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### MILESTONE TRAGEDY

## Yunus visits burn institute to inquire about injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus visited the National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute last night to inquire about the treatment of the patients injured in the fighter jet crash at Milestone School and College Uttara's Diabari of the capital.



Upon arriving at the hospital at 9:10pm, Yunus met with hospital director Prof Mohammad Nasiruddin, who briefed him on the accounts of the day of the incident and the current status of the patients.

Nasir said that currently the patients hospitalised are being treated based on the advice of the multidisciplinary consultation board. The patients have been

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Residents of the Moddhom Mohora area wade across knee-deep floodwaters after wind-driven tidal surges, triggered by a low-pressure system over the north Bay of Bengal, inundated low-lying areas along the Halda river basin in Chattogram city yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Won't support polls without justice, reforms

Says Nahid at Moulvibazar rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam has said the party does not support elections without justice and reforms.

"If that happens, the people will not accept those elections," he said while speaking at a rally in the Beripar area of Moulvibazar town yesterday.

Leaders of the National Citizen Party (NCP) travelled to Moulvibazar as part of their ongoing "July March to Rebuild the Nation" programme.

"We will not let Bangladesh run under the old system. After the uprising, various forces are trying to move the country forward. We want to start the journey of a new Bangladesh through justice, reforms, and a new constitution," Nahid said.

Commenting on the constitution, he said, "The 1972 constitution is the Mujibist constitution. Reforms to that constitution are necessary for the reform and development of the country. The Liberation War and the 2024 uprising must be recognised.

"However, various political forces are taking to the streets to protect the 1972 constitution. We must be active

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### Star INTERVIEW

## 'We broke the fear, but not the system'

Umama reflects on the July uprising, lost trust, and the way forward

MD ABBAS

One year after the July uprising shook Bangladesh's political landscape, former student leader Umama Fatema says the movement's most significant achievement was breaking the long-standing culture of fear and silence.

She, however, says the July movement's core promises remain unfulfilled.

"We felt like something big was about to happen, and we were right in the middle of it," Umama said, recalling the night of July 14 last year when students took to the streets chanting, "Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar."

"It felt like the negative narrative about who is a true freedom fighter and who is a traitor had been shattered."

In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, Umama opened up about the emotional toll of the movement, political betrayals, exclusion from leadership spaces, and her vision for inclusive, systemic reform.

Umama was injured during the crackdown on July 15, when law enforcers opened fire on student protesters.

"When Abu Sayed gave his life by taking bullets to his

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## Man killed in broad daylight in Rayer Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 25-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals in broad daylight at Rayer Bazar in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

The incident took place near the gate of the Rayer Bazar Intellectuals' Graveyard around 1:30pm, said Hafizur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Mohammadpur Police Station.

The victim, Fazle Rabbi Sumon, originally from Borhanuddin upazila of Bhola, had been living in the Pabna House Lane area of Mohammadpur and worked at a local hardware store.

Sumon was critically injured in the attack and was first taken to Shikder Medical College Hospital by his friends. He was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 3:30pm.

His wife, Manjuma Akter, said that Sumon went to the Rayer Bazar Intellectuals' Graveyard area with some friends when a youth named Munna suddenly attacked

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## One Islamist candidate per seat to counter BNP

Like-minded parties move to reach 'understanding'

RASHIDUL HASAN

Different Islamist parties are in efforts to reach an "understanding" to counter the BNP ahead of the 13th parliamentary election.

To that end, they want to field a single candidate in every constituency in the upcoming polls.

As part of this move, top leaders of four Islamist parties -- Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB), Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Khelafat Majlish, and Jomiat-e-Ulamaye Islam, have recently formed a liaison committee to coordinate the formation process of an electoral understanding among the parties."

"Five Qawmi-based parties, including Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Khelafat Majlish, and Jomiat-e-Ulamaye Islam, have recently formed a liaison committee to coordinate the formation process of an electoral understanding among the parties."

YUNUS AHMED  
IAB secretary general

Discussions are also underway to include the National Citizen Party, AB Party, and Gono Odhikar Parishad.

