

## CONSENSUS TALKS Breakthrough on EC formation

Speaker-led 5-member panel to pick election commissioners; new law to make EC accountable to JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a significant development, political parties have unanimously agreed on a proposal on forming the Election Commission through a five-member search panel, a move described as a "turning point" in the national dialogue.

The committee will be chaired by the Speaker of parliament and include the deputy speaker (from the opposition), the prime minister, the leader of the opposition in parliament, and an Appellate Division judge nominated by the chief justice.

National Consensus Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz said that there will be a separate law to make the Election Commission (EC) accountable to parliament. Under the law, election commissioners will also have a code of conduct.

Although yesterday's talks at the Foreign Service Academy, the 18th meeting in the second phase of the dialogue, were originally set to cover appointments to multiple constitutional and statutory bodies, discussions ultimately focused on the EC.

After the meeting, Prof Riaz said all

**"This is a historic step forward in our journey toward national consensus."**

PROF ALI RIAZ, vice-president of National Consensus Commission

parties agreed to amend article 118 of the constitution to formalise the appointment process for the chief election commissioner and other commissioners.

Under the proposed changes, the search committee will recommend one candidate for each post. The president will then appoint them for a five-year term.

Candidate eligibility, application procedures, vetting, scrutiny and other details will be defined in the new law to be passed by parliament.

The committee must begin work at least 90 days before the expiry of an Election

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As an office assistant clears away school bags left behind by children after Monday's horrific jet crash, we are reminded that many of them are now fighting for their lives or did not survive. The photo was taken on the Milestone School campus in Uttara's Diabari yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## BUSINESS

### Development spending falls to 49-year low

Bangladesh's development spending dropped to a historic low in fiscal year 2024-25, with only 68 percent of the revised annual development programme (ADP) implemented—the poorest performance since 1976-77.

Officials and economists attributed the sharp decline to widespread public unrest, increased scrutiny of politically sensitive projects, and the government's cost-cutting measures aimed at reining in inflation and restoring macroeconomic stability.

STORY ON B1

## MILESTONE TRAGEDY 13 fighting for life in ICUs 57 in hospitals; 13 discharged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen people, mostly children, were fighting for their lives in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) of hospitals yesterday, three days after a jet crashed into Milestone School & College in Uttara's Diabari.

According to the health ministry, as of 7:15pm yesterday, 57 people remained admitted to five hospitals in the capital. Most of them are children.

Of the total, 45 were admitted to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, with eight in critical condition receiving specialised care in the ICU.

The Combined Military Hospital (CMH) was treating nine patients, four of whom were in the ICU. Kuwait Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, Shaheed Monsur Ali Medical College Hospital, and Human Aid Research Lab & Hospital each had one patient admitted. The patient at Human Aid was also in the ICU.

The health ministry said 13 patients were discharged yesterday after their condition improved, while one new patient was admitted.

At the burn institute, in addition to those in the ICU, 13 patients were in "severe" condition,

**The Milestone School and College authorities formed a six-member committee to determine the exact number of casualties and prepare a complete list of the dead, injured, and missing.**

and the rest were reported to be in an "intermediate" condition, the ministry added.

Earlier, an interdisciplinary board at the burn institute categorised the patients as critical, severe and intermediate based on the extent of their burns. The meeting was attended by a senior consultant from Singapore General Hospital.

Briefing reporters, Prof Nasir Uddin, director of the institute, said Dr Chong Si Jack, a Singaporean burn specialist familiar with the institute, was assisting in assessing patients and adjusting treatment protocols.

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Govt's biggest problem is inexperience  
Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's biggest problem is a lack of experience, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

He added that the government is on the right track on holding the election in February next year, and the only way to solve the current political crisis is to form a political government through elections without delay.

"They lack experience. Most of them are inexperienced. Some people have ego issues. They don't consult us on anything. They don't take advice from us -- perhaps out of ego," Fakhrul told reporters at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office when asked whether the government had shown any negligence in handling the

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Governed by Facebook posts, ruled by confusion

TANIM AHMED and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

It was just about 7:00am on Monday. A mother sat with her daughter at a bus counter in Dinajpur, set for a two-hour commute to Rangpur for the daughter's HSC exam three hours later. There was also another teacher at the same counter who told them that the exams have been cancelled. The local Prothom Alo correspondent happened to be at the scene too and reassured the mother that it was indeed the case.



Still, the parent's confusion and the candidate's disbelief were quite understandable since the higher secondary and equivalent exams have hundreds of thousands of examinees and virtually the gateway to university. Results of the public board exams decide the fate of the candidates. It would not be an overstatement to say that toying with these exams is akin to toying with the fates of hundreds of thousands of the people. But it did not appear from the government's activities that it had completely grasped that.

The government's "announcement" of the postponement came at 2:41am—a little over seven hours before the exam—through a Facebook post by Information

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A towering chimney spews plumes of smoke generated from coal combustion at the Rampal Power Plant in Bagerhat yesterday. Environmentalists warn that this heavy discharge is contaminating the air, harming both the environment and public health.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## JULY UPRISING Extraordinary powers of the ordinary people How thousands joined and aided protesters



TANGILA TASnim, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NAZIBA BASHER

When bullets tore through a protester's head near a poultry shop in North Badda on July 19, Waliullah rushed to rescue him.

"I was on my way back from Friday prayers," he said. "He was bleeding from the skull. A few of us took him to a local clinic, then to Dhaka Medical."

The protester didn't survive. Waliullah, a garment worker, didn't even know his name.

But within days, police summoned him. "After that, my family never let me step outside again ... But I wasn't the only one who tried to help. Friends, neighbours, strangers -- we were all drawn in."

The protests were loud, defiant,

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# Tense calm, fresh arrests, lingering grief

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

At least 787 more people were arrested in the capital and other districts in the 36 hours leading up to 6:00pm on July 24, in connection with cases filed over violence across the country. Of them, 413 were arrested in Dhaka, while the remaining 374 were detained in eight districts and metropolitan areas, according to police and court sources.

Amid the fragile return of daily life, business and industrial activities cautiously resumed, following days of unrest, internet blackout, and curfew. Yet the scars ran deep.

After five days of disappearance, three student leaders -- Asif Mahmud, Abu Bakar Mazumder, and Rifat Rashid -- resurfaced. Asif and Bakar wrote on Facebook that they had been blindfolded and dumped in Hatirjheel and Dhammandi respectively. Neither disclosed who had taken them. Rifat, too, posted on Facebook, claiming he had "narrowly escaped" an enforced disappearance.

Meanwhile, tragedy struck Narayanganj, where six-year-old Riya Gope, who had been shot while playing on the rooftop of her home on July 19, passed away at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the morning. Her



**JULY 24, 2024**

father, Dipak Kumar Gope, had rushed to the rooftop amid clashes to bring her inside when a bullet hit her in the back of the head. Despite surgery, Riya could not be saved.

Riya was among four victims injured in earlier clashes who succumbed to their wounds on July 24. The others included Sajidur Rahman Omar, 22, an IT technician from Demra; Shahjahan, a salesperson from Mohakhali; and



FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN  
Nur Jahan weeps while running behind a prison van that is taking her son, Sheikh Farid, an HSC student, to jail from a Dhaka court on July 24, 2024.

Tuhin Ahmed, 26.

Though inter-district bus services resumed, full normalcy in passenger transport across the capital and country remained elusive. Authorities said Dhaka Metro Rail and the Dhaka Elevated Expressway would remain closed for a few more days. Bangladesh Railway, which had planned to resume limited train services the following day, postponed its decision later that night.

On the political front, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir reiterated that the movement would not end without a political solution. Speaking at a press conference, he stated that common people had joined the student protests out of long-standing frustration.

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader accused the government of double standards, pointing out that while officials claimed to have met student demands and ensured their safety, many students remained missing or arrested.

International condemnation also intensified. Human Rights Watch denounced the life sentences handed down by a UAE court to three Bangladeshi nationals who had joined peaceful solidarity protests on July 19. A total of 57 Bangladeshis were reportedly detained, raising serious human rights concerns.

The government restored broadband internet on a trial basis nationwide, but mobile internet remained suspended, and curfew measures continued. Officials hinted that schools and universities might reopen, and curfew might be lifted in most areas after July 26, depending on conditions, as the previous weekend's violence remained fresh in memory.

## Jamaat does not want weak polls

Its Ameer Shafiqur tells Sylhet rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said they do not want a weak election or a fragile democracy.



"We want an election that is fair, transparent, and free from muscle power and black money..." he told a party rally in Sylhet's Beaniabazar.

He hopes that the next national election will be held early next year.

Shafiqur said they understand that delaying the election may cause some complications. "However, we don't want a premature delivery. A baby born at 10 months and 10 days is naturally healthy and strong. But one born at six months needs to be kept in an incubator and may remain weak for life. We don't want such a weak election or a fragile democracy."

Jamaat wants to see democracy built on a strong foundation, he said, adding that reforms are essential for that.

The party has called for holding the local government polls first to reduce public suffering, the Jamaat chief said.

Shafiqur alleged that Tk 26.58 lakh crore had been siphoned off from the country over the past 16 years.

"Those who ruled the country had to flee along with their party members, but no responsible Jamaat leader has fled."

## Breakthrough on EC formation

FROM PAGE 1

Commission's term.

The Parliament Secretariat will provide logistical and institutional support to the search committee under the Speaker's direction.

Under the existing Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners' Appointment Act, 2022, a six-member search committee, led by a judge from the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, nominates potential election commissioners. The president eventually makes the final call.

Prof Riaz said, "This is a historic step forward in our journey toward national consensus."

The agreement involved major compromises across party lines, he said, adding, "It opens the path for a truly independent and accountable Election Commission."

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed noted that the earlier idea of recommending two names per position had been dropped

in favour of a single recommendation per post.

He stressed that the commission's independence must be backed by a proper appointment process, not just mentioned in the constitution.

Recalling past commissions' failure to function independently despite being constitutionally mandated, he highlighted the importance of a transparent and accountable commission.

He added, "Our movement's main goal was to ensure elections under a neutral caretaker government. The nation has now broadly accepted this. All that remains is the legal process.

In this context, the progress made on forming an effective, independent, and accountable Election Commission is crucial."

Salahuddin reiterated the BNP's stance of constitutionally protecting the EC's formation. He said appointments to other bodies, such as the Public Service Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General,

Anti-Corruption Commission, and Ombudsman, should be governed by mechanisms under existing laws, not constitutional amendments.

Jamaat-e-Islami's Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher called the discussion "constructive and positive". The new system leaves no room for unilateral presidential discretion, he said.

He added that while the EC's formation has been agreed upon, talks on other constitutional and statutory bodies will continue.

On the caretaker issue, he said discussions are nearing conclusion and an announcement is expected soon.

Akhtar Hossen, member secretary of the National Citizens Party (NCP), also hailed the agreement, but warned that appointments to other key institutions must also be constitutionally protected.

"In the past, authoritarian regimes gave unchecked appointment powers to the president. Today, we've agreed those powers must be limited," he

said.

"Previously, there was no legal framework for action against commissioners for misconduct or failure. Today, we've agreed to legislate such provisions," he said.

He critiqued BNP's preference for statutory safeguards over constitutional changes, saying, "Laws can be easily amended or repealed. Without constitutional backing, future governments could undo these reforms. That's why we insist on embedding the search committee structure in the constitution."

Akhtar cautioned that if parties attempt to finalise a national charter while bypassing core reforms, the NCP may withdraw from the dialogue.

Earlier in the day, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, and Bangladesh JASAD staged a symbolic 10-minute walkout to protest "law enforcement's action on students and guardians" following the jet crash at Milestone School & College.

Sumaiya, a college student from Cumilla who once shrieked at thunder, found herself on the frontlines by August 2, 2024. "I wasn't that aware of the quota system... But when I saw my friends' siblings return wounded, something in me changed."

Her father, Mamunur Rahman Chowdhury, 57, was too ill to join but helped in his own way -- sitting outside their Mirpur 10 home handing water to protesters.

