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July Charter runs into a snag

Jamaat, NCP, IAB have reservations;
BNP somewhat agrees

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Jamaat-e-Islami, the National Citizen Party, and Islami Andolon Bangladesh have voiced reservations about the draft July Charter prepared by the National Consensus Commission, while the BNP has expressed partial agreement with the proposed reforms.

The BNP, however, has strongly objected to the proposal to enshrine the historical significance of the July uprising in the constitution, fearing it could pave the way for certain groups to promote the idea of a "Second Republic".

Jamaat termed the draft charter incomplete and dangerous, calling for it to be backed by an ordinance ratified by parliament or through a public referendum to ensure legal legitimacy.

The NCP said all consensus points must be codified into law before the election and insisted the upcoming polls be held under that legal framework.

While reviewing the draft, BNP leaders found it "hastily written" and flagged issues with wording.

Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters yesterday that the party had "no fundamental objection" to the draft but wanted revisions to some phrases.

"We agree with the commitment sought in the draft to implement the pledges within two years," he added.

BNP leaders discussed the issue at a Standing Committee meeting at their Gulshan office on Monday night, chaired virtually by acting

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Consensus talks caught up in deepening rifts

Deadline looms yet parties can't agree on CA selection method

MD ABBAS

Political parties have remained sharply divided over selection of chief advisers to caretaker governments and women's representation in parliament two days before the end of deadline for consensus.

Although political parties have largely agreed on the need for a non-partisan election-time caretaker government, division over the key issues resurfaced during the 21st day of the second phase of talks at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

While briefing reporters after the discussions, National Consensus Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz said that two thirds of the political parties have agreed with the commission's proposals regarding the selection of the chief adviser.

"As disagreements remain over the selection of the chief adviser, we are now giving them [parties] time until tomorrow to reconsider, and then the commission will finalise its decision regarding the matter. Even after the final decision, if any party wants to give a note of dissent, they can," he said.

At the opening session, he reminded all that they had only three days left, including yesterday, before issuing a July National Charter. "The charter must be finalised by July 31, incorporating all the points where consensus has been established."

PICKING CA

On the chief adviser issue, the commission yesterday reiterated its

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JULY TRIALS
Retributive justice must be avoided
Says Volker Türk

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Human Rights Commissioner Volker Türk has said that those responsible for the human rights violations and crimes committed during the July uprising should be held accountable and emphasised that this accountability should adhere to international human rights law.



He made the call in a video message at an event organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), marking the first anniversary of the July uprising at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday.

The OHCHR's Fact-Finding Mission, in its investigation, had found more than 1,400 people were killed and thousands were injured, the vast majority of whom were shot by security forces under the

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Political system will be renewed for inclusive polls

Says Yunus; Fakhrul, Shafiqur reiterate calls for quick trial of July atrocities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the government is working to build a broad national consensus around a renewed political system that will deliver inclusive, participatory, and credible elections.



"The goal is clear: to establish a society where all Bangladeshis can live in peace, with pride, with freedom, and with dignity," he said at the "July Commemoration Event: Implementation of UN Fact-Finding Mission's Report Recommendation" at the InterContinental Hotel in the capital.

The event was organised by the United Nations Human Rights Mission, marking one year since the July uprising.

"Our work is far from finished.

Alongside our reform agenda, we are pursuing legal accountability for those responsible for gross violations.

"But justice is not only about punishment," he added. "Justice is also about ensuring that state power can never again be used to suppress, silence, or destroy its own people."

Yunus said reforms are not just about surface level changes, but about deep, transformative shifts.

"Without such changes, chances remain for tyranny to return. Maybe in a different form, but it will return. No matter how many laws we enforce or how many reforms we attempt, the change we need must go far deeper."

About the UN Fact-Finding Mission's recommendations, the chief adviser said, "We have taken these

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Rejoinder, our reply

We thank the office of Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, a special assistant to the chief adviser, for a formal response to our report, headlined "Govt aide pushes 5G project amid graft probe", published on July 27, 2025. The rejoinder objects to "the misleading and speculative nature of the report", alleging it "contains several factual inaccuracies, omits key context, and unfairly casts aspersions on the motives and actions of Mr Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb".

In the spirit of fairness, we are publishing the rejoinder point by point. However, The Daily Star stands firmly by its reporting, which was based on documented evidence, interviews, and the principles of journalistic inquiry into a matter of significant public interest. The rejoinder does not invalidate any aspect of our report.

Below are the seven points raised in the

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BRAC University students flood the streets in the capital's Rampura on July 18, 2024, to join the ongoing protests. Despite police resistance, they, along with students from other private universities, became a vital force in the movement.

PHOTO: FILE/PRABIR DAS

JULY UPRISING

A movement that united campuses and classrooms

For the first time, a protest brought together students from schools, colleges, madrasas and univs

ARAFAT RAHMAN

Bangladesh's student movements have long been rooted in the dormitories of public universities -- Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University, and Chittagong University -- where slogans, marches, and political pressure have often driven change.

However, the uprising in July 2024 marked a pivotal shift as protests spread beyond the usual public campuses.

A new wave surged from private universities, colleges, madrasas, and even high schools -- reshaping the political landscape and rewriting the story of student-led resistance.

Once seen as "disengaged" or "apolitical", these students emerged as a powerful force in protests that began over job quotas and evolved into a wider demand for justice, accountability, and reform.

HOW IT TURNED INTO A NATIONAL RECKONING

The ignition came on July 14.

At a press conference that day, then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, while defending the 30 percent quota for descendants

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THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 30, 2024

The red wave of defiance

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Amid continued mourning and mounting outrage, July 30 marked a powerful day of nationwide protests and symbolic resistance, as students, teachers, guardians, and citizens rallied across Bangladesh demanding justice for the lives lost during the quota reform movement. From campus demonstrations to courtroom

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The red wave of defiance

FROM PAGE 1

reflections and diplomatic reactions, the country witnessed an outpouring of grief, defiance, and demands for accountability.

The High Court expressed deep sorrow over the deaths resulting from the recent unrest. "These deaths are sad for all of us," said a bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon during a hearing on a writ petition related to the violence.

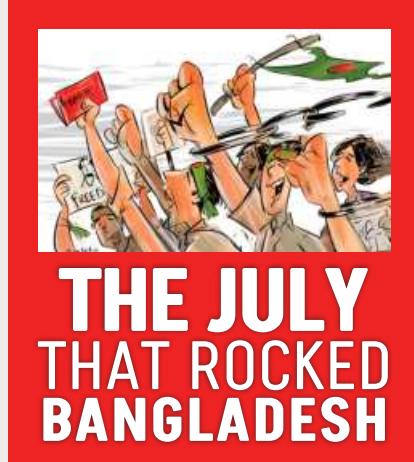
At Jahangirnagar University, teachers and students staged a silent protest under the banner "Jahangirnagar Against Oppression." With red cloths covering their mouths and parts of their faces, they marched from the university's Shaheed Minar around 12:30pm, condemning the harassment, detention, and torture of students and calling for a thorough investigation into the indiscriminate killings. Faculty members at Rajshahi University, under the banner "RU Teachers Against Oppression," organised a similar demonstration. Over 200 teachers participated in the procession that began at the Shaheed Intellectual Memorial at 11:30am and ended with a rally at the university's main gate.

In Khulna, hundreds of students blocked the Shibbari intersection around 11:30am for more than three hours, chanting slogans like "Shooting won't stop the movement" and "One point, one demand—step down Sheikh Hasina." Many citizens joined the demonstration in solidarity. "Bullets bought with our fathers' tax money are being used against us," said one protester. "We demand justice for the students who were shot and killed."

In Tangail, quota reform protesters wearing red badges attempted a march on Registripara Road around noon. However, police intercepted the procession near the Girls' School intersection, preventing it from continuing.

Online, a wave of digital protest swept across platforms. Students, teachers, guardians, and others changed their profile photos to solid red in solidarity with the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement's call. The action defied the government-imposed restrictions on websites, including Facebook, with many users bypassing the blocks using VPNs. The movement had rejected the government-declared nationwide mourning.

A fresh wave of mobilisation was



Teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University staged a silent march on July 30, 2024, with red cloths covering their faces, protesting the torture and detention of students and demanding justice for those killed during the quota reform protests.

PHOTO: FILE/AKHLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

announced in the evening. The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, through a press release signed by one of the coordinators Abdul Hannan Masud, called for a "March for Justice" to be held at all educational institutions, court premises, and major roads next day. Their nine-point demand included an apology from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the resignation of several ministers—including those of Home, Education, Law, Information, and Communications—and the dismissal of top police officials in districts where students had been killed. They also demanded the resignation of university vice chancellors and proctors who had failed to protect peaceful protesters, immediate reopening of all institutions and dormitories, and the withdrawal of military, BGB, Rab, and police forces from campuses.

International voices added to the pressure. UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed concern over reports of excessive use of force and credible evidence of human rights violations. EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell condemned the shoot-on-sight orders and unlawful killings, calling for thorough investigations and accountability.

According to official data, the government put the death toll at 150. However, The Daily Star's count showed at least 163 confirmed deaths, with fears

the actual toll could be even higher. Many critically injured patients were admitted to hospitals that reporters could not access, and numerous families had collected bodies privately without media contact.

At least 354 more people were arrested in the last 36 hours till 6:00pm on July 30, bringing the total number of arrests to 10,488 since July 18. Police filed 672 cases in the capital and 51 districts. Of the latest arrestees, 215 were taken into custody from 29 districts. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police produced 139 arrestees before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, where most were sent to jail and some placed on remand.

Prominent citizens, under the banner "Aggrieved Citizen Society," held a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, accusing the government of being largely responsible for the deadly crackdown. Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman questioned the justification for holding protest leaders "for their safety" and asked if similar security would be extended to all citizens.

Meanwhile, police barred a group of guardians under the banner "Santaner Pashe Obhibhabok" from holding a sit-in in front of Dhaka Medical College. The parents had planned to demand answers regarding the deaths of their children.

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The government announced its intention to ban Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir, for their alleged involvement in recent "anti-state activities." Law Minister Anisul Huq made the announcement a day after the Awami League led 14-party alliance recommended the ban. BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir questioned the timing of the decision, calling it a ploy to distract from the ongoing crisis.

Amnesty International, in an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, demanded the immediate lifting of the curfew and restoration of full access to social media. The letter also urged the government to ensure that shoot-on-sight orders and internet shutdowns would not be used again to suppress protests or curtail fundamental rights.

The events of July 30 bore witness to a fractured nation grappling with grief, fury, and a deepening crisis of trust. While red became the colour of resistance—on campus, online, and on the streets—the government's escalating crackdown and denial of responsibility further inflamed public sentiment. As the international community watched with alarm and citizens demanded justice with unrelenting courage, the question remained—will the state listen before the damage becomes irreversible?

Woman's body found 2 days after she fell into open drain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Firefighters yesterday recovered the body of a woman who had fallen into an open drain in Tongi, Gazipur, two days ago.

The deceased was identified as Faria Tasnim Jyoti, 32, daughter of late Oliullah Ahmed Bablu of Baganpara village in Chaudanga Sadar upazila.



She used to live in Mirpur and work as a sales manager at a money trading corporation.

"The drain into which Faria fell flows into the Shalikchura Beel. While conducting a search operation there, her body was found under a pile of water hyacinth around 9:15am," said Shahin Alam, an official of the Tongi Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Faria had gone missing after falling into an uncovered portion of the drain that runs along the Haka-Mymensingh highway.

The incident occurred around 9:00pm on Sunday in front of Dhaka Imperial Hospital in the Hossain Market area of Tongi.

Fire service divers launched a rescue operation immediately after she went missing.

The victim's cousin, Oishee, said, "On Sunday, Jyoti went to see a doctor at Dhaka Imperial Hospital in Tongi. That night, I found out through Facebook and several TV channels that a woman had fallen into an open drain in that area."

"When our family tried to contact her on her phone, it was found switched off. After looking for her everywhere, I went to the Hossain Market and found out that it was Jyoti who had fallen into the drain."

Following the incident, locals accused the Gazipur City Corporation of negligence, saying that a portion of the drain in the Hossain Market area had been left uncovered for some time and that no warning signs had been placed nearby to alert pedestrians.

On Monday, a probe committee formed in the wake of the tragic death of six-month-old Seherish, who fell into the Hijra canal in Chattogram city's Kapasgola area on April 18, identified mismanagement by utility service agencies, gross negligence, and long-standing coordination failures among relevant authorities, among several other reasons, as the causes of the incident.

On July 9, a three-year-old girl fell into an open drain in the port city's Halishahar area and died of drowning.

At least 15 people have lost their lives after falling into open drains or canals in Chattogram city over the past six years, especially during the rainy season.

A movement that united campuses and classrooms

FROM PAGE 1

of freedom fighters, asked, "If the grandchildren of freedom fighters do not receive benefits, should the grandchildren of razakars receive them instead?"

The reference to "razakars" -- a term historically used to describe collaborators with the Pakistani army during the 1971 Liberation War -- sparked immediate outrage among students.

As protests intensified, so did the violence. Videos of students being beaten by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists flooded social media.

Then, on July 16, Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, was shot dead by police.

That night, the University Grants Commission shut down all public and private universities, medical colleges, and affiliated institutions, citing student safety.

Public university dormitories were evacuated, seemingly to deflate the movement's momentum. For a moment, it seemed the protests might end.

But then, a new wave rose when private university students stepped in. College and even school students joined.

According to the official government gazette, the list of martyrs includes 844 names. An analysis by profession and age, based on information from families, shows that at least 269 students lost their lives -- second only to working-class people, according to a Prothom Alo report.

THE MOBILISATION

Private university students were among

the first to mobilise; not over quotas, but out of collective outrage.

Jabed Bin Noor of South East University said, "When my friend from Dhaka University was attacked on July 14 for a fair demand, it affected me. That's why we initiated our protest the next day."

He described the unity among people from all walks of life. "We all arrived at one truth: our adversary is this government. Its fall is the only path towards our hopes."

For Hasibul Hasan Shanto of North South University, the protest was personal. "I've questioned the government since school... I even resigned from a law enforcement job after seeing how it was used to rig the 2018 election. When the prime minister called us 'razakar', that was the moment I knew I had to act. This wasn't about institutions; it was about doing what's right... This was a landmark movement... People are loyal to the state. It's the politicians who drag it into the ditch."

RESISTANCE IN THE DISTRICTS

Students outside Dhaka -- from private universities, colleges, schools -- kept joining, even as crackdowns continued.

Kousik Islam Apurbo, an HSC candidate from Rajshahi Shikkha Board Govt Model School and College, said, "When violence broke out on August 5 [the day the AL-led government fell], police fired tear gas and sound grenades. I raised both hands and screamed that we won't run. But then they fired live bullets. One hit my foot. As I bled, a protester with a stomach wound tried to carry me. That was the beauty of July -- no one left

anyone behind."

But as their injuries slowed them, more attacks came.

"They beat me, fractured my jaw, stole my phone. Two Varendra students died but they weren't remembered. Public university martyrs got the cameras. It's all about footage," Apurbo said.

Md Abdul Bari from Rajshahi College said most protesters were not from public universities. "Once Rajshahi University's dorms shut on July 18, participation dropped. Then it was private university, school, college, madrasa, nursing and polytechnic students who carried it forward.

"We hid in Padma Garden, lived on mashed potatoes and rice. We broke Section 144 in Rajshahi. That was our strength."

He also highlighted the role of girls. "They weren't from DU or RU. They were nursing and polytechnic students, and they were brave."

Shahana Islam, a 10th grader from Jhenidah Wazir Ali School and College, joined with her brother. "When our senior classmates were attacked on campus on July 16, we couldn't stay silent. It wasn't only about quotas. It was about Chhatra League's brutality. Our first protest was against the attackers and then it became much bigger. We bled together."

In Dhaka, students from Dhaka College coordinated protests with private university students.

Tanvir Hasan Tushar joined the demo at Naya Bazar.

