second Indian after Dilip Vengsarkar to feature twice on the iconic Honours Board. He was dismissed the very next ball after reaching the milestone yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

- This will be the first major international final in men's football between clubs from England and France.
- The last time these two teams met was in the last 16 of the 2015-16 UEFA Champions League, which saw PSG advance 4-2 on aggregate.

- PSG have scored ten first-half goals in the competition, while Chelsea are yet to concede before the break in any match.

- Chelsea have attempted 100 shots on goal in the competition, more than any other club.
- Dating back to the Coupe de France final, PSG have won their last five knockout matches in all competitions by a combined score of 18-0.
- PSG's Gianluigi Donnarumma has kept five clean sheets at this tournament -- the most and two more than any goalkeeper in the tournament.



PSG's relentless run faces Chelsea's fearless fight

AGENCIES

The stage is set for a blockbuster finale as PSG take on Chelsea in the final of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on Sunday.

With global bragging rights and over \$100 million in prize money on the line, both clubs will aim to close out marathon campaigns with the ultimate reward.

PSG arrive as overwhelming favourites. Fresh off a stunning 5-0 Champions League final win over Inter Milan, Luis Enrique's men have steamrolled through the Club World Cup -- putting four past both Inter Miami and Atletico Madrid, before dispatching Bayern Munich and thrashing Real Madrid 4-0 in the semis.

"We have had this objective from the beginning," Enrique said. "It's very difficult to achieve these things -- very few teams can do what we are trying to do."

Chelsea's road to the final has been less flashy but equally resilient. Enzo Maresca's side saw off Benfica, Palmeiras, and Fluminense, building on a season that has already delivered a UEFA Conference League



The match, starting at 1:00am (Monday, Bangladesh time) will not be telecast, but live-streamed for free on DAZN.

PSG's incredible run.

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WHO sends
Saima Wazed
on leave

Reports Health
Policy Watch



STAR REPORT

Saima Wazed Putul, the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional director for the South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), has been sent on indefinite leave from Friday, according to Health Policy Watch.

The action was taken four months after Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed two cases against Saima Wazed,

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A Palestinian woman pushes a man and a child in a wheelchair as people gather to collect bags of flour at a UN World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse on Al-Jalaa Street in Gaza City, in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: AFP

AIR INDIA JET CRASH Fuel to engines cut off before crash Says preliminary probe report

AFP, New Delhi

Fuel control switches to the engines of an Air India flight that crashed shortly after takeoff, killing 260 people, were moved from the "run" to the "cutoff" position moments before impact, a preliminary investigation report said yesterday.