"When I heard my timid daughter leading chants, I didn't stop her. This was everyone's movement."

As East West and Brac University students joined in, Rampura became one of the bloodiest flashpoints.

Fashion designer Safia Sathi, who lives in the area, recalled sounds of tear gas, stun grenades, and gunfire. "From my window, I saw helicopters dropping things on unarmed protesters."

When 17-year-old Shamsudin, a boy from her neighbourhood, was shot dead, Safia couldn't stay in. On July 18, she and her friends stepped out with water, bread, and biscuits. "It was the least we could do."

Styel Haque, a student from Khilkhet, joined when the movement was still about quota reform. As it escalated, he ended up on the frontlines in Rampura and Uttara.

"On July 18, a civilian offered help near Jamuna Future Park. The next day, a group brought food, bottled water, masks, saline, even toothpaste. Police threw sound grenades, but those people stayed."

He remembered bottles and biscuits tossed from balconies.

When Chhatria League attacked, the owner of the Vivo Mobile showroom in the area opened his store and gave them Wi-Fi.

In Bhasanteek, Café Mama Hotel owner MA Hossain couldn't join protests but still acted. "From July 18 to 20, I sent about 90 boxes of food to students."

He was later arrested, taken to Bhasanteek Police Station, and accused of aiding protesters. "I had to pay Tk 3 lakhs to get out," he said. Later, plainclothes DB officers picked him up again. "I had to use every contact I had."

But protesters like Mosharraf Sardar didn't forget. "For three days straight, we got food from Café Mama Hotel. The staff brought it to Hope International School by CNG."

In Chattogram, Bahaddarhat and New Market intersection turned into epicentres on July 16.

Mizanur Rahman, a businessman from Rizuddin Bazar, recalled, "They were firing at unarmed students. So, we gave the children over 100 cricket stumps to defend themselves."

By the month's end, Mizan and other small traders were supplying water and tiffin cakes. "We communicated with the protesters and delivered the food in secret."

Protesters at Barishal University still remember 35-year-old Eliza Begum, a widowed mother of two.

Living in Kornokathi village, opposite the campus, she acted without hesitation. "When we heard the protesting students were going hungry, we couldn't sit idle. On July 18, we cooked rice, lentils, curry and fed them to them. In the evening, we cooked khichuri."

Student Rabib Islam said Eliza and others became lifelines. "Despite lockdowns and fear, they eased our

## Extraordinary powers

FROM PAGE 1

and spreading fast. But behind them was a quieter resistance.

Garment workers marched after shifts, homemakers handed out saline, retired officers guarded buildings while students hid inside. Elsewhere, teachers, imams, rickshaw pullers and shopkeepers formed a silent safety net, keeping the movement alive in whichever way they could.

Sumaiya, a college student from Cumilla who once shrieked at thunder, found herself on the frontlines by August 2, 2024. "I wasn't that aware of the quota system... But when I saw my friends' siblings return wounded, something in me changed."

His shop was later attacked by AL activists, who accused him of assisting protesters.

Civilians also became medics and stretcher bearers, with no training or safety.

On July 18, as Dhanmondi 27 turned into a battleground, two young doctors converted their Satmasjid Road garage into a makeshift clinic.

Dr Worthy Jukhrif and Dr Hritisha Akter Mitheen treated over 100 people in two days. Neighbours brought antiseptics, orsoline, water, and biscuits.

Worthy, a private hospital doctor and health show presenter, saw students huddled below her balcony. "I rushed down. Others, like Dr Mitheen, were already there."

She vividly remembers a 10-year-old with pellets all over his body. "I treated him, sent him home. Hours later, he returned with another pellet in his forehead. Other protesters later showed me a video of him, lifeless on the street. I still can't forget that child."

Mitheen, now pursuing her post-grad, said, "Humanity is what I acted upon. I couldn't hold back."

Neighbour Khurshid Jahan said, "While the doctors treated wounds, we brought water, first aid, clothes."

But soon, their building was under surveillance. Drones flew overhead. Phones were traced. "...I was nervous. But my duty was to humanity," Mitheen said.

Worthy added, "Blood carries no political identity. The students' gratitude made it all worthwhile."

Associate Professor Akhlima Akhtar of Government Nazrul College couldn't stay silent when students were attacked.

She rushed downstairs when one was cornered. "They called him a terrorist. I asked, 'Does he have a weapon? What makes him a terrorist?' Then they turned on me..."

"I don't know any party. I recognise students. A teacher's duty is to protect them."

After Abu Sayed was killed in Rangpur, her grief deepened. "If I had been there, maybe I could've saved him."

Imam Saeed Mohammad Hasan Al-Azhar of Shahjehanpur Railway Jam-e-Masjid, said, "Islam teaches us to stand against injustice. When police tortured students, how could I stay quiet?"

On July 16, he condemned the crackdown from the mosque. By August 3, he was marching with them in Chattogram.

"I got anonymous calls, death threats. My father was warned I'd be taken care of." Mosque authorities were told to bar me."

Unflinching, he said, "A just imam must stand with the oppressed. And justice isn't seasonal."

"I still think of that boy I carried to Dhaka Medical," said Walullah. "He died. But I can't forget his face."

Akhlima still teaches, still faces scrutiny. "Even now, I tell my students -- don't fight with violence. But never surrender your conscience."

And for many like Safia, the reason for stepping up was simple -- "We just didn't want to see anyone else die."

Nazrul, the tea-stall owner, was subdued a year on. "I hoped for a better country. It wasn't good before. But it's not good now either. I just want a country where we can vote, freely and fairly."

Our correspondents from Savar, Barishal and Chattogram contributed to this story.

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Milestone  
stays closed to  
public, media  
all the day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main gate of Milestone College in Dhaka's Uttara has remained closed since yesterday morning, with entry restricted to law enforcement personnel only.

Journalists attempting to enter were barred and forced to wait outside.

During a visit to the school around 11:00am yesterday, this correspondent found a crowd of curious onlookers gathered outside the gate. Among them were students, guardians, and local residents, many of whom were taking photos and videos of the crash site from a distance using their mobile phones.

Meanwhile, staff and employees of the institution were seen entering the premises without obstruction.

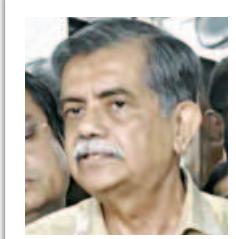
As of 5:00pm yesterday, no one except the staff and

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with representatives of political parties -- including BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami -- at the state guesthouse Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday. The discussion focused on the country's law and order situation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



## No intention to resign: CR Abrar

Says delay in postponing HSC exams was reasonable; exams of July 22, 24 to be held on Aug 17, 19

STAR REPORT

Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar yesterday said the delay in deciding to postpone Tuesday's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination was "reasonable".

"The decision cannot be made abruptly, and no one has the authority to make a hasty decision. If the examinations are to be postponed, we must take the necessary measures to roll back the process accordingly," the adviser said, adding that the question papers must also be retrieved if they have already been dispatched to the exam centres.

The adviser was speaking to reporters at the Secretariat, a day after HSC examinees demanded his resignation while protesting in the administrative complex over the delayed decision to postpone Tuesday's exam following the jet crash.

A Bangladesh Air Force F7 aircraft crashed into a building of Milestone College in Dhaka's Uttara, killing at least 32 persons, mostly students.

"The perception that exams can be postponed through a unilateral decision is incorrect. The decision was made following due process," CR Abrar said.

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## TIB slams govt over failure to form rights, info commissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep concern over the interim government not taking any initiative to set up the Information Commission and the National Human Rights Commission nearly a year into its tenure.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB described the absence of these two constitutional bodies as "an unacceptable example of negligence toward state responsibility".

The watchdog said the absence of leadership in these key institutions has resulted in an embarrassing record for the government and called for their immediate formation.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "The formation of the Information Commission and the Human Rights Commission is a vital symbol of the state's commitment to transparency, accountability, and human rights."

"Nearly a year into its tenure, the interim government has not demonstrated any visible or effective initiative to reconstitute either of the commissions. No clear explanation has been provided for the prolonged period during which the commissions remain unconstitutional."

TIB said regardless of shortcomings, keeping both commissions leaderless for such an extended period not

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## Tajuddin's leadership lit the path to liberation

Speakers pay tribute to the founding PM during commemorative event marking his birth centenary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tajuddin Ahmad, the founding Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is a towering political figure whose unwavering patriotism, strategic acumen, crisis management skills, and leadership in the country's Liberation War deserve thorough study, said speakers yesterday marking the birth centenary of the great leader.

He led the Liberation War-time government-in-exile and his leadership, marked by integrity and foresight, laid the foundation for the country's victory against the Pakistani army and ensured the birth of sovereign Bangladesh amidst numerous challenges, they said while speaking at a commemorative programme.

The programme was arranged by the Liberation War Museum at their auditorium.

Yet, despite his pivotal role,

Despite the total uncertainty, Tajuddin made a resolute decision that armed struggle was the path we must take -- for our country, for the liberation of our people.

MAHFUZ ANAM  
Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star

Tajuddin Ahmad's contributions remain largely unrecognised in mainstream narratives. Bangladesh must strive for a more accurate and inclusive historical account, they added.

Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque said the way Tajuddin led the Mujibnagar government during nine months of the Liberation War is the finest hour of the country's history and

Tajuddin played the pivotal role in

creating that finest hour.

Terming Tajuddin as a highly organised leader, he said, "History entrusted him with a great responsibility, and he fulfilled it in an extraordinary way. There's so much we can learn from this, and his life should be studied."

Sarwar Ali, another trustee of the museum, said Tajuddin's role in all three phases of Bangladesh's struggle for independence -- the preparatory phase, the phase of armed war, and the post-victory phase -- was profoundly significant.

"Without fully recognising and documenting Tajuddin's contribution, the history of Bangladesh's independence struggle cannot be complete," he said.

Delivering the keynote speech, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said Tajuddin was a truly great personality -- his

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From left, Liberation War Museum trustee Sarwar Ali, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, and another trustee of the museum Mofidul Hoque at a commemorative programme, marking the birth centenary of Tajuddin Ahmad, held at the museum auditorium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Four more die of dengue, 319 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
  
At least four dengue patients died and 319 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, three were in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation and one was from Chattogram division.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths and cases rose to 69 and 18,345 respectively, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the total cases, a total of 16,960 dengue patients have so far been released from hospitals.

Currently, 1,316 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, 929 of whom are from outside Dhaka.



## Appeal for help

STAR REPORT

Dr Md Shahadat Hossain Shibly, a decorated physician from Bangladesh known for his service, intellect, and unwavering compassion, is now waging the most personal and painful battle of his life -- against an aggressive form of recurrent metastatic squamous cell carcinoma.

For over a decade, Dr Shibly, an alumnus of Chattogram Medical College and a fellow of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (FCPS in Internal Medicine), has been a symbol of healing for thousands, said a press release.

He is a member of the American College of Physicians and a junior consultant in the 33rd BCS health cadre.

Currently admitted to Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre in New Delhi, Dr Shibly is undergoing intensive treatment for a rare and aggressive cancer that has resurfaced after years of surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.

The current protocol includes six cycles of costly immunochemotherapy -- each costing an estimated Tk 8-10 lakh -- followed by potentially curative



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## RU to announce Rucusu polls schedule July 28

STAR REPORT

Rajshahi University administration yesterday set July 28 to announce the election schedule for the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu).

A notice signed by Rucusu Chief Election Officer Amzad Hossain confirmed this information.

The election schedule was supposed to be announced on June 30, but the university authorities failed to do so.

Speaking to this correspondent, Amzad said, "We held a meeting today [Wednesday] and made this decision during the discussion. There was no external pressure influencing our decision."

Earlier in the day, RU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir staged a protest rally on the university campus, demanding the announcement of the Rucusu election. The protest was held in front of the RUCSU building.

## TIB slams govt over failure

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only sets an unfortunate precedent but also reflects a concerning indifference to the government's promise of ensuring free flow of information and protection of human rights.

"It directly contradicts the core mandate of the interim government, which was entrusted with state reform. This vacuum has effectively undermined citizens' access to information and the basic avenues for redress in cases of human rights violations," the statement reads.

It also questioned whether

the government "planned to

make it hard for people to get information or keep victims of human rights abuses from getting justice while they are in power".

"Not having an Information Commission for almost a year is not just an administrative oversight; it is a defiance of the constitutional right to receive information. Without the commission, citizens have no avenue to seek redress from the highest authority when access to official information is denied," said

Iftekharuzzaman.

In the press release, TIB called for the immediate formation of the Information Commission and the Human Rights Commission to uphold the state's commitment to democracy, good governance, transparency, and human rights.

Moreover, to ensure that both commissions function independently, effectively, and in a way that garners public confidence, TIB strongly urged for institutional and legal reforms.

Locals say the bridge served as a vital communication link with Raniganj Bazar, the Union Parishad office, and Chunarughat town. Its collapse has caused immense suffering, particularly

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for students, patients, and farmers. "The temporary wooden bridge was our only hope. Now that too is gone," said Mahid Ahmed Chowdhury, a resident of Maijgaon. "We are practically cut off. There is no alternative road. We demand that a permanent bridge be built here without delay."

Farmers in the area are among the

worst affected, as they can no longer transport their produce -- particularly rice and vegetables -- to the local market, resulting in financial losses.

According to locals, the bridge had remained in a risky condition for years. Heavy rainfall over the past few days triggered a landslide that washed away the structure entirely.

When contacted, Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Robin Mia said, "The wooden bridge was in a risky condition and was washed away by a landslide. An estimate was sent in the last fiscal year for a permanent bridge. While approval is still pending, we hope to receive it soon. Construction will begin as soon as approval is granted."

In the meantime, residents are calling on authorities to take urgent action, as the banana raft remains their only lifeline.

## Probe Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 3

interviewed 39 Rohingya survivors -- including eight women -- who survived and witnessed AA abuses in 2024 and 2025. The group also reviewed photographic and video evidence supporting the allegations. The investigation documented multiple killings in villages and AA-run detention centres, including five reported beheadings.

The findings reveal a systematic pattern in which Rohingyas were abducted and tortured or killed in AA-controlled detention facilities and towns.

Survivors said they were detained after being falsely accused of links with

Rohingya armed groups or for refusing to join the AA.

Fortify Rights also highlighted earlier incidents, including a massacre near the Naf River in Maungdaw on August 5, 2024, and an arson attack on Rohingya homes in May 2024.

While the AA has denied the allegations, it publicly admitted in January 2025 that its soldiers had tortured and executed two prisoners of war -- an act considered a war crime under international law.

In 2018, the ICC granted its chief prosecutor jurisdiction to investigate crimes related to the forced deportation of Rohingya to Bangladesh and other related acts. Fortify Rights called on the prosecutor to include AA abuses in the ongoing investigation.

"The Arakan Army must end its campaign of torture and killings," said Ejaz Min Khant. "If it wants to be seen as a legitimate revolutionary force, it must follow international law, protect civilians, and be held accountable for its crimes."

## PRAYER TIMING

JULY 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Notice

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
Company Matter No. 1257 of 2025

In the matter of: An application under Section 12 read with  
Section 13 of the Companies Act.

A n d  
In the matter of: Evince Design and Fashions Ltd. ... Petitioner.  
... Petitioner.  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms  
... Respondent.

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner above named filed and moved an application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act 1994 for confirmation of the Hon'ble High Court Division of amendment of object clause of the Memorandum of Association whereupon the Company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court Division presided over by His Lordship Mr. Justice Mohammad Ahmed Sohel was pleased to admit the same on 20.07.2025. If anybody is interested to oppose the said application he/she may do so by an Advocate or in person. Copy of the application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned upon payment of prescribed fees.

Shah Muhammad Ejaz Rahaman  
Advocate  
Bangladesh Supreme Court  
Room No.102, Supreme Court Bar Association Building Dhaka-1000

Bangladesh Handloom Board  
BTMC Bhaban (4th floor)  
7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215  
www.bhb.gov.bd

Reference No: 24.05.0000.533.07.001.25-155

Date: 23.07.2025

## e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of the following works.

TID No	Name of the Tender
1133076	Repairing & Renovation works of Male Hostel at Narsingdi.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To Submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Md. Mahfuzur Rahaman  
Executive Engineer  
Phone: 02-55012185  
e-mail: xen@bhb.gov.bd

## 'My son dreamt of becoming an engineer'

Says father of Ukkya Chaing who laid to rest after jet crash

RIKORS CHAKMA

Thirteen-year-old Ukkya Chaing Marma, a seventh-grade student of Milestone School and College, who died after a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into his school, was laid to rest in his village in Rangamati's Rajasthani upazila.

His body reached his home in Collegepara of Bangalhalia union around 6:30pm on Tuesday, where his grieving family and neighbours broke down in tears.

Ukkya had been undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka after suffering injuries in the crash. He died at 2:25am on Monday.

"Our son couldn't even see his parents one last time. We couldn't fulfil his wishes," said his mother, Dezipru Marma, before fainting.

His father, Usaimong Marma, said, "My son was good at his studies. He dreamt of becoming an engineer, but I, as his father, could do nothing for him."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Farmers from various upazilas in Natore transport their bumper jute harvest to the Patul Beel area. As most local canals and wetlands have yet to fill with water, they are bringing their produce there to carry out the retting and washing processes

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

## Bridge collapse leaves thousands isolated

MINTU DESHWARA

With the only wooden bridge in the area -- their only means of travel to nearby markets, schools, and health facilities -- washed away by recent torrential rains, residents of Maijgaon in the Raniganj Union of Chunarughat upazila in Habiganj are now relying on a makeshift banana raft to cross the river.

About 6,000 people living in the area have been left stranded since the collapse of the bridge recently. The bridge, constructed earlier by a local union parishad chairman, had long been in a precarious condition, according to residents.

Locals say the bridge served as a vital communication link with Raniganj Bazar, the Union Parishad office, and Chunarughat town. Its collapse has caused immense suffering, particularly



for students, patients, and farmers.

"The temporary wooden bridge was our only hope. Now that too is gone," said Mahid Ahmed Chowdhury, a resident of Maijgaon. "We are practically cut off. There is no alternative road. We demand that a permanent bridge be built here without delay."

Farmers in the area are among the

worst affected, as they can no longer transport their produce -- particularly rice and vegetables -- to the local market, resulting in financial losses.

According to locals, the bridge had remained in a risky condition for years. Heavy rainfall over the past few days triggered a landslide that washed away the structure entirely.

When contacted, Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Robin Mia said, "The wooden bridge was in a risky condition and was washed away by a landslide. An estimate was sent in the last fiscal year for a permanent bridge. While approval is still pending, we hope to receive it soon. Construction will begin as soon as approval is granted."

In the meantime, residents are calling on authorities to take urgent action, as the banana raft remains their only lifeline.

## Man beaten to death in Demra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was beaten to death by a mob on suspicion of theft in Dhaka's Demra area yesterday.

Quoting locals, Demra Police Station Sub-inspector Kakon Mia said the man, still unidentified, was caught and beaten while allegedly trying to steal construction materials from an under-construction building near Shapla Chhatar around 10:00am.

A police team rescued the unconscious man and took him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 1:00pm, he added.

The police official said the man, aged around 25, was wearing a black T-shirt and jeans.

The body has been sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Woman killed for protesting granddaughter's harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

An 80-year-old woman was killed after protesting the harassment of her granddaughter in Bagerhat's Chitalmari upazila, police said.

The incident took place at Umjuri village under Kalatala Union yesterday afternoon, said SM Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chitalmari Police Station.

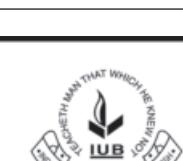
The victim, Aleya Begum, was the widow of Sultan Hawlader of the same village, the OC said.

According to locals, Aleya's granddaughter, a third grader, had gone to fetch water from a nearby tubewell when Kawsar Babna, 28, son of Asmat Babna from the same village, physically harassed her.

The girl informed her family, prompting Aleya to confront Kawsar and demand an explanation. Enraged, Kawsar and his younger brother Ansar

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Physical Sciences  
School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences (SETS)

- Associate Professor, Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Assistant Professor, Statistics
- Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Application Deadline  
**Wednesday, August 6, 2025**

For detailed information and to apply, please visit: <http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub> or scan the QR code



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তারিখ: ১০/০৭/২০২৫

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, সিলেট দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিয়ন্ত্রিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টেলে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works	Closing Date and Time
1131881	27.21.0000.449.07 .007.25.625; Date: 15.07.2025	LILO Line Reconductoring work of Sylhet (South) Grid Substation.	18 Aug 2025 at 12:00

আগ্রহী স্থিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে

# INTERNATIONAL

## ICJ paves way for climate reparations

AFP, The Hague

The world's highest court yesterday declared that states are obligated under international law to tackle climate change and warned that failing to do so could open the door to reparations.

In a historic ruling, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said climate change was an "urgent and existential threat" and states had a legal duty to prevent harm from their planet warming pollution.

Countries breaching their climate obligations were committing a "wrongful act," the court said in its advisory opinion, which is not legally binding but carries significant moral, political and legal weight.

"The legal consequences resulting from the commission of an internationally wrongful act may include... full reparations to injured states in the form of restitution, compensation and satisfaction," said ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa on behalf of the 15 judge panel.

This would be on a case-by-case basis where a "sufficient direct and certain causal nexus" had been shown "between the wrongful act and the injury", the court added.



Campaigners and countries on the climate frontlines hailed a milestone moment in the fight for accountability from big polluters most responsible for global warming.

Ralph Regenvanu, the climate change minister for Vanuatu, the small Pacific island nation which spearheaded the case at the Hague, was jubilant.

Speaking to AFP outside the court, Regenvanu said it was "a very strong opinion at the end" and better than hoped.

"We can use these arguments when we talk with our partners, some of the high-emitting states. We can say you have a legal obligation to help us," he said.

"This helps us in our arguments. It's going to give us a lot more leverage... in all negotiations."

This was the biggest case in ICJ history, and seen as the most consequential in a recent string of landmark climate rulings.



Palestinians gather in Gaza City yesterday to receive food from a charity kitchen amid a worsening hunger crisis. France's foreign ministry said malnutrition and the 'risk of famine' in Gaza was the result of the blockade imposed by Israel on the Palestinian territory.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## 'Mass starvation' spreading in Gaza

Over 100 aid, rights groups warn as 15 died in a single day; 17 killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

More than 100 aid organisations and human rights groups warned yesterday that "mass starvation" was spreading in Gaza, as the United States said its top envoy was heading to Europe for talks on a possible ceasefire and aid corridor.

Israel is facing mounting international pressure over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, where more than two million people are facing severe shortages of food and other essentials after 21 months of conflict.

But it denied blocking supplies, announcing that 950 trucks' worth of aid were in Gaza and waiting for international agencies to collect and distribute it. "We have not identified starvation at this current point in time but we understand that action is required

to stabilise the humanitarian situation," an unnamed senior Israeli security official was quoted as saying.

On the ground, the Israeli military said it was operating in Gaza City and the north, and had hit dozens of "terror targets" across the Palestinian territory. Gaza's civil defence agency told AFP that Israeli strikes killed 17 people overnight.

The UN said on Tuesday that Israeli forces had killed more than 1,000 Palestinians trying to get food since the US- and Israel-backed GHF started operations in late May -- effectively sidelining the longstanding UN-led system.

A statement with 111 signatories, including Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Save the Children and Oxfam, warned that "our colleagues and those we serve are wasting away".



## Iran navy confronts US destroyer in the Gulf of Oman

AGENCIES

Iranian forces confronted a US destroyer in the Gulf of Oman yesterday, warning it to stay out of waters claimed by Tehran, state television reported.

The latest reported confrontation between the two rivals comes a month after the United States struck the Islamic republic on June 22, hitting key Iranian nuclear sites during a 12-day war with Israel.

State TV said that an Iranian army helicopter flew over the USS Fitzgerald at about 10:00 am

(0630 GMT) yesterday after the vessel "attempted to approach the waters under the supervision" of Iran.

The destroyer issued threats of its own, the broadcaster said, but "the Iranian pilot... reiterated the warning to stay away from Iranian waters", forcing the US vessel to "give in" and alter its course.

There was no immediate comment from the US Navy, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has said his country is prepared for any war Israel might wage against it, adding

he was not optimistic about the ceasefire between the countries, while confirming Tehran is committed to continuing its nuclear programme for peaceful purposes.

Pezeshkian made the comments in an exclusive interview with Al Jazeera aired yesterday, one of his first since the end of the 12-day conflict with Israel last month, in which the United States intervened on Israel's behalf, launching strikes again "if necessary".

The comments come as Western nations say they are seeking a solution to Iran's ongoing nuclear ambitions in the wake of the conflict.

that Iran has no plans to abandon its nuclear programme including uranium enrichment despite the "severe" damage caused by US strikes to its facilities, ahead of renewed talks with European powers.

US President Donald Trump responded to the comments on his platform Truth Social, saying Washington would carry out strikes again "if necessary".

The comments come as Western nations say they are seeking a solution to Iran's ongoing nuclear ambitions in the wake of the conflict.

## Govt's biggest problem is inexperience

FROM PAGE 1  
situation following the jet crash.

The BNP leader said the interim government's goodwill should be given more importance than its weaknesses, saying, "As a political party, we will always want polls to be held without delay so that a political government can be established. If there is no political government, these problems increase."

Expressing hope that the chief adviser would fulfil his promise by holding the polls in mid-February, Fakhrul said, "The election process should be accelerated. We believe they should take immediate steps in this regard. A clear announcement should be made on this matter. There should be no ambiguity or a lack of clarity."

He also blamed "administrative failures and law and order issues" for chaos and protests after the jet crash at Milestone School & College.

The Gopalganj incident "definitely involves politics", and there is a conspiracy to sabotage the

polls, Fakhrul said.

"Allies of the fascist Awami League created a reign of terror. The fascist Awami force was defeated but it felt like a sign of their resurgence."

The BNP leader said, "Whatever the media says about disagreements among political parties, that's part of politics. These debates are normal. But our unity remains firm."

He believes that discussions between the chief adviser and political parties would be more effective if such engagement and exchange of views were held frequently.

If the talks had been done earlier, the chaotic situation over the jet crash might have been avoided, he said.

Regarding the consensus commission's proposal that the head of a government and a party chief should not be the same person, Fakhrul said, "That is their proposal. Political parties are expressing their opinions both in favour and against. All voices must be heard -- that's the essence of democracy."

DHAKA THURSDAY JULY 24, 2025

SRABAN 9, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

5

## Myanmar junta drone crashes over Thai border

AFP, Bangkok

A Myanmar junta drone targeting anti-coup fighters crashed over the border in Thailand, the kingdom's military said, prompting an official rebuke over hazardous spillover from the civil war.

Western Thailand regularly suffers ramifications from the conflict that has raged in Myanmar since the military toppled the country's elected civilian government in 2021.

Deserting junta troops, fleeing civilian refugees and desperate economic migrants often make unsanctioned crossings of the countries' 2,400 kilometre (1,500 mile) frontier.

Thailand's military said it found the "kamikaze drone" on Monday in a forest in Tak Province, 15 kilometres inside the Thai border.

"No civilians were injured or killed, and no property damage was reported," said a Tuesday night statement.

## BB asks

FROM PAGE 12

Additionally, the HR department asked officials to follow office etiquette and manners.

It also directed officials to follow Bangladesh Bank staff regulations while behaving with female colleagues. Complaints of sexual harassment should be sent to the concerned committee formed by the HR department within 30 working days, it said.

Contacted, Arif Hussain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank, told The Daily Star, "When we all work in an organisation, it's important that no

arises among colleagues based on clothing."

He explained that people wear different kinds of clothes and sometimes those are not quite appropriate for office.

He acknowledged that individuals have the freedom to choose what they wear. "But within that freedom, you also have to adhere to certain norms of the organisation.

"Regarding the hijab, this is just a clarification. There is no insistence, no suggestion, no instruction to wear the hijab. But if someone chooses to, the person is allowed to wear a hijab," he added.

"This is more of a guideline, a suggestion."

## 1,200 sued over

FROM PAGE 12

the HSC exams, despite the tragic jet crash at Milestone School and College in Diabari on Monday.

The government announced the postponement around 3:00am, just hours before the test was to begin on Tuesday. The students said they were angered by the late decision.

## বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা

তারিখঃ ২৩ জুলাই ২০২৫

### আবশ্যিক

নং. সংস্থা/ব-৫৯/রে-৭০৩

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্মাণ হতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্মাণে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

### শিক্ষক পদ

১। ইকনোমিস্ট এবং প্রোডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ

(ক) সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ৫০০০-৭১২০/-।  
(খ) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ৩টি পদ। (১টি ছাত্রী এবং সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে ২টি অছাত্রী পদ।)

বেতন কেল b: ৩৫৫০-৬৭০১০/-।

(গ) লেকচারার-এর ২টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

২। বৃক্ষ ও ধাতব কোষল বিভাগ

(ক) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ৩৫৫০-৬৭০১০/-।

(খ) লেকচারার-এর ১টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

৩। হাপ্তা বিভাগ

সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ৩টি অছাত্রী পদ (সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)।

বেতন কেল b: ৩৫৫০-৬৭০১০/-।

৪। ন্যোনোটারিয়ালস এন্ড সিরিয়ারিং বিভাগ

(ক) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি ছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ৩৫৫০-৬৭০১০/-।

(খ) লেকচারার-এর ১টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

৫। ইনসিটিউট অব এডোক্সিয়েট টেকনোলজি

গবেষণা সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-এর ১টি অছাত্রী পদ (সহযোগী অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)।

বেতন কেল b: ৩৫৫০-৬৭০১০/-।

৬। তেক্সিং ও ইলেক্ট্রনিক কোম্পোনেন্ট বিভাগ

লেকচারার-এর ৩টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

৭। প্রোটোল বিভাগ

লেকচারার-এর ৩টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

৮। কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স ও ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ

লেকচারার-এর ৮টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

৯। কেমিস্টেশন বিভাগ

লেকচারার-এর ৮টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

১০। নগর ও অক্ষয় প্রক্ষেপন বিভাগ

লেকচারার-এর ২টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

১১। পানি ও বন্য ব্যবস্থাপন ইনসিটিউট

লেকচারার-এর ৫টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

১২। বাংলাদেশিকাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ

লেকচারার-এর ৫টি অছাত্রী পদ। বেতন কেল b: ২২০০-৫৩০৬০/-।

## KUET crisis is turning into a farce

Govt, teachers must help resolve it urgently

It is quite shocking that the KUET stalemate has now dragged on for an unprecedented five months. With each passing day, this crisis is becoming more farcical, more frustrating, and more detrimental—not just to the students but also to the entire university ecosystem. And the longer it lasts, the more difficult it will be to repair the damage caused. On Wednesday, organisers of a human chain protest comprising teachers, students, and guardians demanded the immediate appointment of a VC and resumption of academic activities. On Tuesday, the KUET Guardian Forum submitted a memorandum to the education adviser, highlighting the toll of prolonged academic closures and worsening session backlogs on students. The students, they warned, are falling behind their peers from other universities, many of whom have progressed through sessions, graduated, or even entered the job market.

The interests of students and teachers seem aligned for now, but that may be temporary. Teachers have made the appointment of a VC a precondition for resuming classes, while students simply want classes to resume regardless of who holds the post. This subtle difference also underscores the evolving development since February 18, when the crisis first started, with two student groups clashing over the issue of on-campus student politics. As we know, following that violence, students demanded the resignation of the then VC and pro-VC. Prolonged protests, including a hunger strike, eventually led to their removal. But although a new VC was appointed on May 1, he resigned on May 22, citing pressure and a lack of support from the KUET Teachers' Association. Despite a directive from the education ministry to resume academic activities from May 4, the association has continued to boycott all academic and administrative activities citing grievances forged during student protests.

So, while there is no alternative to the swift appointment of a VC, questions remain not just over how long another VC will last, when appointed, but also whether it will help put the accumulated distrust between different stakeholders to bed. This only goes to show how tumultuous the environment in public universities has become since the July uprising—the effects of which have been frequently on display. And as always, it is the ordinary students who have suffered the most. At KUET, the protracted stalemate has also meant that teachers, officers, and staff members have not received salaries in the past two months, as per a report. Besides, as we have previously highlighted, other administrative and financial functions have remained similarly suspended because of the absence of a VC, whose signature is mandatory for official transactions.

Teachers, therefore, must bear an additional responsibility for the turnaround in the KUET stalemate, especially its damaging perpetuation. While some of their grievances are justified—and we agree that academic activities cannot resume properly without a VC—they must be flexible and resume classes on their own given the threat to the academic future of 7,565 students. The government, on the other hand, must immediately appoint a VC and address other underlying issues.

## Why can't we contain dengue?

Govt must make all-out efforts to control spread in August

With every passing day, the dengue situation is getting worse in the country. As of July 23, the total number of cases rose to 18,000 while 65 people died from the disease this year. Public health experts have warned that the situation may become severe in the August-September period due to the ongoing rainfall patterns, which are creating ideal conditions for Aedes mosquitoes' breeding. Although the two city authorities of Dhaka claim that they have undertaken year-round mosquito eradication efforts as well as several other initiatives, experts have criticised them as being inadequate. The question is: why do we continue to fail in controlling dengue? Have the relevant authorities taken the right approach to tackle this persistent crisis?

Entomologists have repeatedly said that our approach is flawed as combining mosquito control with dengue control is not the way to go. If we try to control dengue by targeting Culex mosquitoes, it will never work. Culex mosquitoes breed in drains, sewers, ditches, and stagnant dirty water, and those who spray insecticides focus on these areas. But the breeding rate of Aedes mosquitoes in such places is extremely low. Aedes mosquitoes tend to breed in residential areas, office premises, and spots where water collects, such as construction sites and building basements. Unfortunately, mosquito control teams often struggle to access these locations, leaving many breeding zones untouched. To tackle this, health and city authorities must make more targeted interventions. Experts have also suggested prioritising larviciding and elimination of breeding sources over widespread fogging, since fogging has largely proven ineffective.

They have also suggested that the two city corporations should undertake door-to-door operations in areas with high dengue incidence. This should involve inspecting every household to identify and eliminate Aedes breeding sites, applying larvicide where necessary. If Aedes larvae are found in a residence on the first and second inspections, a warning should be issued; however, from the third occurrence onwards, penalties must be enforced. Active participation from local residents is essential to succeed in these efforts.

We also need a comprehensive, year-round strategy including eliminating breeding sources, destroying larvae, managing hotspot areas, and ensuring community involvement at every stage of the effort. As dengue has spread to all the districts this year, special attention must be given to regions outside Dhaka, not only to contain the outbreak but also to ensure that health complexes and hospitals are adequately equipped to treat patients. The continuing loss of lives from this disease is simply unacceptable.

# EDITORIAL

## Questions over Gopalganj violence deserve answers



Sabir Mustafa  
is former head of BBC Bangla service, and  
former managing editor of VOA Bangla.

SABIR MUSTAFA

Bangladesh has been in a state of flux ever since a mass uprising toppled former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League (AL) government on August 5 last year. But even for these uncertain times, the violence and killings in Gopalganj on July 16 have taken on a different, more sinister significance.

On the face of it, the violence appeared to be an outcome of old-fashioned muscle-flexing by two political parties: the newly-formed National Citizen Party (NCP), and one of the oldest parties in the country, AL. They squared off in a confrontation that was as predictable as tomorrow's sunrise.

Such clashes are nothing new in Bangladesh. Since 1991 in particular, the AL, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamat-e-Islami have regularly battled it out in the streets, with the police usually intervening on the side of the party that was in power at the time.

From 2013 onwards, however, the intent of anti-government protesters appeared to become more deadly, while the police response degenerated into outright brutality.

The incident in Gopalganj appeared to incorporate all the dark elements of Bangladeshi political culture, while the response of law enforcers quickly moved from "proportionate" to the lethal and brutal, leaving at least five men dead.

In a society still reeling from the trauma of the killings of last July-August, one would have expected the death of five people in firing by security forces to compel the government to set up an independent enquiry. But what happened was almost a replay of an old drama, where new actors read off an old script.

The interim government's statement on the day failed to even acknowledge that five of its citizens had been shot dead, almost certainly by the security forces. The statement was more concerned with apportioning blame on the supporters of the AL, while praising the law enforcers and the NCP for their role.

The government then followed it up by setting up an official enquiry committee, headed by a top bureaucrat in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The call for an independent enquiry by human rights groups such as the Ain o Salish Kendra went unheeded.

Police acted as if time had stood still: it filed four murder cases where 5,400 nameless/unknown people were shown as the accused. Under cover of curfew, security forces rounded up several hundred suspected AL activists in rural areas of Gopalganj district.

Police actions seem designed to strike fear into people of the area, rather than ascertain the causes of the violence. All this harks back to the days of Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian rule, and not the bright new dawn promised by the victors of the 2024 uprising.



Army troops on guard during a curfew in Gopalganj town's launch terminal area on July 17, 2025.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

### Original sin

When analysing incidents which escalate quickly, it is customary to search for the "original sin"—who ate the forbidden apple? In Gopalganj, the consensus appears to hold the AL and its student wing Chhatra League responsible for casting the first stone.

Constitutionally speaking, that line of argument is irrefutable. Gopalganj is an integral part of Bangladesh, and the NCP, like any other political party, has every right to hold a rally there. The AL, on the other hand, had no right to attack the rally and chase the NCP leaders out of town.

The local police also had a duty to protect the rally venue and participants, not just because the current government is apparently biased towards the NCP (whose leaders have been described by the

chief adviser as "our employers") but because the party was exercising their constitutional right.

However, in a fragile and fledgling democracy like Bangladesh, politics is not conducted purely on constitutional or legal grounds. There is such a thing as "common sense," and that is often used to arrive at a judgement on what is possible. The constitution does make allowance for such complicated scenarios by adding a little caveat, "with reasonable restrictions," to every fundamental right.

### Mission of conquest

The home affairs adviser told the media that he had "intelligence reports" about possible trouble in Gopalganj during NCP's programme. But he said he did not know the magnitude of the trouble. This sounds rather pathetic for two reasons.

Firstly, anyone who follows political banter on social media would have known there would be big trouble in

exercise of constitutional rights. Having seen the destruction of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhaka on February 5, it is quite possible that they feared the NCP would try to demolish Mujib's tomb as well.

Secondly, given the nature of intelligence gathering in Bangladesh, with security agencies having access to technology that allows them to snoop on people's mobile phones and web-based conversations without needing court orders, it is inconceivable that they would not have known how the NCP's programme in Gopalganj was viewed by AL supporters and what kind of disruption they were planning.

### Army's 'self-defence'

All this should have raised the alarm bells in the home ministry, and appropriate measures should have been taken to prevent violence. The measures could have included attempts to persuade the NCP to refrain from the march or at least tone down the rhetoric.

The failure to anticipate the violence and then allow the security forces to shoot their own citizens puts a major black mark on the already-questionable report card of the interim regime.

The army has already taken a step towards accountability, by admitting they "used force," even though they wrapped it within a "self-defence" justification. It is worth noting that the army statement did not mention any use of fire arms by what they termed "unruly people."

Live broadcast on TV showed soldiers firing from their assault rifles. Clips of the video circulated on various social media platforms, which probably made it impossible for the army to deny they opened fire.

The big question now is whether the victims of the violence will see justice.

The immediate call from the government and various political parties is for the arrest and prosecution of AL supporters who attacked the NCP rally. If such prosecutions are followed up with action against the mob violence that has been going on across the country with impunity since last August, then most people would heave a sigh of relief. Otherwise, it would be seen as yet another case of "selective justice."

How the government may deal with the question of accountability for the death of five citizens is an even bigger question. Would the official enquiry committee be able to probe outside the parameters set by the government through its statement, where no mention was made of the death of its citizens? Would they be able to hold army officers accountable for the loss of lives? Without an independent investigation, that would seem most unlikely.



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SIBBIR AHMAD

When fascism falls, its institutions may crumble, but its ghosts linger. Bangladesh, after the end of Sheikh Hasina's autocratic regime, faces not only the challenge of rebuilding democratic structures but also of purging a toxic political culture—a process I call "de-Awamification," borrowing from the post-World War II "de-Nazification" of Germany.

For over a decade, Bangladesh has lived under an increasingly authoritarian system where fascist slogans, intimidation tactics, and ideological absolutism were normalised, especially through cultural tools like slogans. These slogans, often chanted at political rallies, became expressions of deep intolerance and were used to dehumanise dissenters. "X-er chamra tule nebo amra" (We will skin them alive), "X-er Banglay, Y-er thai nai" (In X's Bangladesh, there's no room for Y), or the chilling "Jalo re jalo, agun jalo" (Light the fire, burn it all),

"Ei muhurte Bangla char" (Leave Bangla right now), "Dhoira dhoira jobai kor" (Catch and slaughter one by one): these are not mere words. They are weapons, as dangerous as batons and bullets, used to shape a political environment rooted in fear, violence, and exclusion.

This culture did not end with the fall of the regime. Alarming, some groups who opposed the fascist state have now adopted the very language of their oppressors. Mobs calling for the "slaughter" of political rivals, or threatening to banish ideological opponents from the country, mirror the same authoritarian mindset they once resisted. This is not democratisation; this is replication.

The idea of de-Awamification is not about banning a party or erasing a political identity. It is about dismantling the fascist cultural apparatus that the Awami League normalised, starting with the language of violence. Like Germany's post-

that hate slogans can increase aggression, anxiety, blood pressure, and ultimately fracture the very social fabric of a nation.

Moreover, such slogans sabotage any attempt at pluralism. They make politics a zero sum game, in which there is no room for coexistence—only conquest. In such an ecosystem, the judiciary becomes irrelevant, public trust collapses, and political competition devolves into tribal warfare.

What Bangladesh needs now is a cultural detox. The media, political parties, educational institutions, and civil society must lead this transformation. Banning violent slogans should be a starting point, not an end. Schools should teach the importance of dissent and democratic values. Political leaders must publicly commit to non-violent language, and party training materials must include modules on ethical campaigning and speech.

Let us be clear: the fall of fascism does not automatically bring democracy. To build a truly pluralistic Bangladesh, we must not only remove the autocrats from power; we must remove the autocrats from within us.

De-Awamification is the moral and cultural surgery needed to excise fascism's remains from our language, our politics, and our minds. Only then can we begin the work of healing and rebuilding.

## Why Bangladesh needs de-Awamification



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# How AI can help in disasters like the Milestone crash



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MD MANJURUL AHSAN

I was born and raised in Dhaka, where I spent the first 25 years of my life before moving to the US in 2015. Today, I work as a research assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma and serve as part of a research group, whose mission is to develop safer, more efficient aircraft through AI, digital twin technologies, and predictive maintenance. We work on reducing production costs, improving airworthiness, and minimising material waste.

When I heard about the FT-7 BGI jet crash into Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara on July 21, 2025, which killed at least 32 people—including the pilot, teachers, and many young students—and injured over 150, I wasn't shocked. I was devastated, but not surprised.

Dhaka is one of the most overcrowded cities in the world, with a population density of about 23,234 citizens per square kilometre. Despite being the capital, it lacks proper zoning plans for sensitive infrastructure such as military air bases. The Kurnitola air base, from where the aircraft took off, is surrounded by densely packed residential areas and schools. When a malfunction occurred, there was simply

air traffic control, and implementing AI for predictive monitoring.

In FY2024-25, the proposed defense budget in Bangladesh was Tk 42,010 crore. Over the years, it has purchased various aircraft; for instance, the FT-7 BGI jet involved in today's crash is an upgraded variant of the Soviet-era MiG-21, with Bangladesh acquiring 16 such aircraft from China between 2011 and 2013. But buying hardware alone doesn't ensure safety. Advanced systems require equally advanced maintenance, simulation, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness—all of which Bangladesh often struggles to adequately provide.

Even superpowers like the US and China are shifting toward AI and digital twin solutions to reduce costs. If they're investing in smarter systems to minimise spending and maximise safety, it's clear that Bangladesh must do the same—not as an option, but as a necessity.

Too often we focus solely on avoiding disaster. But we must also ask: what happens if a crash does occur?

Take the example of India's Air India Flight 171 crash on June 12, 2025. This Boeing 787 Dreamliner went down just 32 seconds after

#### Even rickshaws and CNGs could be part of a national emergency fleet with built-in GPS coordination. Government investment in such AI-based disaster protocols could dramatically reduce fatalities—not just in plane crashes, but in fires, industrial accidents, and floods.

nowhere safe for the pilot to go.

Even in the US, with its advanced infrastructure, similar disasters have occurred. Earlier this year, on January 29, a mid-air collision over the Potomac River near Washington, DC, between an American Airlines regional jet and a US Army Black Hawk helicopter tragically claimed all 67 lives aboard both aircraft. But such events are typically followed by systemic changes—strengthening flight corridors, improving

systems in critical areas—but they're not always standard or accessible in countries like Bangladesh.

In Dhaka's crash, victims burned to death inside the school. There was no immediate disaster management response. Metro Rail was used to transport victims four hours after the incident—with only one coach allocated. Ambulances were stuck in traffic. Nearby rickshaws and private cars often refused to

coordination. Government investment in such AI-based disaster protocols could dramatically reduce fatalities—not just in plane crashes, but in fires, industrial accidents, and floods.

Globally, military flight tests occur in remote, spacious zones. In the US, bases like Edwards Air Force Base cover thousands of acres for flight testing. China frequently conducts air drills in its vast airspace, including coastal zones like Shandong. Even India tests

manufacturing, and infrastructure can lay the foundation for smart, adaptive systems. Local industries should be encouraged to produce essential components and intelligent technologies, which would simultaneously create jobs in fields such as predictive analytics, aerospace simulation, and disaster modelling. To support this ecosystem, a national disaster coordination network powered by AI is essential. Key policy recommendations include



VISUAL: MONROM POLOK

help. In that critical golden hour, most of the children who died could potentially have been saved.

Imagine a future where an AI system immediately classifies an incident's severity—from Level 1 (minor) to Level 3 (severe)—based on casualty estimates, proximity to medical facilities, traffic congestion, and emergency response availability. Based on this, the system could: i) notify hospitals, fire stations, and police within seconds; ii) activate metro rail or ferry systems to serve as emergency transport; iii) block traffic routes in real time, just as roads are cleared for VIPs today; and iv) command nearby private vehicles to assist in transport—with government compensation issued later via digital tracking.

Even rickshaws and CNGs could be part of a national emergency fleet with built-in GPS

aircraft over remote desert or mountainous zones.

Bangladesh, however, uses the skies above Dhaka—one of the most densely populated cities in the world—for its flight training. This must change. Future bases should be relocated to less populated regions, with enforced flight corridors and emergency landing zones. It's not just about modern aircraft; it's about responsible geography.