"Though I'm from Dhaka College, I lived with friends from private universities. We fixed two spots --

Naya Bazar and Rampura. Students from United International University, Daffodil, North South and others joined us.

"When we heard about the BRAC University attack, we changed direction. Near Ring Road, police fired tear gas and chased us. A bullet hit my ear, pierced my hand -- and damaged my eye. Now I have partial blindness."

Despite his injury, Tushar remains determined. "I've accepted it. But I'm working to stand on my own feet again."

WHEN MADRASA STUDENTS JOINED

Often sidelined in student politics, madrasa students took an early stand.

Aminul Islam of Darussunnah Kamil Madrasah in Narayanganj recalled starting protests with just 15-20 students.

"After Abu Sayed was killed on July 16, momentum grew. On July 18, police fired on our procession. Many female protesters were injured. It was terrifying."

"Whether I benefit from this movement was not my concern. If it failed, my future children might face the same discrimination. That's why we joined."

Halez Abdullah from Rajshahi, a former Jatrabari Madrasa student, believed the timing was divine. "The movement began in Muharram. That month has always marked the fall of tyrants. I believed it was symbolic."

"I wore a beard and turi. Back then, that meant being labelled Shibir. We stopped wearing our uniforms."

His roots in resistance ran deep. "In 2013, we saw our brothers martyred. Every time the chance came -- we rose."

Jamaat-e-Islami's Tarique Rahman.

A Standing Committee member said, "We support state recognition, but not constitutional status, for the July Charter and the July Declaration."

They argued that while the 2024 uprising marked the end of an authoritarian regime, it did not constitute a new independence. "The country already gained independence in 1971," said another member of the committee.

Several members warned that granting the 2024 events constitutional status could lead to "confusion and political controversy" and even calls to similarly recognise other uprisings like the 1990 anti-Ershad movement.

One BNP leader pointed out: "Even the 1971 Proclamation of Independence wasn't added to the constitution until 2011. And that move faced legal challenges."

Assuch, the BNP decided to continue discussions on the July Charter but not on the July Declaration. "We are sincere about democratic reforms and therefore remain open to dialogue on the July Charter," said a standing committee member.

Jamaat-e-Islami's Syed Abdulla Mohammad Taher said, "In some parts, it [draft] is also dangerous. If this is merely a sample, it requires no comment. But if this is the final one, we cannot accept it."

He was talking to reporters during a break at yesterday's consensus talks at the Foreign Service Academy.

To ensure the charter's legitimacy, he proposed two legal pathways for implementation: an ordinance ratified by parliament or a national referendum.

Taher added that Jamaat would soon submit its own draft to the commission.

The NCP demanded that the agreed-

Russia jails journo for 12 years for volunteering for Navalny

AFP, Moscow

Russia jailed for 12 years a journalist and former volunteer for late opposition activist Alexey Navalny yesterday, as Moscow outlaws any cooperation with Navalny's organisations -- even in the past.

Olga Komleva, 46, previously volunteered for Navalny's party, before it was banned as "extremist" in 2021, according to independent media outlet Medaziona.

She was also found guilty of criticising the Russian army as she covered Russia's offensive in Ukraine and anti-government protests for an independent outlet RusNews.

Komleva has diabetes and struggled to receive medication while in pre-trial detention, Medaziona said.

Navalny, President Vladimir Putin's main opponent who died in an Arctic penal colony under unclear circumstances last year, was declared an "extremist" by Russian authorities in 2021.

upon reforms must be given legal recognition before the upcoming general election. "Consensus reached must be codified into law, and the polls must be held accordingly," said Joint Convener Javed Rasin.

Criticising the commission, he said, "The draft was published without adequate discussion. Imposing any text unilaterally is not acceptable to us. NCP is willing to submit its position in writing."

NCP Member Secretary Akhtar Hossen proposed issuing a Legal Framework Order to legitimise the charter and ensure its implementation regardless of which party forms future governments.

He suggested that if a constituent assembly is elected, it could incorporate the reforms into the constitution and enact laws preventing future contradictions.

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Handa to invest \$250m, create 25,000 jobs

Co-Chairman Han Chun meets Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Handa Industries Co, a Hong Kong-based textile and apparel chain, has announced it will invest US\$250 million in Bangladesh.

Handa Industries Co-Chairman Han Chun announced the news as he met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

Handa had initially planned to invest 150 million USD in Bangladesh's textile sector and signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh authorities during the Bangladesh Investment Summit in April 2025.

Following further assessments and with strong support from Bangladesh authorities, Handa has since increased its investment plan to approximately USD \$250 million.

The company has now decided to set up three factories in Bangladesh -- two garment processing and one knitting and dyeing unit, which are expected to create 25,000 jobs.

"We decided to increase our investment as we gained confidence after talks with the officials of government agencies, including BIDA (Bangladesh

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No use for reforms that don't help people

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



yesterday said that state reforms must lead to tangible improvements in people's lives, particularly for children and families affected by political violence and enforced disappearances.

"We want a change in the state structure and we want reforms. But if these reforms and changes don't help ensure the overall development of our people, don't help build a better future for our children or give them a secure life, then

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at an event titled, "July Commemoration Event: Implementation of UN Fact-Finding Mission's Report Recommendation" at a city hotel yesterday. The programme was organised by the United Nations Human Rights Mission, marking one year since the July uprising.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

Trafficked, tortured and forgotten

Trafficking survivors seek justice; experts urge effective govt action

MD ABBAS

Md Tanjir Sheikh, 21, of Kushtia, sits with nothing but a mountain of debt and haunting memories.

At the end of 2023, he left for Libya with dreams of earning a decent living, only to be trafficked, tortured, and returned home with nothing.

Tanjir filed a case under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, demanding compensation for the loss of his family's land and life savings, which were spent to rescue him.

He had taken a Tk 4 lakh loan to pay a local broker who promised him a job at a reputed company in Libya with a handsome salary. But upon arrival, he was forced into working at a madrasa that paid him irregularly, barely enough to survive.

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WORLD ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY

- ➊ 10,917 trafficking cases filed between 2009, Jan 2025
- ➋ 5,450 cases still pending, 5,467 resolved
- ➌ 13,424 victims identified in 7,517 cases; 10,579 rescued
- ➍ 14,583 traffickers arrested, most out on bail
- ➎ Only 247 convictions in over 15yrs
- ➏ 93 new cases filed in Jan 2025

"I couldn't even eat regularly," Tanjir told The Daily Star. "Still, I held on for nine months, hoping things would change. But nothing did. Finally, I contacted my family."

When he told the broker that he

could no longer survive, the broker demanded more money to send him to Italy instead. Desperate to save their son, his family sold a piece of land and sent Tk 7 lakh.

But instead of sending him to Europe, the broker, working with Libyan traffickers, sold Tanjir to a local militia group. That group then sold him again, this time to a Bangladeshi mafia operating in Libya.

"They beat and tortured me inhumanely," Tanjir said. "They demanded Tk 25 lakh in ransom. I was the only son. Without a second thought, my father sold our remaining three kathas of land and sent them the money."

After being released, he was abandoned in a remote location along with another Bangladeshi. Eventually, a known contact rescued them. With help

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EC to publish final voter list on August 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will publish the draft voter list on August 10, while the final list will be published on August 31 after reviewing and verifying claims and objections until August 21.

EC Additional Secretary KM Ali Newaz shared the information yesterday afternoon while briefing reporters at the EC headquarters in the capital.

EC officials said after adding new voters and those previously excluded, and removing deceased voters from the existing list, the total number of voters for the 13th parliamentary election may stand at around 129.75 million (nearly 13 crore).

According to the EC's voter list as of March 2 this year, the total number of

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Beijing open to trilateral setup with Dhaka, Islamabad

Says Chinese envoy Yao Wen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China is open to expanding the trilateral cooperation with Bangladesh and Pakistan for regional peace and development in South Asia, said Yao Wen, the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, yesterday.

The stance comes as Bangladesh-Pakistan relations have recently improved, he said at the DCAB Talk, organised by the Diplomatic Correspondents' Association, Bangladesh at Jaitiya Press Club.