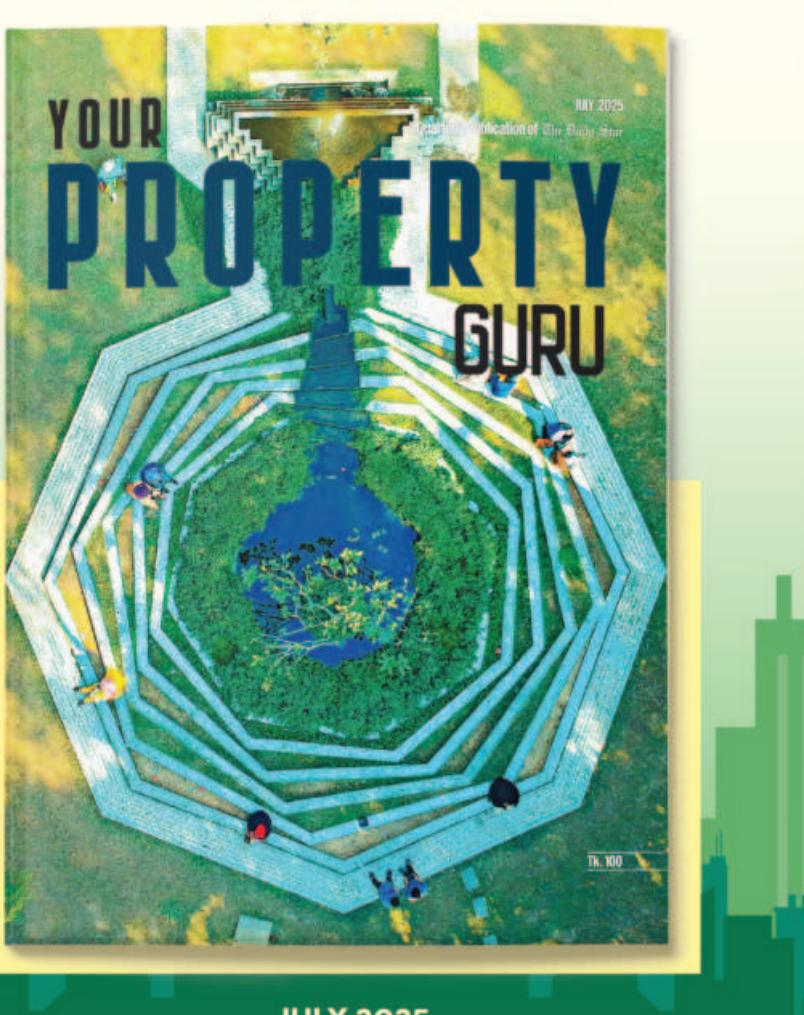


The report, issued by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), did not offer any conclusions or apportion blame for the June 12 disaster, but indicated that one pilot asked the other why he cut off fuel, and the second pilot responded that he had not.

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JULY 2025
A Quarterly Publication of The Daily Star

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday said major US trading partners Mexico and the European Union would face a 30 percent tariff starting next month, ramping up pressure for deals in his trade wars.

Both sets of duties would take effect August 1, Trump said in separate letters posted to his Truth Social platform, citing Mexico's role in illicit drugs flowing into the United States and a trade imbalance with the EU, respectively.

Since returning to the presidency in January, Trump has unleashed sweeping tariffs on allies and competitors alike, roiling financial markets and raising fears of a global economic downturn.

The fresh duties for Mexico announced by Trump would be higher than the 25 percent levy he imposed Mexican goods earlier this year, although products entering the United States under the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) are exempted.

Canada earlier received a similar letter setting out 35 percent tariffs on its goods. A US official earlier told AFP that the USMCA exemption was similarly expected to remain for Canada.

The EU tariff is also markedly steeper than the 20 percent levy Trump unveiled in April.

BSF shoots 2 Bangladeshis dead

STAR REPORT

At least two Bangladeshis were shot dead allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along the borders in Sunamganj and Thakurgaon early yesterday.

The victims are Shafiqul Islam, 45, of Bhangerpara area under Dowarabazar upazila of Sunamganj, and Md Rasel, 20, of Natun Bazar area of Thakurgaon's Haripur upazila.

Lt Col AKM Zakaria Kadir, commanding officer of BGB 28 Battalion in Sunamganj, and Abdullah Al Moin Hasan, commanding officer of BGB 42 Battalion in Dinajpur, confirmed the deaths.

Regarding the incident in Sunamganj, Lt Col Zakaria citing locals said, "A group of 10 to 12 Bangladeshis crossed 500 yards into Indian territory through the Bhangerpara border to bring cattle at night. On their way back, they

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The EU, alongside dozens of other economies, had been set to see its US tariff level increase from a baseline of 10 percent on Wednesday, but Trump pushed back the deadline to August 1 just days before the elevated rates were due to take effect.



Since the start of the week, Trump has sent out letters to more than 20 countries with updated tariffs for each.

Brussels said Friday that it was ready to strike a deal with Washington to prevent the return of 20 percent levies, and the latest letter suggests talks will carry on. The EU has prepared retaliatory duties on US goods worth around 21 billion euros after Trump also slapped separate tariffs on steel and aluminium imports earlier this year, and they are suspended until July 14.



Swiatek crushes Anisimova in Wimbledon final

AGENCIES

Iga Swiatek thrashed American Amanda Anisimova 6-0 6-0 yesterday to become the first Polish player to win a Wimbledon singles title, ending a ludicrously lop-sided final in 57 minutes.

The 24-year-old eighth seed was merciless as she took brutal advantage of Grand Slam final debutant Anisimova's leg sapping nerves in front of a stunned Centre Court.

It turned into a nightmare afternoon for 13th seed Anisimova who became the first player to lose a Wimbledon final 6-0 6-0 since 1911 and the first to do so at any Grand Slam since Steffi Graf beat Natasha Zvereva at the 1988 French Open.

Swiatek, who had never gone beyond the Wimbledon quarter-finals before this year despite winning four French Open crowns, could never have imagined that claiming her sixth Grand Slam

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