Bangladesh is not resource-rich, but it is youth-rich, with 33 percent of its population aged between 18 and 35, many of whom are enrolled in STEM programmes. Rather than continuing to import costly and difficult-to-maintain foreign equipment, the country should prioritise investing in AI education and workforce development. Building national digital twin platforms for aviation,

adopting digital twin technology for military aircraft maintenance, mandating fire-resistant interiors and delay-suppression systems in aircraft and public buildings, and establishing AI-based disaster response systems with real-time communication and routing capabilities. Moreover, redesigning flight zones to avoid dense urban centres, incentivising the use of private and public vehicles during emergencies, and using AI to model urban vulnerabilities and guide dynamic zoning policies would collectively strengthen national resilience.

The crash in Dhaka was tragic. But if it becomes just another event on a long list of avoidable disasters, then we are complicit in the next one. As a Bangladeshi born researcher working to make aircraft safer, I believe the answer lies not in outrage—but in AI driven transformation.

## The spectacle of suffering

### MIND THE GAP

Barrister Noshin Nawal is an activist, feminist, and a columnist for The Daily Star. She can be reached at [nawalnoshin@gmail.com](mailto:nawalnoshin@gmail.com).

NOSHIN NAWAL

There are no words large enough to hold the weight of what happened at Milestone School and College. No vocabulary invented by man can hold the shape of a classroom of children crushed under a falling sky. Some dreams were silenced mid-sentence. Others never got the chance to begin. Mothers ran barefoot into fire. Fathers dug with their hands. There are families right now who have forgotten how to breathe.

And yet—somehow—in the thick of this unthinkable grief, people found the space to pose. To post. To perform. Welcome to my city, where catastrophe is content, a clout-chasing opportunity dressed in black.

The building was still smouldering. Parents were clawing at hospital gates, desperate for news. Burn victims were arriving faster than doctors could respond. And instead of silence, we got flashes. Instead of support, we got soundbites. The cameras came before the counsellors. The fire hadn't even stopped licking the flesh off children when the swarm arrived. Not doctors. Not trauma specialists. But the three horsemen of public dysfunction: politicians, journalists, and spectators. Each with one goal—visibility.

Not all came with malice, but many came with ego. As if grief by proximity grants relevance. As if being seen grieving is more important than allowing others the space to do so. The result? Chaos. Ambulances delayed. Hallways jammed. And the children—those who survived—had to endure not just the ordeal, but the noise of a country addicted to its own reflection.

At the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, staff pleaded—begged—for crowds to move aside so patients with third-degree burns could be attended to. These weren't just injuries—they were open doors to infection. Burn victims are among the most vulnerable patients in medicine: their skin, the body's first defense,

is a mirror. And what stared back was not humanity—it was narcissism in high definition.

Let the dead rest. Let the living recover. And for once, let us ask: what have we become, if even in the presence of unimaginable sorrow, we can't tear our eyes away from our own reflection?

And if that's too hard, then at the

Then came the civilians. The onlookers. The republic of curiosity. Ladies bringing kids to "see the wreckage," uncles parking bikes across emergency entrances. Influencers "standing with Milestone" while pouting next to a crumbling wall of ash. There is no shame anymore—only captions.

Where were the police? Either shouting into megaphones no one listened to, or clearing space for the very important nobodies. Because apparently, nothing says "respect for the dead" like livestreaming over their ashes. We didn't just fail the victims—we trampled over families in our mad rush to be seen caring. When did grief become performance

art? When did loss need an audience? We've turned human suffering into a genre. We binge-watch tragedy in 30-second clips and scroll past death like yesterday's meme. Our response to national trauma isn't reform—it's content creation.

The only thing louder than the sirens was the echo of "like, share, subscribe." So, here's a humble request: the next time a tragedy strikes, stay home. Donate blood. Send supplies. Pray, if that's your thing. But please—resist the urge to narrate someone else's final moments like it's a story you own. Nothing is too small; if possible, do this: fundraise for skin grafts, share verified donation links,

demand accountability (why were children learning under a flight path?), advocate for real emergency reform. Listen. Sit with the silence. Let mourning belong to those who lost, not those who want to be seen losing something. You are not the protagonist of this pain. No one needs your analysis, your selfie, or your sorrow in cinematic colour grading; no need to further political agendas in instances like this. Sometimes the most human thing you can do is: *nothing*. And when smoke fills the sky again—and it will—rush in with oxygen, not opinions. Because this country cannot afford another disaster made worse by those who mistake visibility for value.



Curious onlookers added to the chaos of the catastrophe that hit the Milestone School and College on July 21 by delaying ambulances and jamming hallways and entrance to ICUs.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

is gone. Their immune systems are compromised. They need sterile rooms, filtered air, antibiotics, and oxygen. What they got was breathless onlookers with dusty phones blocking the way for ventilators, touching stretchers, and flooding corridors. Onlookers who never thought that some child survivors could be infected by their very act of "witnessing" the survivors' pain.

We are no longer a grieving nation. We are a ghoulish, camera-happy circus addicted to the sound of our own concern. Everyone wants a piece of the pain. Everyone wants their frame in the frame. Even if it means kneeling beside corpses. Even if it means blocking an intensive care unit entrance to adjust your angle. There is something fundamentally broken in us if we cannot draw the line at a child's charred body. If we cannot sit still in the face of horror. If we cannot mourn without narrating our empathy. This wasn't just a tragedy.

very least—move. Get out of the way. Let the real heroes in.

One VVIP arrived with the poise of someone attending a ribbon-cutting. Another posed in front of the debris, eyebrows furrowed just enough for the camera—before blocking stretcher access for a better shot. "Important people are passing," his entourage declared, as nurses screamed for space. No one batted an eyelid. We've normalised stupidity to the point it now wears a press badge or rides in a convoy.

Journalists combed through the scene like it was a fruit market. Zooming in on half melted schoolbags. Shoving microphones into the blood streaked faces of children. One reporter asked a grieving mother how she felt—as if "devastated" needed confirmation on tape. When the woman couldn't speak, the reporter narrated: "She is too emotional to speak"—before shifting left for better lighting.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Brahmanbaria  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

### e-Tender Notice (OTM) :01/2025-2026

Memo No: 46.02.1200.000.07.054.25-1705

Date: 23-07-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the work stated below:

Tender ID	Package No & Description	Last selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1132624	CCB/B/M-26 & Periodic Maintenance (Rehabilitation) of Dharmondal UP Office-(Kalogonj Bazar) - Marakuri Bazar Road from Ch. 00-8000m. [Road ID No. 412903003] [Nasirnagar] [Brahmanbaria] [Salvage Materials Cost: Tk. 29,37,839.00]	17-Aug-2025 16:00	18-Aug-2025 13:00	18-Aug-2025 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender shall be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies shall be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

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GD-1631



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

"Times have changed and times are strange, Here I come but I ain't the same, Mama, I'm coming home."

And just like that, the 'Prince of Darkness' is back in his kingdom. While the world mourns, afterlife welcomes him home, with open arms. Ozzy is finally reunited with his beloved mama and his dearest friend, Randy Rhoads.

When I heard that he was gone, I felt a part of me was gone. I kept listening to *War Pigs*, *Iron Man*, *Paranoid*, and *Mama, I am coming home*, perpetually breaking down into tears.

Such was my fondness for him, that I wanted to sing this song on our wedding day. Sadly, that never happened. I still remember that I ordered a customised Black Sabbath cake for my husband for our birthday.

Osborne.

He wore his signature black suit, long straight hair, heavy black eyeliner, and those round, iconic glasses. In front of 45,000 fans, with mascara running down his face, he shouted, "You have got no idea how I feel!" and "Thank you from the bottom of my heart." That wasn't just a performance -- it was a farewell carved into the soul of music history. He was a legend in leather, a haunted soul who transformed chaos into something powerful, raw, and unforgettable.

Such was my fondness for him, that I wanted to sing this song on our wedding day. Sadly, that never happened. I still remember that I ordered a customised Black Sabbath cake for my husband for our birthday.

This was the man who looked death in the eye for decades, and said, "Survival is my legacy. Never give up. If you've got a passion for something, you've got to find a way to carry it on."

He lived through the darkest corners of addiction, stumbled through the worst phase of

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## A tribute to the PRINCE OF DARKNESS

Ozzy Osborne gone after paving unique legacy



relentless fame, and yet came out the other side--until yesterday. Reinvented, scarred but unbroken, he even welcomed the world into his home as a reality TV star, where we got to witness a softer and funnier side of Ozzy which we never witnessed before.

**The Osbournes**, which aired from 2002 to 2005, was viral at that time. When it aired on MTV, we saw the real man behind the myth. A loving dad. A funny, confused human being who drank Diet Coke, struggled to find the History Channel, and reminded his kids not to drink or smoke.

In the early '70s, Black Sabbath's obsession with horror and the occult earned them a reputation for being "satanic." And Ozzy's bizarre antics only made it more obvious. One of his most talked about incident was when he bit the head off a live bat thrown onstage during a 1981 concert. (In his defense, he thought it was fake.)

In 1987, he was sued by the parents of a 19-year-old who died by suicide while listening to **Suicide Solution**. The lawsuit was later dismissed. Ozzy explained that the song was actually a warning about alcohol abuse, and that it was a tribute to his friend Bon Scott, the late AC/DC frontman, who died from alcohol poisoning.

In 1990, Cardinal John J O'Connor of New York accused Ozzy's music of causing demonic possession and suicide.

Ozzy responded to that by saying, "You are ignorant about the true meaning of my songs. You have also insulted the intelligence of rock fans all over the world."

Born John Michael Osbourne in working class Birmingham, Ozzy never set out to be a rock icon.

His early years were marked by hardship: dyslexia, poverty, odd jobs in factories and slaughterhouses, and even a short stint in prison. Music wasn't part of some master plan. It was survival. He began simply singing in local clubs, searching for purpose.

Then in 1968, he joined a band called the Polka Tulk Blues Band with guitarist Tony Iommi, bassist Geezer Butler, and drummer Bill Ward. They eventually renamed themselves Earth, and then after drawing inspiration from a Boris Karloff horror film, Black Sabbath was born. With ominous, sludgy riffs and lyrics that explored war, fear, and the supernatural, they arguably created the entire genre of heavy metal.

With the help of his wife Sharon and the brilliance of guitarist Randy Rhoads, he rose from the ashes. In 1980, Blizzard of Ozz launched his solo career, bringing us **Crazy Train**, **Mr Crowley**, and a whole new chapter in metal history. Tragically, Rhoads was killed in a plane crash in 1982, but Ozzy pressed on.

Ozzy Osbourne was first inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2006 as a member of Black Sabbath. Almost 20 years later, in 2024, he was honoured once again for his solo career, placing him among the rare group of artistes who have been inducted more than once.

There had never been a singer like him -- he wasn't smooth or seductive like other frontmen. Ozzy was there to haunt you, whether by telling the apocalyptic tale of **Iron Man** or spinning the mental torment of **Paranoid**.

And though the Prince of Darkness has left this world, his voice, his pain, his truth, it all lives on in the echoes of Sabbath's songs and in the hearts of those who listened. Rest in power, Ozzy.

## NEWS

### A decisive leader during 1971

FROM PAGE 12

was part of his idealism."

But after March 25, in those moments of deep uncertainty and danger, the decisions he made and the role he played were acts of true leadership, Chowdhury said.

At that time, no national leader was present in the country.

"And in that vacuum, Tajuddin Ahmad led with clarity, courage and practical wisdom. He led with substance over status. Even before 1971, his thoughts on freedom were deeply tied to economic and political self-dependence."

Tajuddin's ideological commitment went beyond just securing independence, Chowdhury said.

During the Liberation War, Tajuddin Ahmad believed in socialism, an ideal that was later enshrined in the state's founding principles.

Tajuddin understood the dangers of capitalism, Chowdhury said.

"That is why he spoke of socialism -- not as an abstract theory, but as a practical dream for a fairer, more humane society. When we speak of the spirit of the Liberation War, we must refer to the spirit of a social revolution -- not merely the spirit of

national independence. This was our expectation -- that a social revolution would take place within our country."

Through that, genuine democracy would emerge. And genuine democracy is not possible without socialism.