"It is not exclusive -- the other countries can join. Some South Asian countries have expressed interest. We are open to expanding this cooperation," he said in response to a question as to why China took such initiative when Dhaka-Delhi relations remain strained.

China has many trilateral cooperation arrangements -- like China-India-Russia or China-Japan-Korea, Wen said.

"This format is not new -- the cooperation with Bangladesh and Pakistan is just the latest," he said, adding that the trilateral cooperation will not be directed against any third party.

On June 19, Bangladesh's then acting foreign secretary Md Ruhul Alam Siddique, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Pakistani Additional Foreign Secretary

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Ducsu polls set for Sept 9

DU CORRESPONDENT

The long awaited elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) and hall unions will be held on September 9, 2025, from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Mohammad Jashim Uddin announced the schedule at a press conference yesterday at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building.

As per the schedule, the draft voter list will be published on July 30. Students will have until August 6 to submit objections, and the final list will be published the following day by 4:00pm.

The initial list of candidates will be released on August 21 at 1:00pm. The deadline for withdrawal of candidacy is August 25, and the final list will be published on August 26.

Voting will take place without interruption on September 9, and counting will begin immediately after polling ends. Results are expected to be announced on the same day.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Jashim said six counting centres have been designated for the 18 residential halls.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Two-thirds with neuro disabilities lacked edn access

Finds survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around two-thirds of the individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities said they had no access to education, according to a new study.

A total of 414 individuals took part in the survey.

Access to employment for these individuals with special needs was found to be even lower -- 84 percent of participants aged 18 and above reported having no access to work.

The survey was jointly conducted by BRAC James P. Grant School of Public Health and Apasen International, a UK-based charity organisation.

Findings from the study, titled "Health, Education and Employment of Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in Bangladesh", were shared at a programme held at a Dhaka hotel yesterday.

Prof Tanvir Hasan, head of the research team, and Limia Dewan, technical adviser, said the survey included 414 persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities from 33 districts.

The participants included people with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Demanding a society free from extortion, drugs and terrorism, students, teachers and locals bring out a procession in the capital's Mohamamdpur area yesterday. The programme was held under the banner of "Mohammadpur-Adabor Combined Teachers' Association". The photo was taken in Town Hall area.

Govt nominates 12 members to press council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has nominated 12 persons as members of the Bangladesh Press Council.

The information ministry issued a circular in this regard on Monday.

The tenure of the newly appointed members will be two years from the date of issuance.

Among the nominated members, three represent journalist associations: acting president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Obaidur Rahman Shaheen, President of the Economic Reporters Forum Doulat Akter Mala, and President of the Dhaka Union of Journalists Md Shahidul Islam.

Three members were nominated by the association of editors of newspapers and news agencies: The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, and Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Classes resume at Kuet after 160 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Academic activities at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) resumed yesterday after a closure of 160 days.

With students back, the once-silent campus sprang to life, restoring vibrancy and rhythm to classrooms, corridors, and university life.

By 9:30am, classes were already in session at the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), while other departments were making preparations to resume academic activities.

The students were seen arriving by university buses, vans, and rickshaws. Some were seen walking through the



rain, getting drenched, while others chatted animatedly with friends.

However, due to the sudden announcement, many students were yet to return to campus.

The decision to resume classes came after the university's teachers' association on Monday suspended its ongoing movement for three months. Later that day,

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

STATUTORY NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA, (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1282 OF 2025
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under section 81(2) read with section 85 of the Companies Act, 1994.
AND
VERSUS
Mr. Shyamal Barman
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) and another—Respondents.
Notice is hereby given in the effect that an application under section 81(2) read with section 85 of the Companies Act, 1994, was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for condoning the delay of holding the Annual General Meeting for the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 of the company namely “Impact Solutions Limited”. The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel has admitted the said application on 27.07.2025 and Hon'ble Court directed the petitioner to publish notices within 03 (Three) weeks and to submit affidavit in compliance within 31 August, 2025 from publishing the said notices. Any person interested in the said application may appear before the Hon'ble Court. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.
Sheikh Abdullah, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Hall Room No. 02 (Main), Supreme Court Bar Association Bhaban, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Mobile: +88-01911809525.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Noakhali
Phone & Fax: 02334491026
Email: ee_noakh@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 2360

Dated: 29/07/2025

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 29.07.2025. Only the Person/Organization registered by e-GP Portal can visit (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for clear observation.

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Name of works | Last selling date & time | Closing opening date & time |
|---------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1130979 | Nkhali. MCH/ WD-01 | Construction of 10-Storied Hospital Building with 10-Storied Foundation Including Single Basement for Noakhali Medical College under the Project of Establishment of 500-Bed Hospital & Ancillary Buildings in Jessor, Cox's Bazar, Pabna and Noakhali. (1st revised) | 27.08.2025 17:00 | 28.08.2025 15:00 |

This is an online tender only where e-Tenders 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md Kamrul Hassan
Executive Engineer
Noakhali PWD Division

GD-1679

TENDER NOTICE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces the launch of the following tender:

| TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER | ITEM DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------|---|
| BGD - UNHCR RFP 1472 | FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSORTED CONSTRUCTION WORKS, AND RELATED SERVICES FOR SEMI - PERMANENT STRUCTURES |

Interested and potential vendors are invited to participate in this Request for Proposal (RFP) by accessing and downloading the tender documents from **UNHCR Cloud ERP Supplier Portal**.

UNGM Notice Link: <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/272757>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Please confirm your participation for **BGD - UNHCR RFP 1472** by using the "Acknowledge Participation" functionality in Cloud ERP Supplier portal.

It is very important to subscribe (Acknowledge Participation) to an ongoing negotiation that you wish to participate in as this is the only way to receive automatic email notifications with information on any changes related to this negotiation.

Instruction to Bidders:

UNHCR will organize an online supplier pre-bid conference on 31/07/2025 at 11:00 am hrs BST via Microsoft teams. Bidders may also join the meeting through scanning the QR Code:

To register as a prospective supplier and submission of bids, please follow the guideline: <https://www.unhcr.org/media/guidelines-unhcr-suppliers-how-use-supplier-portal>

Existing suppliers use this link: <https://supplier-portal.unhcr.org/> to login with your email address and password. Do not create a new profile if you are already registered. If you have forgotten your password, click on Forgot Password link to reset your password.

Bid submission deadline: Tuesday, 18 August 2025 – 23:59 hrs BST Bangladesh time.

Kindly note that no hard copy is acceptable. The offer to be submitted only through Cloud ERP portal.



Scan above QR Code to join

Illegal dams spell misery for locals

Canal blocked, fields flooded, aman season at risk in Patuakhali Sadar

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

At least 18 illegal dams built by influential locals for fish farming along the three-kilometre-long Vaila Canal in Patuakhali Sadar upazila are causing severe waterlogging in the surrounding area, affecting around 1,500 acres of farmland and several hundred households.

The canal, which stretches from Sombaria Bazar to Akon Bari in Bhuria union and is about 100-120 metres wide, is connected to the Lohalia River at both ends -- one end with a sluice gate, while the other is dammed with earth, severely disrupting the natural flow of water.

Taking advantage of this obstruction, some locals have constructed at least 18 dams, turning large parts of the canal into fish enclosures. As a result, heavy rainfall over the past month has submerged nearby croplands and household yards, ruining seedbeds and casting doubt over the ongoing Aman season.

During a visit to Vaila village on Monday, this correspondent found vast stretches of farmland under nearly three feet of water. Many farmers said they had tried to prepare seedbeds two or three times, but the seeds rotted due to



stagnant water.

Bajlur Rahman Sikder, 55, who owns 10 acres of farmland, said, "I prepared seedbeds twice, but the seeds rotted. Due to the dams, water can't drain into canal."

Rokeya Begum, a homemaker, said the stagnant water is also affecting livestock. "The cattle have no place to graze, and our house is flooded too."

One of the fish farmers, Sobahan Howlader, who has built a dam in front of his house, admitted, "I've been farming fish here for four years. Others are doing the same. If they remove theirs, I will remove mine."

Another fish farmer, Solaiman Howlader, said the dam in front of his house also facilitates easier movement during the rainy season. When asked whether he had

permission to construct it, he said, "Many people have built dams. None of them took any permission."

Assistant Agriculture Officer Abdus Sattar said, "The 18 illegal dams in the canal are causing serious waterlogging over 1,500 acres. I've reported this to the higher authorities."

Contacted, Patuakhali Sadar UNO Ifrat Ara Jaman Urmi said, "No one has lodged an official complaint about so many illegal dams in that canal. I will look into it and take steps to remove the dams."

Ducsu polls

FROM PAGE 3

Hall union results will be declared at the respective counting centres, although the sealed ballot boxes will also be sent to the central office.

As per the electoral code of conduct, campaigning can begin only after the final voter list is published. From that date, candidates may campaign daily from 10:00am to 11:00pm, until 24 hours before election day.

Although Ducsu elections are meant to be held annually, the last election was held in 2019 after a 29-year hiatus. Prior to that, DU last held the polls in 1990. Jahangirnagar University held its last central union election in 1992, Rajshahi University in 1989, and Chittagong University in 1990.

The announcement follows months of debate over whether the polls should be held before or after the upcoming national election. Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Dal had demanded the vote be held after the national polls, while groups like Students Against Discrimination, Islami Chhatra Shibir, and several left-leaning student organisations had called for early elections.

Rajshahi University on Monday announced that its central union (Rucusu) election will be held on September 15. Jahangirnagar University earlier fixed September 11, revising an earlier date of July 31. Chittagong University has yet to announce its schedule.

No use for reforms

FROM PAGE 3

I think such reforms will be of no use," he said while addressing a programme titled "Children in Democratic March" at the Kamal Ataturk Park in Banani.

The event was jointly organised by Amra BNP

Poribar and Mayer Daak to honour the families of those who were forcibly disappeared or killed during the July uprising.

"I hope that our interim government, despite the delay, will prioritise their rehabilitation, considering the pain and suffering they have endured while searching for their fathers, relatives and brothers," he said.

"Though a commission of inquiry on enforced disappearances was formed, it has only submitted a report. I don't think they have made much progress in finding the missing people or uncovering the facts," he said.

"Many secured powerful positions, some became ministers, others top officials, and many established large businesses. But when it comes to our children, we have not been able to move forward in the same way."

He said the BNP expected the interim government to form a dedicated cell for the rehabilitation of victims' families, but no such step has been taken.

Fakhrul reaffirmed that if the BNP returns to power with a public mandate in the next national election, it would take all necessary measures to support the rehabilitation of these families.

PRAYER TIMING

JULY 30

Fazr Zohr Asr Magrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Dengue cases cross 20,000 mark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person died of dengue and 393 new patients were hospitalised across the country in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to the DGHS.

With this, the total number of dengue cases this year has risen to 20,316, while the death toll stands at 79.

So far, 18,951 patients have recovered from the disease, including 14,918

from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,286

dengue patients are receiving treatment at various hospitals nationwide, 936 of them outside the capital.

Health experts attribute the rising fatalities to severe complications, such as multi-organ failure, dengue shock syndrome, and delayed hospitalisation.

Public health expert Dr Mushtaq Hussain said decentralising the healthcare system is vital to reducing dengue related deaths. If patients can access early treatment, they are less likely to reach a critical stage, he said.

Mother and daughter found dead in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Cumilla*

A mother and her daughter were found dead at their rented home in Cumilla's Burichang upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Zaheda Akhter, 35, and her daughter Mishu Akhter, 14, said law enforcers.

Originally from Joynagar village in Feni's Chhaglaihna upazila, Zaheda, along with her husband Mir Hossain and daughter, had been living in a rented house in Rampur village, said police quoting family members. Citing family members and neighbours, Azizul Haque, officer-in-charge of Burichang Police Station, said Hossain, a mason by profession, had borrowed money from various sources in Feni.

However, he was unable to repay the loans.

"Finding no other options, Hossain, went into hiding with his family members. He eventually rented a house in Cumilla's Burichang upazila," the police official added.

He said the bodies have been sent to Cumilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The exact cause of death will be confirmed after the autopsy, added the OC.

Govt nominates

FROM PAGE 3

Another three were

members are Director General of Bangla Academy Mohammad Azam (nominated by Bangla Academy), Secretary of the University Grants Commission Md Fakhrul Islam (nominated by the UGC), and Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Bar Council Zainul Abedin (nominated by the Bar Council).

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)

প্রধান কার্যালয়

মতিবাল, ঢাকা-১০০০

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বারিষ্ঠ

Excuses do not drain water

Chattogram authorities must expedite projects to solve waterlogging woes

After decades of suffering from waterlogging during monsoon seasons, residents of Chattogram seem to have no one to blame but Mother Nature, or so claim the officials of two key government bodies responsible for making the city liveable. According to a *Prothom Alo* report, officials of the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) and the Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) have blamed the severity of 102 millimetres of rainfall over a 24-hour period—from noon on July 27 to noon on July 28—for the resultant waterlogging, which left parts of the city submerged in waist-deep water for hours.

As usual, the authorities' failure to promptly and properly implement waterlogging mitigation initiatives was conveniently brushed aside. The CDA, CCC, and Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) have together spent almost a decade and about Tk 10,000 crore to find solutions to the port city's waterlogging woes. Yet, with every bout of heavy rain, streets and homes are inundated, vehicles damaged, businesses disrupted, and traffic brought to a standstill. Sometimes, lives are lost as well, as open drains vanish under swollen water making them difficult to see or avoid. Still, no one accepts accountability.

In 2014, the CCC launched a project to address the crisis. Scheduled for completion in 2017, it remains unfinished 11 years later. Likewise, two separate projects by the CDA and BWDB—taken up in 2017 and slated for completion by 2020 and 2021—are still incomplete. Over the last eight years, numerous meetings have been held to speed up the work, but little has changed. After the interim government took over, relevant authorities were directed to complete 27 of the 39 necessary sluice gates by May 2025. So far, only 25 have been built. The authorities also failed to start pump-houses in waterlogging hotspots to drain out accumulated water and prevent hill cutting, which often clogs the canals. Despite this track record of delays and neglect, responsible agencies continue to absolve themselves by blaming natural causes, and sometimes each other.

It is high time public institutions in Bangladesh learnt to take responsibility for their failure to deliver on their mandates. Sporadic canal cleaning or declogging is not enough. If citizens are dumping waste indiscriminately, it is the city corporation's duty to raise awareness and, if necessary, enforce penalties. Most importantly, the relevant authorities must prevent unplanned urbanisation and the encroachment of low-lying lands. They also must stop using low-lying areas for development projects. At the same time, the approval of flawed megaprojects that worsen the problem must cease. Unless these core issues are addressed, Chattogram's waterlogging nightmare will remain unresolved.

BSF's border killings must be challenged

Time for Dhaka to draw a line on such provocative actions

We condemn the killing of at least 34 Bangladeshis by India's Border Security Force (BSF) during the first 11 months of the interim government's tenure. Data from Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) shows that the figure stood at 30 in 2024 and 31 in 2023. This suggests that, despite India's repeated promises to ensure zero border killings, it has done virtually nothing differently over the years. In fact, according to an earlier estimate by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), over the past 10 years, at least 305 Bangladeshis have been killed and 282 others injured along the Bangladesh-India border. This further illustrates how deadly the border has become, largely due to the repeated use of lethal force by BSF.

Most recently, on July 25, two Bangladeshi youths were killed and another injured by BSF firing on the Indian side opposite the Bashpaulia border point in Parshuram, Feni. Reportedly, the three victims had entered India, crossing the zero line marked by barbed wire fencing, and were shot by BSF personnel. Two of them managed to return to Bangladeshi territory, and local residents took them to the Feni General Hospital where one died in the morning. The other was taken by BSF personnel to Bilonia Hospital in India, where he also died.

While we do not condone any illegal crossing of the border, there is absolutely no justification for BSF's consistent use of lethal force at every possible opportunity. Looking at the data, since Hasina's ouster on August 5 last year, the BSF has killed at least one Bangladeshi every month, with the exception of November.

India has recently added to these hostile border actions by pushing around 2,000 people into Bangladesh—including even Indian nationals and Rohingyas—since May 7. And it has done so by bypassing all established legal channels and international obligations. Unfortunately, despite repeated protests by our government, India has continued its illegal push in campaign. Experts have described these push-ins as orchestrated human rights violations, flagrantly breaching bilateral protocols such as the 1975 Joint Guidelines and the 2011 Coordinated Border Management Plan.

Much like the Hasina government, the interim government has also failed to take a strong stance in the face of such provocative actions by India. It is, therefore, high time for our authorities to demonstrate greater boldness in raising these issues with New Delhi and to consider actively taking them up at regional and international forums.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



First FIFA World Cup final held

On this day in 1930, the first FIFA World Cup Final was held between Uruguay and Argentina. Uruguay beat Argentina 4-2 in the inaugural event.

EDITORIAL

AN EX-CHIEF JUSTICE ON THE DOCK

How Hasina broke the judiciary



Kamal Ahmed
is head of the Media Reform Commission in
Bangladesh and an independent journalist.
His X handle is @ahmedkal.

KAMAL AHMED

The image of a former chief justice, hands cuffed behind his back, clad in a bulletproof vest and helmet, being escorted to court is deeply unsettling. Yet it is no more disturbing than a chief justice fleeing his official residence in the wake of a popular uprising to seek refuge in a military garrison, or another one being forcibly evicted by plainclothes security agents and exiled from his own country. Alarmingly, Bangladesh has witnessed all of these in just the last eight years. It is a tragic chronicle of how the judiciary has been systematically dismantled by an all-too-powerful dictator—Sheikh Hasina.

The repeal of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished the provision for a non-partisan caretaker government to oversee elections, stands as a pivotal moment in this erosion. It enabled Sheikh Hasina to conduct three consecutive one-sided elections, tightening her grip on power. The Supreme Court had the jurisdiction to rule on the amendment, but the conduct of the then Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque was questionable. His decision to alter the open court's short order—reflected in the full verdict issued 16 months after his retirement—was viewed by many not only as judicial misconduct but even bordering on forgery or fraud.

Such conduct fell significantly short of the impartiality and integrity expected of the judiciary, seriously eroding public trust. Suspicions remain that the delay in issuing the full verdict was intentional, allowing Sheikh Hasina to pass legislation that bypassed the short order's provision and facilitated two more elections under the caretaker system. She seized this opportunity to abolish the caretaker provision, disregarding even the recommendations of a parliamentary committee.

More troubling were allegations that Justice Haque sought financial assistance from Prime Minister Hasina's discretionary relief fund for his wife's medical treatment while petitions against the executive were pending before his bench. At the very least, such action suggests a serious moral compromise.



The unease felt by some about ABM Khairul Haque's arrest stems from the fact that he has not been charged with any of the alleged judicial misconduct, but with a murder charge.

PHOTO: PROTHOM ALO

Critics also point to his appointments as chairman of the Law Commission, a post he held on a contractual basis long after retiring from the Supreme Court. The extensions continued until the end of Hasina's fall, despite Haque's own ruling in the 13th Amendment case that judges should not accept "offices of profit" after leaving the bench. In practice, he did just that—serving the very government his judicial actions had benefited.

Justice Haque did, however, fail to secure a judgeship at the International Criminal Court (ICC), despite being nominated for elections by the Hasina regime twice, in 2015 and 2020. His nominations were withdrawn amid strong opposition from human rights organisations and a lack of support from member states.

It still seems to be a preferred tactic, which we all thought would end with the fall of the dictatorship.

Those who have long blamed Justice Haque for enabling Sheikh Hasina to politicise—and ultimately weaponise—the judiciary, view his arrest with a sense of vindication. To them, he bears significant responsibility for a system that denied justice to countless opposition figures and, in many cases, actively persecuted them; therefore, he should be treated as such.

Yet it raises a critical question: why wasn't he arrested in either of the two cases related to his 13th Amendment verdict—one alleging forgery for deviating from the short order, and another for sedition filed in Narayanganj? Some legal experts suggest that the answer lies in judicial immunity, which shields judges for the

would have made Supreme Court judges accountable to parliament), described in his own words how he was harassed by officials of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) within court premises and eventually forced into exile. His experience, too, serves as a chilling reminder that the subjugation of the judiciary in Bangladesh is not unprecedented. Sinha was arguably the first and only chief justice to be publicly humiliated by the executive while still in office.

Restoring public faith in the judiciary is now more urgent than ever. What Bangladesh needs is a justice system that is truly independent of the executive, operating with transparency, integrity, and fairness; one in which no judge is subjected to disgraceful prosecution, nor forced to flee their homeland.

Let's not stall the implementation of CHT Accord any longer

Milinda Marma
is an indigenous writer and
activist. He can be reached at
milinda.marma@gmail.com.

MILINDA MARMA

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord was signed with a promise to move forward. The conflict in the CHT region was never just about land or ethnicity—it was always political. In the early stages, under the leadership of the Parbatya Chittagong Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), the movement was characterised by non-violent tactics. However, when every democratic path was blocked, an armed struggle emerged. Still, the doors for dialogue never closed.

After 26 formal rounds of negotiation—six with the Ershad government, 13 with Khleda Zia's BNP, and seven with Sheikh Hasina's Awami League—the CHT accord was signed on December 2, 1997.

It was a landmark moment. Guns were laid down. Hope returned to the hills. The accord promised recognition of the CHT as a unique indigenous region, devolution of authority to local councils, withdrawal of military oversight, return of dispossessed land through a functional land commission, and so on.

More than 27 years on, implementation of the accord is fraught with half-truths and selective memory.

The former Awami League government had its own perspective on the situation. It proudly asserted that 65 out of 72 sections of the CHT Accord had been "fully implemented" and three others partially completed, while implementation of the

remaining sections were merely a matter of time. However, the PCJSS, one of the signatories to the accord, says only 25 sections can genuinely be considered implemented, and 29 sections have not only been ignored but also actively violated. Eighteen sections have been partially implemented. The gap between what is documented by the former government and the reality on the ground is not just a political issue, it has become a matter of trust. For the people in the CHT, that trust has significantly eroded.

According to the accord, several key responsibilities were to be transferred to the hill district councils. Some of these responsibilities included oversight of law and order, land administration, local policing, forest and environmental management, and development of communication infrastructure. Although this transfer was officially labelled as "fully implemented" by the former government, in practice they remain largely unfulfilled. Hill district councils are often sidelined, underfunded, and politically hijacked.

The land commission, established to resolve long-standing land disputes between indigenous communities and Bangalees living there, has become a shadow of its former mandate. Of the 26,000 land-related applications submitted, not one has been resolved. The commission exists without adequate staffing, resources, or political will. A planned meeting of the commission in 2022 was cancelled under pressure from Bangalee groups.

Even the committee meant to monitor the accord's implementation has no office, no staff, and no budget. The long detour
The Awami League, who signed

the accord when in power, was in government for more than a decade and a half. And yet, they failed to implement its core promises. In many ways, their legacy is one of stalling, sidestepping, and selectively interpreting provisions to maintain control while appearing compliant.

From 2014 onwards, the stagnation became more pronounced. Government reports touted numerical success, but the situation on the ground told a different story. The institutions established under the accord have increasingly become vehicles for political appointments rather than vehicles of change. The accord, which could have served as a blueprint for pluralism, decentralisation, inclusion and justice, has instead become a case study of how good intentions can decay when promises are left to languish in bureaucratic dead ends.

A new chance?

Now, Bangladesh stands at another political juncture. Following unprecedented student-led protests and civic unrest in July-August last year that saw the fall of the former government, an interim administration led by Prof Muhammad Yunus is currently in power. This moment offers a chance to correct the course—to honour the 1997 agreement in policy and practice.

The government has reconstituted a three-member Implementation and Monitoring Committee to oversee the long-stalled implementation of the CHT Accord. The committee is led by Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain as convener, with PCJSS President Santu Larma and Tribal Refugee Affairs Taskforce chair Sudatta Chakma as members. Formed on January

12, the committee has been tasked with supervising implementation activities, coordinating relevant government bodies, addressing unresolved issues, and making policy recommendations. It will also oversee the repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees and internally displaced persons.

