



"True to its historic commitment to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, I have decided that France will recognise the state of Palestine."

French President Emmanuel Macron

# The Daily Star

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION



DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 26, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 182

SRABAN 11, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 30, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



Where the forest feeds and fades

WR1



The vanishing crows of our cities

WR2



How do you measure the success of a year?

P7



Syria arms depot blasts kill 12, injure over 100

P5

## ICT CASES OVER JULY ATROCITIES

# Two-thirds of 206 accused absconding

27 cases filed over crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

More than two-thirds of the accused, including a dozen high-profile figures, are absconding in 27 cases filed with the International Crimes Tribunal over crimes against humanity during the July mass uprising and enforced disappearances under the 15-year rule of the Awami League government.

Law enforcers have managed to arrest only 73 out of the 206 accused after the ICT issued warrants for their arrests. One of the accused died in custody, said the office of the ICT chief prosecutor.

Of the cases, 22 were filed over killings during the mass uprising that left, according to a UN report, over 1,400 dead and several thousand wounded. The remaining five cases are related to enforced disappearances.

At least four prosecutors and an investigator at the ICT said many of the accused had gone into hiding after information on the issuance of arrest warrants was leaked. "These accused received information on the



A cluster of homes nestled at the foot of the hills near Jheeler Par in Chattogram's Akbar Shah Police Station area. Every year, ahead of the monsoon, authorities launch eviction drives targeting these precarious settlements, but without sustainable rehabilitation, displaced residents often return. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

"If they are not arrested, who will be tried? This is nothing but a mockery in the name of justice."

RABIUL AWAL, brother of Imam Hasan Tayem who was killed during the July uprising



"Some of them fled the country even before arrest warrants were issued."

ENAMUL HAQUE SAGAR, assistant inspector general (media) at the police headquarters

warrant before police could act," said one of the prosecutors seeking anonymity.

A senior official from the ICT's investigation agency explained that once warrants are issued, they are sent to police stations concerned for execution. "But in many cases, the accused go into hiding even before the notices reach police stations."

Asked, Enamul Haque Sagar, assistant inspector general (media) at the police headquarters, said police are hunting for the absconding accused. "Some of them fled the country even before arrest warrants were issued."

The National Central Bureau of Bangladesh Police has already requested Interpol to issue Red Notices for ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 11 others following court directives.

The others are former ministers Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, AKM Mozammel Haque, Hasan Mahmud, Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel; ex-state ministers Mohammad A Arafat and Nasrul Hamid Bipu; former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, and Hasina's ex-defence and security adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique.

"Interpol is now reviewing the Red Notice requests. We are in constant touch with it," Sagar said, adding that the international police organisation has already issued a Red Notice for ex-IGP Benazir Ahmed over a corruption case.

A Red Notice is a request to law enforcement agencies worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action, according to the Interpol website.

### FRUSTRATION OF VICTIMS' FAMILIES

Rabiul Awal, brother of Imam Hasan Tayem who was killed during the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Two more jet crash victims die

Death toll now 33

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more students, who sustained severe burns in the jet crash at Milestone School and College in the capital, died at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday.

Ten-year-old Tasnim Afroz Ayman passed away around 9:30am and 13-year-old Musabbir Makin around 1:15pm at the intensive care unit.

Ayman, a fourth grader, had burns on 45 percent of her body, while Makin, a seventh grader, had burns on 70 percent, said Shawon Bin Rahman, a resident surgeon at the institute, where 15 crash victims have died so far.

There was confusion over the total number of deaths immediately after the jet crash on July 21, as different government agencies provided varying

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE ASK finds serious rights violations

Calls for independent probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights group Ain o Salish Kendra has called for an independent and impartial investigation into the deadly violence in Gopalganj on July 16.

"The violence in Gopalganj involved serious violations of human rights, including excessive use of force, denial of the right to peaceful assembly, and harassment of innocent civilians," Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) said in a report released yesterday.

The report also said the incident, which occurred during a political rally organised by the National Citizen Party (NCP), sparked "grave concerns over allegations of unlawful killings, mass arrests, and excessive use of force".

The violence left five civilians dead and dozens injured. A four-member team of the rights organisation conducted a field visit on July 21 and 22 in Gopalganj, documenting accounts of family members of the deceased and injured, witnesses, professionals, law

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

- Unlawful killings, mass arrests, and excessive use of force
- Families pressured to bury or cremate bodies without post-mortem
- 18 children among arrestees

## S&P sees stable outlook for Bangladesh

Keeps country at B+ amid steady economic footing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

S&P Global has kept its long-term credit ratings on Bangladesh's economy unchanged at B+ as the country works to rebuild external liquidity amid ongoing political uncertainty.

The US-based global credit rating agency said Bangladesh's external liquidity is stabilising, as indicated by the recent steady improvement in its official foreign exchange reserves.

"Macroeconomic policies enacted over the past 18 months -- such as transitioning to a more flexible exchange rate regime, allowing the taka to depreciate, and tightening monetary policy -- are helping to rebuild foreign exchange liquidity," said S&P in a report published on Thursday.

The agency said gradual easing of inflation should support a modest recovery in domestic demand conditions.

However, Bangladesh faces heightened trade risk from relatively high US tariffs, said the agency, which downgraded the country's ratings from BB- to B+ amid deadly protests over the quota-based hiring system for government jobs a year ago.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 7

## 2 Bangladeshis shot dead by BSF at Feni border

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two Bangladeshi nationals were killed and another injured after Indian Border Security Force troops opened fire on them along the Bashpadua border in Feni's Parshuram upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Md Millat Hossain, 20, and Mohammad Yasin alias Liton, 32, while the injured is Md Afsar, 30 -- all residents of Bashpadua village under Parshuram municipality.

Quoting locals, Parshuram Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mostafa Hakim said the trio had gone to catch fish in a submerged agricultural field near the border around 12:00am. At that time, BSF personnel from Amzadnagar camp opened fire from near border pillar No. 2164, hitting all three.

Upon hearing the gunfire, locals rushed to the scene and found Millat and Afsar with bullet injuries.

They were immediately taken to Parshuram Upazila Health Complex.

As their condition worsened, they were transferred to Feni General Hospital around 1:00am.

Millat later succumbed to his injuries, the OC confirmed.

Iftekhhar Hasan Bhuiyan, resident medical officer at the health complex,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A lemonade vendor sets up shop directly between the rail tracks at the capital's Sayedabad level crossing, putting both his and his customers' lives at risk. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Thailand warns of war with Cambodia

Death toll rises to 20 as cross-border clashes expand for a second day; more than 138,000 displaced

AFP, Surin

Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai warned yesterday that cross-border clashes with Cambodia that have uprooted more than 130,000 people "could develop into war", as the countries traded deadly strikes for a second day.

A long-running border dispute erupted into intense fighting with jets, artillery, tanks and ground troops on Thursday, and the UN Security Council was set to hold an emergency meeting on the crisis later yesterday.

A steady thump of artillery strikes could be heard from the Cambodian side of the border yesterday, where the province of Oddar Meanchey reported one civilian -- a 70-year-old man -- had been killed and five more wounded.

More than 138,000 people have been evacuated from Thailand's border regions, its health ministry said, adding that death toll rose to 20.

"We have tried to compromise as we are neighbours, but we have now instructed the Thai military to act immediately in case of urgency," said Wechayachai.

"If the situation escalates, it could develop into war -- though for now, it remains limited to clashes," he told

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5