Reflecting on the erasure of progressive leaders from the national narrative, he asked: "Why did Tajuddin disappear? Why was Maulana Bhashani erased? The attempt to wipe out both figures is no coincidence -- they belonged to the same ideological stream."

They disappeared from history because the social revolution they envisioned never happened.

"That is why we struggle to remember Tajuddin today. Tajuddin believed people needed food, but they needed dreams even more. His vision of Bangladesh was tied to those dreams -- and our future depends on whether we are willing to pursue them," Chowdhury added.

Another speaker Alamgir Khan described the wartime government led by Tajuddin as the most effective and honourable administration in Bangladesh's history.

"If we are to judge our leaders, the Mujibnagar Government should be the benchmark," he said.

Writer Kajal Rashid Shaheen questioned why a nation capable of great uprisings remains politically fragile.

Bangladesh might not have come into being had it not been for Tajuddin Ahmad, said Ahmad Mostafa Kamal, a professor at Independent University Bangladesh.

"He was the spine of the Liberation War administration," he said.

Tajuddin did not lead alone and acknowledged the contributions of his colleagues, said Moshed Shafiqul Hasan, however, a writer and an academic.

Lawyer Arif Khan referred to Tajuddin's speech on April 10 as the country's "first constitutional document".

Tajuddin had outlined the early administrative and ideological framework for the new nation, said Shahidullah Farazi, a lyricist.

There should be a more accurate representation of national leaders like Tajuddin Ahmad in textbooks, said Mohammad Asaduzzaman, director of the International Mother Language Institute.

The event was moderated by writer and journalist Emran Mahfuz. The other speakers included Gawhar Nayeem Wara and Shuvo Kibria.

However, they urged the chief adviser to take a stronger stance in maintaining law and order.

Considering the election, they also urged the chief adviser to hold all-party meetings regularly.

Syed Hasibuddin Hossain from the Rashtra Sangskar Andolon, Zonayed Saki from Ganosamhati Andolon, Mujibur Rahman Manju from AB Party, Shahidullah Kaisar from Nagorik Oikya, Nurul Haque Nur from Gono Odhikar Parishad, Redwan Ahmed from LDP, Dr Ahmad Abdul Kader from Khelafat Majlis, Saiful Haque from the Biplobi Workers Party, Tania Rabb from JSD, Shahadat Hossain Selim from the 12-Party Alliance, Bajlur Rashid Firoz from Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BASAD), Ruhin Hossain Prince from CPB, and Dr Mizanur Rahman from Gono Forum

attended the meeting.

Earlier, on Tuesday night, Prof Yunus had a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdullah Mohammad Taher and Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad, National Citizen Party (NCP) Convenor Nahid Islam and Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh President Member Prof Ashraf Ali Akon and Joint Secretary General Gazi Ataur Rahman.

The leaders of the four parties urged the government to take a more proactive role in maintaining law and order and ensuring a smooth path to the upcoming national election expected to be held early next year.

He also accused the Awami League of trying to "play politics over dead bodies" and urged all to stay united against "fascism".

The NCP leader said, "We want to restructure the state after the mass uprising. But, unfortunately, our health system is in the same dire state as before, and so is the law and order."

The NCP leader said, "We want to

### Two more cases filed, total accused 9,850

FROM PAGE 12

Earlier on July 16, at least four people were killed and dozens injured in daylong running battles between law enforcers and Awami League activists in Gopalganj centering a rally of the National Citizen Party. Later, another bullet-hit victim died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while undergoing treatment.

"We recovered the bodies after cutting through the microbus," he said.

Traffic was disrupted on the highway due to the accident.

Relatives came to Bonpara Highway Police Station to receive the bodies.

Manjarul Islam Khokon, a cousin of Jahidul, told journalists that Jahidul's daughter-in-law lives with her parents in Sirajganj since her husband works abroad.

The family members were going to Enayetur Hospital in Sirajganj where she recently had a surgery, said Manjurul.

"We never imagined such a happy morning would turn into a tragedy within hours," he added.

### Appointment

FROM PAGE 12

the people," he said.

"She knows nothing about healthcare, treatment or medical technology. Her only qualification is her ties to Grameen Bank and closeness to Dr Yunus," the NCP leader alleged.

"What would we do with this health adviser?" Hasnat quipped. He added it was "unfortunate" that the adviser herself travels to Singapore for medical treatment.

"She should return every penny she has drawn as salary and resign immediately," he demanded.

The NCP leader said, "We want to

restructure the state after the mass uprising. But, unfortunately, our health system is in the same dire state as before, and so is the law and order."

He also accused the Awami League of trying to "play politics over dead bodies" and urged all to stay united against "fascism".

All participants of the meeting

### The govt within the govt

FROM PAGE 12

government must clarify which reforms will be completed before leaving office.

"Now is the time to clean the desk. We need to know what will end, what will continue."

He added that without the active and extended involvement of the military, a peaceful and fair election may not be possible.

"The armed forces may need to stay on the ground for three to four months and lead disarmament. This can't be done with just the civil administration," he said, adding that ultimately, two key questions define this moment -- the neutrality of the government and its capacity to deliver.

Prof Anu Muhammad said this government has gone in the opposite direction of building an equal, democratic Bangladesh. "People hoped for an end to autocracy, but that hope has been betrayed."

He added that while women, minorities, and workers actively joined the movement, they now face increased attacks and exclusion.

"The state's focus has shifted to striking long-term deals without public debate -- such as the Starlink agreement -- while ignoring urgent public demands like employment."

He said the government has prioritised only the Constitutional Reform Commission, sidelining other key reports, and is failing to meet people's expectations.

At the roundtable, Economist Hossain Zillur Rahman said the government must now be held accountable for its promises. "Sweet words and good intentions are not enough -- we need a ledger of what has actually been delivered on justice, reform, and elections."

Referring to the growing disconnect between policy elites and public expectations, he said, "We see a parade of paper-based qualifications, but a collapse in real capacity."

He criticised the ongoing institutional corruption and rising lawlessness, saying, "Even the police seem inactive now. There's social instability, youth unemployment, and violence. A silent frustration is growing."

"In the name of national consensus, decisions are made in isolation, excluding the public."

Senior Supreme Court lawyer Sara Hossain, said fear still pervades the judiciary, even a year after the July

uprising. She said judges remain hesitant to issue orders or deliver verdicts in fear of backlash.

"In Bangladesh today, no one can say there is no fear. The judiciary is not free from it either."

"Judges constantly worry -- what if someone raises their voice against them? One outcry from a group and a judge's career could be over. Who will deliver justice in such an atmosphere?"

She criticised the sweeping arrests and vague charges filed after the uprising, saying many innocent people remain in jail.

Sara questioned the lack of transparency behind the removal of High Court judges and said the system discourages accountability.

At the discussion, writer Altaf Parvez said the past year has brought more bad experiences than good. The country has had to endure the pain of being under a government with limited or almost no capacity.

"This is the first time I've seen a culture of governance driven by Facebook trends."

"We've witnessed repeated surrender to populism. Across society, there's been a dangerous, tsunami-like rise of right-wing sentiment. Mob violence against dissenters has also increased."

Political analyst Zahed Ur Rahman said there is now no alternative to holding elections.

"We're in a strange situation -- we say we want democracy, but we're not allowed to want polls," he said.

"Right now, there are efforts to block or delay the election. Even if the country falls into chaos as a result, some people stand to benefit. But when there's no election in sight, the nation's character begins to erode."

Development economist Maha Mirza said anyone criticising anything following the July uprising is being labelled unfairly.

"If someone disagrees with the government or makes a comment about the National Citizen Party, those who supported the uprising are attacking them. This is unfortunate."

The event began with a one-minute silence in honour of those killed in the jet crash. Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif moderated the discussion, where writer Farhad Mazhar, filmmaker Kamar Ahmad Simon, Prof Sayeed Ferdous, and researcher Sohul Ahmed, among others, spoke.





## Series sweep and more records in sight

SPORTS REPORTER

With the series already in the bag, Bangladesh will vie to inflict a clean-sweep over Pakistan by winning the third and final T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur today and complete a few more feats in the process.

After a prolonged lean period, having won just three of 16 matches across formats from the start of the year till July 12, the Tigers have turned their fortunes around in the shortest format, securing back-to-back series wins over Sri Lanka and Pakistan inside seven days.

Against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh bounced back from losing the first match and sealed the series 2-1. The Tigers carried that winning momentum into the home series against Pakistan that followed shortly after and have taken an unassailable 2-0 lead heading into the final match.

The eight-run win in the low-scoring thriller in the second T20I was Bangladesh's fourth straight win in the format. If they can win today, they will equal their best-ever winning streak in T20Is, which had come in 2023 when they



whitewashed England 3-0 at home and followed it up with two consecutive wins over Ireland in Chattogram.

A win today will also earn Bangladesh their maiden series sweep over Pakistan in T20s in a multi-match bilateral series.

The Tigers had handed Pakistan a 1-0 defeat in a one-off T20I back in 2015. However, they are yet to whitewash the Asian opponents in a multi-match series.

Bangladesh, overall, have six clean sweeps in multi-match T20I series,

which have come against Ireland (2012), Zimbabwe (2020), UAE (2022), England (2023), Afghanistan (2023), and West Indies (2024).

However, the weather could end up playing spoilsport in the match, with some overnight showers and more rain throughout the day on the cards as per the weather forecast.

Rain has already played a part in the series as its constant presence has made the Mirpur pitch damp, making it more

challenging than usual to bat on.

The Pakistan batters have especially struggled in these conditions, getting rolled over for just 110 in the first match and being 47-7 in 11.5 overs, chasing 134 in the second game.

From there, Faheem Ashraf's counterattacking 51 off 32 balls nearly snatched the game away from Bangladesh, as the equation was brought down to 28 off the last two overs.

However, Bangladesh eventually prevailed. Winning a tight match like this was a "good sign", felt Jaker Ali, Player of the Match of the second T20I for his 55 off 48 balls. "Yes, it was difficult [last two overs]. We were a little anxious. But we were ready for it, and determined to win... Such tough moments will come. Winning close matches is a good sign for a team. Winning such a match will give us confidence," he said at the post-match press conference.

Now, the Tigers will want to take this momentum and wrap up the series with yet another win, which would be a fitting return to when they were whitewashed in a three-match series in their last tour of Pakistan in May-June this year.

## Fizz returns to top 10 of T20I bowling rankings

AGENCIES

Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman broke into the top 10 of the ICC T20I bowling rankings after almost four years, as ICC updated the list on Wednesday. The last time the left-arm pacer was in the top 10 of the list was back in October 2021.

Making a notable leap of 17 places, Mustafizur now sits in the joint ninth position with India's Arshdeep Singh, both on 653 rating points. Mustafizur had a stellar run in the T20I series win over Pakistan, picking three scalps at an average of seven.

His teammate Mahedi Hasan was also rewarded for his strong showing against Pakistan, moving up nine positions to reach 16th. He contributed with three wickets in the ongoing series against Pakistan, including a 2/25 in a close win in the second game on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, New Zealand's Matt Henry has climbed 13 places to 29th in the bowler rankings.

The batting rankings saw the West Indies captain Shai Hope obtain 670 rating points to be placed at his career-best tenth position.

West Indies' Roston Chase has jumped seven spots to claim second place with 221 rating points in the all-rounder rankings, trailing behind only India's Hardik Pandya.

## T20 giant DRE RUSS bids adieu

Two-time T20 World Cup champion and an all-rounder with a consistent flair for the spectacular, Andre Russell lived up to his reputation even in his final international knock on Tuesday. His sparkling 36 off 15 balls helped West Indies reach 172 for eight in their second T20I against Australia in Kingston. However, unbeaten fifties from Josh Inglis and Cameron Green saw the visitors chase down the target with eight wickets and 28 balls to spare. Numbers, however, would not be enough to capture Russell's impact on the game. "I enjoy seeing the ball go over the ropes," he said following his final game -- a statement that perfectly embodies the entertainer in him.



Andre Russell's international career spanned 143 caps, including 86 T20Is, 56 ODIs, and one Test.

