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# Feni floodwaters recede, leave trails of destruction

ANWARUL HAIDER, Noakhali

Floodwaters have begun to recede from most areas in Feni, where continuous rainfall and hilly run-off since June 8 caused embankments to collapse at 12 points along the Muhuri, Kahua, and Silonia rivers, inundating large parts of Parshuram, Phulgazi, and Feni Sadar upazilas.

As of yesterday, residents have started returning to their homes from shelters, although the damage to agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and infrastructure across the affected areas is extensive.

According to district officials, the flood affected six upazilas in total, with Parshuram, Phulgazi, and Feni Sadar among the hardest hit.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Ismail Hossain said since July 8, around 110 villages in Parshuram, Phulgazi, Chhagalnaiya, Feni Sadar, and Daganbhuiyan upazilas – bordering the Indian state of Tripura – had been flooded.

“While the overall flood situation has significantly improved, some areas remain waterlogged,” he added.

Md Atik Ullah, district agriculture officer, said crops on 2,371 hectares of land have been destroyed. The losses



Flood scars remain visible along the Silonia riverbank and in Uttar Daulatpur area of Kulagachhi upazila in Feni, where homes, farmland, and roads were submerged. Although water levels have receded, the aftermath reveals the extent of damage and suffering endured by locals. The photos were taken recently.

## ICT-2 chair questions pace of July uprising cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chairman of International Crimes Tribunal 2, Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, yesterday asked the prosecution whether they were going slow in handling cases filed over crimes committed during last year’s July uprising.

During a court session, he asked prosecutor Abdus Sobhan Taralder, “Mr Taralder, are you going slow?” In response, Taralder, the senior-most among the prosecutors present at the tribunal, replied, “No, no. If we were moving slowly, then the frequency of those cases wouldn’t have been scheduled so early. The earlier deadline was set for July 10, and today [yesterday] was already scheduled for this case.”

Justice Chowdhury then remarked, “But, you are not coming up with new cases...”

# All 64 districts at risk as dengue spreads

## Say experts; urge community-level efforts, awareness campaigns


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts have sounded the alarm over a potential nationwide dengue crisis, warning that without urgent, targeted intervention, the outbreak could worsen across all 64 districts.

They stressed that current efforts to control Aedes mosquitoes remain insufficient, especially outside the capital, where cases are rising rapidly.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar urged the government to prioritise larviciding and the elimination of breeding sources over widespread fogging. “Fogging should be limited to hotspots with confirmed cases. General fogging is largely ineffective, yet it remains the main method being used,” he said.

He emphasised the importance of public awareness and community participation. “Without community-level efforts to eliminate breeding grounds at the household



Death toll **56**

Total number of patients **14,880**

**1,240** still undergoing treatment

**420** more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

## CNG drivers block Banani road for hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers blocked the road in front of the BRTA office in Banani for several hours yesterday, bringing traffic on the Uttara-Mohakhali route to a standstill and causing immense suffering for commuters.

The drivers, mostly from the outskirts of the city, were demanding permission to operate within Dhaka, where they are currently barred.

Russel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star that a group of drivers from outside Dhaka gathered in front of the BRTA office in the morning and blocked the road. Vehicular movement in both directions – from Uttara to Mohakhali and Mohakhali to Uttara – was halted.

# ‘Tunda Babu’ behind bars, but fear still haunts

### Many residents flee Haddipatti in Darus Salam fearing retaliation



SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Gripped by fear, many residents of Haddipatti in Dhaka’s Darus Salam area have fled their homes, even after the arrest of a notorious gang leader, Babu Khan – locally known as “Tunda Babu”.

Locals say the arrest has done little to ease their fears, as the threat of retaliation still looms.

Babu was arrested on July 2 in Narail by the Rapid Action Battalion



(Rab). According to Rab, he has long been involved in extortion, mugging, land grabbing, drug dealing, and armed robbery in Mohammadpur and surrounding areas.

He operated under the command of Kobzikata Group’s ringleader, Anwar alias Kobzikata Anwar, one of Mohammadpur’s most feared criminals, Rab added.

Haddipatti, a canal-side neighbourhood somewhat detached

## ACCESS TO SECRETARIAT

# Govt forms Press Accreditation Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has finally formed the Press Accreditation Committee for journalists, more than four and a half months after introducing the relevant policy.

The information ministry yesterday issued an official order through its Press 2 wing announcing the formation of the 11-member committee. Earlier, on February 26, the ministry had issued a gazette notification for the “Press Accreditation Policy 2025”.

The newly-formed committee is headed by the principal information officer, five government officials and five journalists. It will oversee the

## Global Rohingya leaders launch political body

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rohingya leaders from around the world have officially launched a political body – Arakan Rohingya National Council (ARNC) – marking a major step forward in the community’s struggle for rights, recognition, and political representation.

The council was formed following nearly two years of strategic consultations involving Rohingya political figures, activists, community leaders, and representatives from refugee camps and diaspora organisations.

“The ARNC stands as the most inclusive and unified platform ever formed to represent Rohingya communities – inside Myanmar, in the refugee camps, and globally,” said the council in a

## Take action against those who supported ‘July crackdown’

### Demand DU’s pro-BNP teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

The pro-BNP teachers of Dhaka University’s “White Panel” called for disciplinary action against those teachers who allegedly supported the crackdown during last year’s July uprising.

They also called for the trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The calls were made during a human chain formed by the white panel teachers yesterday morning on the campus.

Professor Morshed Hasan Khan and Prof Md Abul Kalam Sarkar, convener and joint convener of the panel respectively, spoke at the event, among others.

## Death anniv of Shajahan Siraj today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Shajahan Siraj, a key organiser of the 1971 Liberation War.

On this day in 2020, he passed away in Dhaka, at the age of 77.

On the occasion, a wreath will be placed on his grave at Banani graveyard in Dhaka in the morning, on behalf of Shajahan Siraj Welfare Trust.

Qurankhwani and a food distribution programme will be held at the orphanages run by Anjuman Mufidul Islam.

Wreaths will be laid at the deceased’s mural in Tangail’s Kalihati, the birthplace of Shajahan Siraj.

Besides, scholarships will be given among the poor and meritorious students at Shajahan Siraj College in Kalihati, a



Workers dismantling the “Projonmo Chattar” structure at the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday. The Dhaka South City Corporation began the demolition late Saturday night following instructions from the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. Officials said a new “July Monument” will be built at the site as part of a government plan to construct such monuments in all 64 districts.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN