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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 four political parties -- including BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami -- at the state guesthouse Jamuna in Dhaka on Tuesday night. The discussion focused on the country's law and order situation. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Postponement of HSC exam 'reasonable'

Says CR Abrar; delayed exams to be held same day in separate shifts

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

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## Investigate Arakan Army for war crimes against Rohingyas

Fortify Rights urges International Criminal Court

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human rights group Fortify Rights has urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate war crimes committed by the Arakan Army (AA), including abductions, torture, killings, and beheadings of Rohingya civilians.

A new investigation by Fortify Rights documents how the AA, which currently controls much of Rakhine State, has committed serious violations of the laws of war in ad-hoc detention centres and villages under its control.

"The Arakan Army is responsible for widespread abductions, brutal torture, and the murder of Rohingyas, some of whom were found beheaded," said Ejaz Min Khan, Human Rights Specialist at Fortify Rights.

"The ICC has jurisdiction and should investigate and prosecute those responsible."

Since fighting broke out between the AA and Myanmar military in November 2023, around 200,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh, joining over a million others who had escaped earlier waves of persecution, especially in 2017.

Rohingya communities now say they are being targeted by the AA, which controls nearly 90 percent of

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## His statesmanship paved way for our sovereignty

Say speakers on Tajuddin Ahmad 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 nation-building deserve thorough study, said his admirers yesterday.

He led the Liberation War-time exile government, and his leadership -- marked by integrity and foresight -- laid the foundation for a sovereign Bangladesh amid immense adversity, they said.

Yet, despite his pivotal role, Tajuddin Ahmad's contributions remain largely under-represented in mainstream narratives. Bangladesh must strive for a more accurate and inclusive historical account, they added.

They made the remarks while speaking at a commemorative

**Tajuddin's role in all three phases of Bangladesh's struggle for independence -- preparatory phase, phase of armed Liberation War, and post-victory phase -- was profoundly significant. Without fully recognising and documenting his contribution, the history of our independence struggle cannot be complete.**

**SARWAR ALI**  
Trustee, Liberation War Museum

programme marking the birth centenary of Tajuddin Ahmad, organised by the Liberation War Museum at its auditorium.

Liberation War Museum

trustee Mofidul Hoque said the way Tajuddin led the Mujibnagar government during the nine months of the Liberation War is the finest hour of the country's history, and he played the pivotal role in creating that finest hour.

Terming Tajuddin a highly organised leader and man, Mofidul 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 Liberation War, and the post-victory phase -- was profoundly significant.

"Without fully recognising and documenting Tajuddin's

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## 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.

Experts are warning that the situation could worsen significantly in August due to the recent rainfall pattern, which creates ideal conditions for the Aedes mosquitoes, that transmit the virus, to breed.

"Intermittent rain is highly favourable for the spread of the dengue virus," said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman.

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## Install CCTV at vulnerable polling centres

Home ministry directs EC; several decisions taken to ensure election security

AHMED DEEPTO

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several decisions to ensure security during the upcoming national election.

In a letter to the Election Commission (EC), the ministry instructed that CCTV cameras be installed at all polling stations identified as vulnerable.

The EC has been asked to inform the ministry of the measures taken in this regard by August 3.

These decisions were made during the 11th meeting of the Advisory Council Committee on Law and Order, held at the Ministry of Home Affairs last Monday. The meeting was chaired by Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

The letter to the EC was issued later that day.

The letter stated that steps must be taken to implement the decisions made at the meeting, and a report on the actions should be submitted to the Political-2 Wing of the Public Security Division both by email and in hard copy by August 3.

According to the meeting minutes, the EC is responsible for installing CCTV cameras at vulnerable polling stations and setting up an effective monitoring system. A clear action plan involving all relevant

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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 at the capital's Liberation War Museum yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 272 July victims get medical aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extending its support to the victims of the July mass uprising, Suhana & Anis Ahmed Foundation (SAAF) has so far provided medical treatment, medication, and financial assistance to 272 critically injured individuals for their surgeries in different hospitals across Bangladesh.

The foundation is actively working with courier organisations and other online-based delivery platforms to create employment opportunities for the injured, SAAF said in a statement.

Since December 2024, SAAF has also been providing monthly financial assistance to 100 individuals who are currently unable to work due to physical injuries.

The foundation has committed to awarding full scholarships to 25 injured students currently enrolled in schools, colleges, and universities.