The all-rounder helped West Indies win the T20 World Cup in 2012 and 2016.

He closed out his international chapter in the manner he was always known for -- smashing two fours and four maximums at a staggering strike rate of 240.

Played in front of my home crowd, family and friends. The result didn't go my way, but at the end of the day, I'm happy and grateful.

ANDRE RUSSELL

### RUSSELL'S CAREER

#### T20I

Average: 22  
Matches: 86  
50: 3  
Runs: 1122  
Batting SR: 163.79

#### ODI

Average: 27.21  
Matches: 56  
50: 4  
Runs: 1034  
Batting SR: 130.22

#### Test

Matches: 1  
Runs: 2  
Wickets: 1



England captain Ben Stokes celebrates after trapping in front his Indian counterpart, Shubman Gill, for 12 in the second session on Day 1 of their fourth Test in Manchester on Wednesday. Stokes, who has been providing crucial breakthroughs throughout the series, helped England keep India to 149 for three at Tea, after an impressive start that saw the visitors amass 94 runs for the opening stand.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## What to WATCH

T Sports  
Bangladesh vs  
Pakistan  
3rd T20I  
Live from 6:00 pm

Sony Sports 1  
England vs  
India  
4th Test, Day 2  
Live from 4:00 pm



## Will Asia Cup decision be made at ACC meeting?

SPORTS REPORTER

Amid speculations and uncertainties, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) is set to take place in Dhaka on Thursday and Friday, as per schedule. This is the first time such a high-level meeting of the continental cricket body is taking place in the country.

One of the key agendas of the AGM is the finalising dates and venues for the upcoming Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in September. However, whether a decision regarding the fixtures and venues of the marquee event will be reached remains uncertain. That is because the participation of India and Sri Lanka -- two of the five full members of ACC -- is still unclear, even though media reports in India on Wednesday suggested that both nations might join the meeting virtually.

ACC president Mohsin Naqvi will preside over the meeting, which is likely to be attended by representatives of majority of the 27 member nations, majority physically and a few virtually.

Ahead of the ACC AGM, Naqvi, also the interior minister of Pakistan, reached Dhaka yesterday morning and was greeted by Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam.

Although the AGM is set to take place on Thursday and Friday, the CEO-level meeting among the member nations took place on Wednesday while a dinner party was held at the Intercontinental Hotel. Apart from ACC high-ups, members of Bangladesh and Pakistan cricket teams were invited.

The ACC members are also expected to witness the third and final T20I between Bangladesh and Pakistan, scheduled at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur on Thursday.

## Pots revealed ahead of Women's Asian Cup draw

SPORTS REPORTER

For the first time in history, the Bangladesh women's football team have qualified for the AFC Women's Asian Cup, a tournament that will take place from March 1-21, 2026, in three Australian cities: Sydney, Perth, and Gold Coast, featuring 12 nations.

The official group stage draw will be held on July 29 in Sydney. Based on FIFA rankings (as of June 12, 2025), the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) on Tuesday divided the 12 qualified teams into four pots, each containing three teams. One team from each pot will be drawn into each group.

From each group, the top two teams and the two best third-placed teams will progress to the quarter-finals. A spot in the last eight could potentially open doors to qualification for the Women's World Cup and the Olympics.

Pot 1: Australia (hosts), Japan, North Korea  
Pot 2: China, South Korea, Vietnam  
Pot 3: Philippines, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan  
Pot 4: Bangladesh, India, Iran

## Bahrain friendlies lined up for U-23s' AFC prep

### Coaching gap remains

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh U-23 national football team will play two friendly matches against their Bahrain counterparts next month as part of their preparation for September's AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The matches are scheduled for August 18 and 23 in Bahrain.

The decision was made yesterday at the meeting of the BFF national teams committee, chaired by BFF president and committee chairman Tabith Awal. The meeting also decided to send Bangladesh U-23 national team to host nation Vietnam five days before the start of fixtures in Group C -- which also comprises Singapore, Yemen and Bangladesh.

Despite finalising the tour plans, the meeting left two key matters unresolved: the appointment of the U-23 head coach and the start date of the training camp. BFF general

September.

Since the tournament's inception, Bangladesh have failed to progress past the group stage in six consecutive editions, managing only one win (against Sri Lanka) and one draw (against India) in 18 matches since 2012.

The BFF had approached several top local coaches to take charge of the U-23 team but all of them declined.

"The decisions regarding these two issues [the appointment of the head coach and the time of training camp] may come soon," informed national teams committee member Amer Khan, also hinting that BFF technical director Saiful Bari Titu is a likely candidate to lead the side.

The board president had previously stated that the federation intends to form a strong U-23 squad by including up to seven national team regulars and potentially a few foreign-based players, aiming to break Bangladesh's poor run in this competition.

This time, 11 group winners and the four best runners-up from the qualifiers will join hosts Saudi Arabia in the 16-team final round, which will be held during January 7-25 next year.

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## Seven of family among 8 killed in Natore crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Seven members of a family in a microbus and its driver were killed when a truck rammed the vehicle head-on on the Bonpara-Hatikumrul highway in Natore's Boraigraha upazila yesterday.

The family members from Kushthia were going to visit an ailing patient in Sirajganj when the Natore-bound cement-laden truck collided with the microbus in front of a petrol pump in the Shreerampur area around 10:15am, police said.

Five people died on the spot and three others, including microbus driver Rubel Hossain, 32, were injured, said Md Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bonpara Highway Police Station.

Of the injured, another died in Boraigraha Upazila Health Complex. Two others were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where they died while undergoing treatment, the OC said.

Police officials and firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Police recovered the truck and microbus from the spot, but the truck driver and his helper managed to flee the scene, the OC said, adding that the law enforcers were investigating the accident.

The deceased were identified as Md Jahidul Islam, 65, his wife Sheli Begum, 60, his sister-in-law Eti Begum, 40, relatives Shima Khatun, 40, Anwara Begum Anu, 55, Anjumanara Begum, 75, and Anjumanara's sister Anna Khatun, 60 -- all from Dharmadah village of Daulatpur upazila in Kushthia.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



The street outside the main gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's emergency department is obstructed by illegal street vendors. This impedes ambulance movement and often causes traffic congestion.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1  
PHOTO ON PAGE 3

**BB asks female employees not to wear short sleeves at work**  
**Advices men against wearing jeans**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank has issued a dress code for its officials and employees, suggesting female workers refrain from wearing short-sleeved and short-length dresses, and leggings while on duty.

Male workers have been asked to avoid jeans and gabardine pants.

The central bank's Human Resources Department issued the dress code in an internal memo, asking men to wear formal shirts, trousers, and shoes.

It asked female workers to wear saris or salwar-kameez with scarfs and other decent dresses of "professional colours" with formal sandals or shoes. They can also wear head scarfs and hijab of simple design, according to a decision made on July 21.

All departments have been directed to designate an officer to monitor dress code compliance.

"Failure to comply with the dress code will be considered a disciplinary offence," said the memo asking all departments in the headquarters to take necessary actions.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

**A decisive leader during 1971**  
**Speakers say at an event commemorating Tajuddin Ahmad**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tajuddin Ahmad showed true leadership by taking decisive action during one of the most uncertain moments in the nation's history 1971, said Emeritus Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury yesterday.

"In colonial India, he had already begun thinking about freedom and independence -- his vision of liberation was rooted in self-reliance," Chowdhury said at an event titled "Muktijuddher Onibarja Sarothi: Shotoborsho Tajuddin Ahmad" (Tajuddin Ahmad at 100: An Inevitable Companion of the Liberation War).

**"He [Tajuddin] wanted the war to be conducted by the people of this land. Though he accepted India's support, he made it clear that this was not an India-Pakistan war -- it was a Bangladesh-Pakistan war."**

Prof emeritus SIRAJUL ISLAM CHOWDHURY

The event was organised by the cultural platform Kaler Dhoni and held at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro auditorium in the capital's Bangla Motor area.

"He wanted the war to be conducted by the people of this land. Though he accepted India's support, he made it clear that this was not an India-Pakistan war -- it was a Bangladesh-Pakistan war."

He was an idealist, yet also a realist.

"Tajuddin did not aspire to become the top leader. He never sought the limelight. He was prepared to be second, not first -- and that, too,

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

**Appointment of health adviser 'biggest example of CA's nepotism' Says Hasnat, demands her resignation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasnat Abdullah, the National Citizen Party's southern region chief organiser, demanded the resignation of Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, labelling her as the "biggest example" of nepotism by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

"We have a health minister [adviser], do you know her?" asked Hasnat at an NCP rally in Chandpur yesterday, alleging that she was appointed under Prof Yunus quota.

"She is the biggest example of his [Prof Yunus] nepotism," Hasnat said, strongly criticising Nurjahan's role following the recent military aircraft crash at Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara.

"We do not need this health adviser. Have you seen her take any action? The salary she draws is haram [not permissible]. The vehicle she uses, bought with public funds, is a betrayal of



SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

**The govt within the govt now clearly visible**

Says Debapriya at roundtable on a year after July uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a government within the current interim government, economist Debapriya Bhattacharya has said.

"It is now quite clear that the formal government we see has another government within it. This is no longer a secret -- it is clearly visible," said the CPD distinguished fellow while speaking at a roundtable titled "July Uprising: Experience of One Year and the Future" yesterday.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the event at the newspaper's Karwan Bazar office.

He warned that the legitimacy of the interim government now hinges on proving its political neutrality, especially given growing doubts over its ability to hold a credible election.

"We didn't bring in an interim government for seat-sharing arrangements, we wanted a genuine election where people feel safe to vote, not just on the day of polling, but also the day after."

Debapriya raised concerns about worsening inequality, especially among marginalised groups, and the failure of this government to reflect its anti-discrimination commitment in economic reforms.

Calling for a clear exit strategy, he said the head of the interim

**This government has gone in the opposite direction of building an equal, democratic Bangladesh.**

Prof ANU MUHAMMAD

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

**1,200 sued over storming of Secretariat**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have filed a case against around 1,200 unidentified individuals in connection with the violent demonstration at the Secretariat, which led to clashes between law enforcers and protesters.

The case was filed Tuesday night with Shahbagh Police Station on charges of illegal gathering, assault on law enforcers, attempted murder, vandalism of government vehicles, and an attempt to break into the Secretariat compound.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifuzzaman accepted the case yesterday and directed police to submit the investigation report by August 28, according to court sources.

At least 75 people were injured on Tuesday as clashes broke out at the Secretariat between law enforcers and HSC examinees, who were demonstrating for various demands, including the resignation of Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar and the education secretary.

Police and army personnel charged truncheons and fired tear gas canisters as students stormed the Secretariat complex, triggering a chase and counter-chase that lasted for over an hour. Protests also erupted in different parts of the country, with demonstrators

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Thick dust, kicked up by vehicles on this road, fills the air, compelling a woman to cover her face as she nearly vanishes into the haze. The photo was taken yesterday at Stand Road in Agrabad, Chattogram.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

**GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE**  
**Two more cases filed, total accused 9,850**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two more cases were filed on Tuesday over the July 16 violence in Gopalganj, raising the total number of cases to 10 and the number of accused to 9,850.

Of the two new cases, one was filed with Tungipara Police Station by one of its sub-inspectors Monir Hossain under the Special Powers Act against 82 named individuals and 200 unidentified people, said its officer-in-charge Md Khorshed Alam.

The other case was filed with Gopalganj Sadar Police Station by Gopalganj District Jailer Tania Jaman, where 160 named people and around 1,000 other unnamed people were made accused, said its OC Mir Mohammad Sajedur Rahman.

The attack and vandalism at the district jail occurred on July 16, he said.

Earlier, police had filed eight other cases -- four of them for murder -- with Sadar, Kashiani and Kotalipara police stations over that day's violence.

Meanwhile, the police arrested 11 more individuals in 24 hours ending 12:00pm on Wednesday. With this, a total of 334 people have been arrested in connection with the violence, said police.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4