The CHT affairs ministry will provide all logistical and secretarial support, and the committee may form sub-committees as needed to ensure smooth execution of the accord's provisions. However, a clear, time-bound roadmap is required to address the unfulfilled provisions.

The implementation of the accord is not about goodwill. It is about obligation. The accord is a contract, not a concession.

During a recent discussion in Dhaka organised by the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum, indigenous leaders and civil society groups called on the interim government to immediately initiate a dialogue with the PCJSS and other stakeholders to implement the long-stalled CHT Accord. They stressed the urgent need to activate the Land Dispute Resolution Commission, reform flawed legal frameworks, and ensure the democratic functioning of institutions established under the accord. Frustration over inaction and political neglect was evident, with participants demanding a clear roadmap to restore peace and justice in the hills.

The CHT Accord began with hope, only to find itself rerouted and restrained. But the people of the CHT haven't forgotten. The accord lives on—in dusty files, in the youth born after 1997, in the collective memory of a region that still waits. There's still time to get on the right track, but the window is narrow.

'The July uprising was about truth and justice'

In July-August 2024, a student-led mass uprising swept across Bangladesh, culminating in the fall of an autocratic regime spanning more than 15 years. A year on, three of the female protesters who took part in the movement on the streets—**Nasita Binte Nasir, Lamisha Jaman, and Kameliya Sharmin Chura**—share first-hand accounts of resistance and survival with **Mahiya Tabassum** of The Daily Star.

'The bullet passed right by me'

Initially, I was hesitant to join the movement. On July 16, I tried to take part in a demonstration organised by a political party, but their behaviour was intimidating and made me feel unsafe. But things changed the next day. I spoke with a group of student protesters, independent from any platform, who made me feel reassured. With their encouragement, I joined a rally in Uttara in the morning.

On July 18, private university students from all over Dhaka decided to mobilise together, coordinating through social media. A few of my friends came to my place early in the morning, and around 9am or 10am, we headed out. Violent clashes were already being reported, but I still couldn't believe that state forces would open fire on unarmed student protesters.

We, the former students of Rajuk Uttara Model College, joined the protest rally in front of the establishment. As clashes intensified and more students were injured, we—especially the female protesters—took on the role of medics. We tried to get supplies from the nearby Lazz Pharma, but they refused to sell us anything. When the violence escalated further, they shut down completely.

Police officers began firing rubber bullets into the crowd. There were armoured personnel carriers around

us. Then, out of nowhere, a military tank rolled into view, sweeping through the road and firing indiscriminately. It was the first time I had ever seen a tank up close. The sheer violence of it—the disregard for human life—shocked me to my core.

In that chaos, a bullet flew right past me and struck a young woman just a few metres behind. I had spoken to her only moments earlier. Other protesters quickly carried her to a hospital. She survived, but was seriously injured. Another protester wasn't as lucky. A police bullet hit him in the eye. He didn't survive.

Everything happened so fast. When the military tank entered the scene, panic took over. We began running in every direction, trying to find safety. But even that was difficult. Many of us sought shelter at nearby buildings, only to find locked gates and terrified residents unwilling to help. Most buildings had shut their doors to keep us out. We were left exposed while a military tank roamed the street to "clear" the area.

At one point, a building guard handed us a few sticks to defend ourselves, though we knew they were almost useless. Still, we took them. We focused our energy towards helping the wounded, continuing to collect supplies and administering basic first aid to anyone who needed it.



Nasita Binte Nasir (left), a former Rajuk Uttara Model College student, in a rally in Uttara protesting the killing of students during the July uprising in 2024. Later, this photo went viral.

SOURCE: PROTHOM ALO

After that day, every Rajuk student I knew was mobilised. We kept returning to the streets, day after day, organising more rallies.

Then came the photo. Someone took a picture of me mid-slogan, standing in the pouring rain, and it went viral. Overnight, I

started receiving death threats. My inbox was filled with messages from strangers. Some people tracked me down on social media, sending vile

'I felt the horror in my bones'

On July 15 last year, a photo of two students carrying another injured protester on the Dhaka University campus went viral. That was the day members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the then ruling party, attacked students protesting at DU. I was on my way to the airport to see off a relative, but as news of the attacks started pouring in, we made a split-second decision to turn around and head to DU.

I didn't get caught in any clashes that day, but it was the first time I witnessed the reality on the ground. The tension in the air, the fear, the resistance—it all felt raw and urgent. By July 16, I was fully immersed in the protests, chanting slogans alongside fellow students. I vividly remember shouting, "Chhi chhi Hasina, lojjay bachi na," when a few of the rally organisers—some of whom are now at the forefront of National Citizen Party (NCP)—asked me not to raise such slogans. They claimed this protest was about quota reform, not against any particular regime or leader.

On July 18, school and college students in the Farmgate area came out on the streets, having coordinated with me the previous night. Initially, we were gathering in groups of three-four so as not to draw any attention. But soon, we felt safe enough to move in a large group. So around 400-500 students, all in uniforms, united in Farmgate and started a protest rally, moving towards Asad Gate via Manik Mia Avenue.

On Manik Mia Avenue, police opened fire on us. Students were breaking branches off from the nearby trees to defend themselves. Then we negotiated with the police that they would let us lead the rally towards Mirpur Road. By the time we got on Mirpur Road, a huge group of BCL activists rushed to the spot from Lalmoni, carrying sharp weapons, chasing the uniform-wearing students.

Police also started firing blank shots, as well as tear shells and sound grenades. The students dispersed and started running in different directions. That day, I faced the largest number of tear shells among all the days of July uprising. We started applying toothpaste all over our faces and tried to take shelter in the nearby buildings.



Lamisha Jaman, a Jahangirnagar University student, carries spatula and brick to defend herself against the law enforcers and BCL on Dhaka University campus during July protests in 2024.

At Dhanmondi Road 27, I saw some students of Holy Cross College in front of a building beside Raja Plaza, pleading with the people inside to open the gate and let them in. But no one inside agreed to give them shelter, saying they would get in trouble. A few of the students fell heavily sick due to the tear shells and were having breathing difficulties.

Then someone from upstairs called us and we noticed an emergency exit. We went upstairs via that and saw that a beauty parlour was giving shelter to a large number of people, crammed into a small room. There were women, senior citizens, children crying and praying.

Then I got calls and learnt that

We decided to keep calm and plan for an escape. We started calling media houses because we were under the impression that if the incident got coverage, we would be spared. I called my elder sister—she was already in another protest. She just said, "Calling you in a minute, I am running." Then I heard a gunshot and the call dropped. I started screaming and crying and that was the first time I felt the horror in my bones. Every second felt like hours, filled with pain and horror till I could confirm that she was alright.

We kept reaching out for help, but no one came. We were advised to leave in a large group, but none of us felt safe doing so. The clashes continued for nearly six hours. We called the Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi police stations, but they said they couldn't help us either—the situation was spiralling out of control.

Eventually, teachers from the DRMC and an official from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School came to rescue their students. A DU faculty member also came. We begged them to take other students too, regardless of which school they belonged to. Surprisingly, no teacher or official from Holy Cross came, even after they were informed about their students' situation.

To prepare for the escape, we split into groups. Staff from a nearby business donated spare clothes, allowing many students to change out of their uniforms into civilian clothes so they wouldn't get targeted or arrested.

By around 4:30pm, the last student was escorted out of that room. Then I, along with a few close friends, stepped outside.

What we saw was devastating: tyres burning, streets littered with abandoned sandals, pools of blood, chunks of flesh. It looked like a war zone.

Walking away from that scene felt like stepping into a second life—an escape from death, a breath stolen back from chaos. And though our bodies were exhausted and our spirits shaken, we knew this was not the end. The fight was only just beginning.

Lamisha Jaman
Undergraduate student,
Jahangirnagar University

'I couldn't stay away from the protests'

Although I had the privilege of using the quota system, I was active during the 2018 quota reform movement because I didn't want any discrimination. But the protest in 2018 was only about quota; it didn't address the broader discrimination faced by marginalised communities. When the quota reform protests resurfaced in 2024, I wasn't part of it initially.