A new political context emerged after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, 2024. For the first time in over one and a half decades, Jamaat-e-Islami has started carrying out political programmes openly and without any hindrance.

In AL's absence in the political arena, the BNP is being seen as the biggest force. However, small

parties fear that their importance will weaken if the BNP assumes power, political analysts say.

This concern, along with differing positions on reforms, is pushing the Islamist parties towards forming an alliance, they say.

Over the past few months, Jamaat and IAB have been working with the aim of fielding single candidates in every constituency and positioning themselves as an alternative to the BNP.

However, the Islamist parties do not want to call this initiative a "political alliance". Rather, they refer it to as an "electoral consensus".

According to sources in different Islamist parties, their initiative will take shape after the election schedule is announced.

They are preparing to contest the upcoming election against the BNP with the assumption that the AL will not be able to participate.

On the key issues like constitutional reforms, most of the parties have similar positions.

Jamaat, NCP, IAB, and both factions of

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## GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE 'No rationale found for lethal weapon use'

11 citizens say resurgence of repressive tactics worrying, demand probe, legal safeguards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indiscriminate use of the repressive Anti-Terrorism Act, along with arrests and the detention of children, in Gopalganj signals a troubling return of repression, said a group of 11 citizens in a statement yesterday.

"We haven't found any rationale for using lethal weapons," said the group that visited Gopalganj on July 22 following the violence centring a National Citizen Party (NCP) rally on July 16 which left five people dead.

"Since there are allegations that the army and police violated human rights in this incident, the inclusion of the army, police and home ministry representatives in the inquiry commission will bring its impartiality into question," the group said.

"One of the basic principles of impartiality is that the accused will never be the investigator," it added, calling for the reconstitution of the inquiry commission formed over the incident.

The group of citizens stressed the urgent need to avoid blanket charges, arbitrary detentions, and mass arrests, and called for legal

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### SOUTHEAST IRAN

## 9 people killed in courthouse attack

22 hurt; 3 gunmen killed during assault; Baloch jihadist group claims responsibility

AFP, Tehran

Nine civilians were killed in a "terrorist attack" on a judiciary building in southeast Iran yesterday, before three gunmen were shot dead, state media reported.

"Unknown gunmen attacked the judiciary centre in Zahedan," the capital of southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province, the judiciary's Mizan Online said.

"Nine people have been killed and 22 injured in this terrorist attack," the report said while adding that the counts are "preliminary" and the toll may rise.

Separately, the official IRNA news agency reported that three of the attackers were killed during the assault, citing the regional headquarters of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

According to Alireza Daliri, deputy police commander of Sistan Baluchistan province, the attackers attempted to enter the building disguised as visitors.

The assailants threw a grenade into the building, Daliri said, killing several people inside, including a one-year-old baby and the child's mother.

According to Iranian media, Jaish al-Adl (Arabic for "Army of Justice"), a Baloch jihadist group based in Pakistan but also active in Iran, claimed responsibility for the attack.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

A squirrel forages for food in a fig tree in Sylhet city's Temukhi area, right next to a busy road, just off frame. While these creatures typically inhabit quiet forest environments, increasing urbanisation is steadily stripping them of food, habitat, and breeding grounds. A little awareness and more tree planting could help these animals continue to thrive and maintain the ecological balance.

## Teen sent to jail for raping 4-yr-old girl in Netrakona

3 held over rape in Tangail

STAR REPORT

A Netrakona court yesterday sent a teenage boy to jail over the rape of a four-year-old girl in Barhatta upazila of the district.

Police arrested the 16-year-old accused on Friday afternoon after the victim's father filed a rape case against him, said Md Kamrul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Barhatta Police Station.

According to the case statement, the victim was playing in front of her house on Thursday afternoon. The accused took her to his house and raped her. When the victim screamed, the accused fled.

The victim then went home and told her mother about the incident. Her father later filed the case.

The victim was first taken to the Barhatta Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Netrakona Modern Sadar Hospital for advanced treatment.

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