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## JCD protests mob incitement by 'secret group'

STAR REPORT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a BNP-backed student body, demonstrated across the country yesterday, protesting the activities of a "long-operating underground group" and their attempt to incite mobs, disrupt academic environments, and worsen the law and order situation in educational institutions.

In Dhaka, as part of the central programme, thousands of JCD activists blocked the Shahbagh intersection, bringing traffic to a standstill.

Many commuters were forced to walk to their destinations.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said the roads were blocked around 4:45pm, and the blockade ended around 5:30pm.

Based on their previously announced schedule, JCD activists began gathering in the Nayapalton area in the afternoon. Later they marched towards Shahbagh via Jatiya Press Club, according to witnesses.

JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir alleged that a covert student organisation, which has long engaged in "covert operations", is trying to disrupt the academic atmosphere.

He said although several murders occurred in the past week, the "secretive organisation" remained silent on those but was trying to mislead general students over the Mitford incident.

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Hospital authorities have placed dengue awareness posters in a ward at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. The posters provide information about how dengue spreads and measures to curb the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes. As dengue cases continue to rise across the country, small measures such as these help inform people about how to manage the spread of the disease. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Dengue cases cross 15,000 mark

2 more die, 330  
hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 330 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, one is from Chattogram division while the other is from Dhaka North City Corporation, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the latest data, the total number of deaths rose to 58 while the number of cases reached 15,210.

Among the total cases, a total of 13,969 dengue patients were released, of whom 11,074 were from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,183 patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, 816 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

## SOHAG MURDER

### Fear grips traders in Old Dhaka

They issue 7-day ultimatum,  
demand arrest of culprits

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Traders in Old Dhaka yesterday said they are living in constant fear following the brutal murder of a fellow businessman in the Mitford area.

They demanded effective action by law enforcers to ensure the security of traders and residents in the old part of the capital.

At a press conference held at the Moulvibazar Business Association office in Old Dhaka, the traders issued a seven-day ultimatum demanding the arrest of those involved in the recent murder in Chawkbazar.

They warned of protests if their demand is not met. "We are conducting our business in fear. The way Sohag was killed in broad daylight has shocked us all," said Jafor Ahmed, general secretary of the Chattogram Traders' Welfare Association in Dhaka.

"Our trust in the police is fading. We are demanding the immediate deployment of an army camp in the area," he said, adding, "If those involved in the murder are not arrested within seven days, we will be compelled to take to the streets."

On July 9, Sohag was dragged out of his shop and beaten to death near the gate of Sir Salimullah Medical College Mitford Hospital.

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

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## Over 74,000 cases pending in family courts

Chief justice says reforms in place to make  
legal system more efficient, citizen-focused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite over 74,000 pending cases in family courts across the country, the judiciary is witnessing a decisive shift towards efficiency and citizen-centric service, said Chief Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed yesterday.

As of March 31, 2025, there were 74,259 pending cases in family courts, with 5,034 of these pending for over five years -- a "sobering figure", he acknowledged.

The system delivered 10,089 case disposals in the first quarter of 2025 alone, said the chief justice.

"This is not coincidence; it is consequence. It is the result of judges taking initiative, bar leaders acting responsibly, and our institutional focus shifting from process to people," he said.

He made the remarks while addressing the National Workshop on "Addressing the Procedural Bottlenecks in Family Courts for Timely Justice", organised by

BRAC's Social Empowerment and Legal Protection (SELP) Programme at the BRAC Centre Auditorium in Dhaka.

The chief justice said Bangladesh's legal landscape is undergoing a profound transformation.



"Recent legal and procedural reforms aim not just to modernise the justice system, but to make it more efficient, accountable, and focused on serving citizens," he said.

He pointed to the amendment of the Legal Aid Act, which now requires mandatory mediation

before filing a case.

This, he said, marks a major shift from traditional litigation to resolving disputes through mutual agreement, helping settle cases earlier and reducing pressure on the courts.

Amendments to the Civil Procedure Code have reduced procedural stages, integrated execution proceedings within the original case framework, and imposed stricter limits on adjournments to address longstanding delays, he added.

He further emphasised the need for administrative autonomy, stating, "No justice system can manage timeliness, workloads, or personnel without autonomy over its own administrative structure."

Structural independence, he added, is essential for sustaining reforms within the judiciary and across broader governance systems.

Highlighting digital innovations,

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## Govt to list the women activists of July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will prepare a list of women activists who took part in the July mass uprising, Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen Murshid said yesterday.

She was addressing a press conference on various programmes marking the July mass uprising renaissance events at Gono Bhaban, the former official residence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, now being converted into the "July Revolution Memorial Museum".

Sharmeen said many women activists were not coming forward, and some were feeling depressed due to cyber bullying and other reasons.

The ministry will also preserve and showcase the bravery of these women and provide necessary counselling to those who are feeling depressed, she added.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Mostofa Sarwar Farooki said they had organised a film screening, performance of July songs, and a drone show to highlight the role of women in the uprising.

He said the museum at Gono Bhaban will be inaugurated on August 5, although it will be opened to visitors at a later date.

The adviser said a visitor to the museum should be able to understand why the July Revolution happened, the misrule of the Awami League, and the memories of the uprising.

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## Prothom Alo celebrates INMA awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate its recent international recognition, Bangla daily Prothom Alo hosted a reception on Sunday for its readers, supporters, and well-wishers.

The event, held at a Dhaka hotel, was attended by members of civil society, cultural figures, and government advisers.

Earlier this year, Prothom Alo received three prestigious awards from the International News Media Association (INMA), the world's largest media organisation.

These honours recognised the newspaper's bold and innovative journalism, particularly during the July uprising in Bangladesh.

Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif opened the event by welcoming guests and reflecting on the newspaper's journey.

A short documentary highlighting INMA's role and Prothom Alo's recent initiatives was also screened.

At the celebratory event, the newspaper's Editor Matiur Rahman shared personal reflections on the achievement. He also

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From left, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, lawyer Manzur Al Matin, actor Afzal Hossain, NOAB President AK Azad, Professor Parveen Hasan, ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, Pubali Bank Managing Director Mohammad Ali, ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir, and Apex Footwear Managing Director Syed Nasim Manzur at a reception hosted by Prothom Alo at a Dhaka hotel. Prothom Alo organised the celebratory event on Sunday as it received awards from International News Media Association (INMA) recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

## Trial of Tarique, Zubaida was not held impartially

HC observes in full text of  
verdict in graft case

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court in the

full text of a verdict has observed that the trial of a corruption case, in which BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman were convicted and sentenced to different jail terms in 2023, was not held impartially.

"It appears from the records that the testimonies of witnesses were recorded within two months and four days, and the judgment was pronounced immediately after eight days of the completion of recording depositions. The progress and conclusion of the trial at such a high speed created a widespread belief that it was not held impartially," said the HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman in the 52-page full judgment released yesterday.

Earlier on May 28 this year, the bench acquitted Tarique and Zubaida in the corruption case and scrapped the trial court verdict that handed down nine years' imprisonment to Tarique and three years to Zubaida.

The HC delivered the verdict following an appeal filed

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