But everything changed on July 15. A protest rally of students had reached the VC bungalow in Jahangirnagar University (JU) when police, along with a group of BCL activists carrying weapons, attacked the students. The clash between protesters and the police BCL members turned violent, and students took shelter in the VC bungalow. There was a blackout throughout the campus and our students got cornered with no safe escape route.

I couldn't just watch. I had to step out and join the protest, even as the police charged at us.

That night, as police and BCL activists attacked us, I saw a Facebook live broadcast from the VC Bungalow showing our trapped students. After watching that, I knew I had to act. I took the bell from my resident hall—the one we use for emergencies and warnings—and walked through the balconies of Pritilata hall.

I hammered that bell with everything I had and called everyone to gather, to step out and rescue our students. The sound echoed across the dormitory, and something extraordinary happened. A huge group of female students poured out of the hall and marched with me towards the VC bungalow to rescue the trapped protesters.

That became one of the most significant moments of the July protests on the JU campus. Without those female students that night, it would have been impossible to face the clashes head-on.

There are so many incidents from July-August 2024 that I can never erase from my memory. The images are burnt in my mind, instances where I had to jump over a dead body just to take shelter from the violent clashes raging around us on August 5. I saw so many corpses, so much blood. The trauma hasn't left me.

During the uprising, several of our teachers—who have since fled the country—called us, especially targeting female students like me. They threatened to inform our parents and suspend us from the university if we continued participating in the protests. But those intimidation tactics were nothing compared to the challenges we face in today's Bangladesh.

The bitter truth about our current situation is this: we toppled the fascist regime, but we couldn't bring it to justice. We fought against discrimination, but in today's Bangladesh, we're witnessing discrimination everywhere we look. The corruption, the extortion—it's all happening openly now. The very cause we bled for, we couldn't achieve it.

In this "noya bondobosto," discrimination has simply been repackaged, following the same rotten patterns we thought we had destroyed. I have never felt this unsafe before, both as a woman and as someone who is an artiste. The rise of ultraconservatism has put people like us at risk.

The revolution we fought for feels incomplete, hollow even. We paid in blood for change, but what we got was just a reshuffling of the same oppressive deck.

Kameliya Sharmin Chura
Undergraduate student, Jahangirnagar University

Famine now playing

FROM PAGE 12

The main UN aid agencies yesterday called for Gaza to be flooded with humanitarian assistance, warning that "time is running out" and that the Palestinian territory is "on the brink of a full scale famine."

Israel's foreign minister yesterday rejected what he called a "distorted campaign" of international pressure for a ceasefire in the Gaza offensive and recognition of a Palestinian state.

Gideon Saar told reporters that if Israel was to halt the conflict while Hamas is still in power in Gaza and still holding hostages it would be a "tragedy for both Israelis and Palestinians". "It ain't gonna happen, no matter how much pressure is put on Israel," he said.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was set to hold an emergency cabinet yesterday to discuss the situation in Gaza and a proposed peace plan as he comes under mounting pressure from his own party to recognise a Palestinian state.

Starmer has taken the rare step of recalling his cabinet during the summer holidays to discuss how to deliver more humanitarian aid to Gaza.

July Charter

FROM PAGE 12

"We must respect the law, but we will never accept this kind of incident."

"Islam does not permit violence against any community. Our religion says the father is not guilty of the son's crime, nor is the son guilty of the father's. The Prophet always ensured the safety of other religions."

Nahid said the people behind this attack did not have religious intentions. "Their intention is political, their intention is communal, and their intention is to loot. And this politics was started by the Awami League."

He demanded justice for both the attack on Hindu homes and the insult to the Prophet.

The NCP convener also called for the recognition of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani.

Retributive justice

FROM PAGE 1

Awami League regime during last year's mass uprising.

Türk began by saying he honours the memory of those killed and the thousands more who suffered life-changing injuries. "These protests by the people were a powerful expression of a determination to move away from the spiralling inequalities and human rights violations of the past towards a more just and inclusive society."

The UN Fact-Finding Mission found that the former government and its security and intelligence services engaged in a coordinated strategy to hold on to power at all costs, and it made a detailed series of recommendations to ensure accountability and justice, which are essential in themselves and vital to national healing."

He welcomed efforts by the interim government to move those recommendations forward and said today was an important moment of reflection on how that could be achieved.

Türk said there needs to be accountability for these human rights violations and crimes, and that accountability needs to be in line with fair trial guarantees rooted in international human rights law. "It must not repeat past cycles of retributive justice, including the use of the death penalty."

A comprehensive approach to transitional justice is needed, he said, including truth seeking and reparations for past abuses. "This begins with a national dialogue involving victims, families, and ordinary citizens."

He stressed that Bangladesh needs legal and institutional reforms, including in the security sector, so that "this can never happen again".

The repressive laws and institutions that enabled these violations must either be dismantled or completely overhauled. Today, as we remember the protesters who paid the ultimate price for their dream of a different future for the country, it is a moment to recommit to fundamental change."

The UN rights chief assured that his office is fully prepared and ready to support the government and the people of Bangladesh to achieve that vision.

Earlier this month, the UN Human Rights Office opened a mission in Gulshan.

At the event, rights activist Barrister Sara Hossain highlighted some positive developments since the interim government took office.

These include the formation of a commission to investigate enforced disappearances, probes into past harassment cases, and a more open environment for public discourse.

However, she also noted that while constitutional reform is widely discussed, there's less focus on police and judiciary reforms.

The Supreme Court lawyer expressed concern about the present state of the judiciary, finding it unchanged from the previous regime.

"We see people aren't getting bail in time. We are seeing that anyone can file any case, and those are being accepted."

She agreed that one could be sued for crimes against humanity, but she questioned how one could face a case for flattering ruling party leaders.

She also questioned why there is no adequate women's representation in the reform commission. "We need transitional justice, but we should do it in a way that is not discriminatory."

Arakan Army oppressing

FROM PAGE 12

refugees who had fled to Bangladesh from Buthidaung township in northern Rakhine State for the report.

A Rohingya man, also 62, said he was displaced with his wife and two children five times over the past year.

"Life during this time has been

incredibly difficult. Travel between villages was restricted, requiring permits that were rarely given."

The Arakan Army also imposed a curfew.

"If they found anyone outside their

homes, they would arrest them. And their whereabouts would become unknown," he added.

The Arakan Army restrictions on

livelihoods and agriculture, compounded by extortion and exorbitant prices, have exacerbated the severe food shortages and the junta's blockade on aid, which has been in place since late 2023.

Some Rohingya said they survived by begging from families who received money from relatives abroad, while the others worked as day laborers for little to no pay.

Bangladesh, according to the report.

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The Arakan Army had confiscated

farmland, houses, cattle, fishing hauls, firewood and even cemeteries.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and other Rohingya armed groups -- after fighting alongside the Myanmar military in 2024 -- are again deploying fighters in clashes against the Arakan Army in northern Rakhine State.

The fighting as well as the Arakan Army's forcible recruitment of Rohingya villagers have inflamed communal tensions between the largely Muslim Rohingya and Buddhist Rakhine.

"Donors and influential governments need to do much more to protect the Rohingya people, including their right to safety and freedom, whether in Myanmar or Bangladesh," Pearson said.

They should also press the Arakan Army to respect the rights of all communities in Rakhine State, she added.

on foreign trips at least 53 months before retirement, even though I had around 10 opportunities during that time. We learned such values from our predecessors. That's why I used to encourage junior officials to go abroad instead, so that they could serve the country for a long time by using that experience."

Awal, however, said Mohiuddin should not be held solely responsible. "For a secretary to go on an official foreign trip, the approval of the head of government is required. So, the question is: why didn't the responsible officials at the Chief Adviser's Office catch this?"

However, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin S Murshid defended the secretary's foreign trip. Speaking to The Daily Star last night, she said that a relevant project has made progress through the secretary's involvement. "Which is why he was sent."

When reminded about the directive from the Chief Adviser's Office, the adviser said, "The secretary was sent considering the project's needs. It's not something that should be seen that way."

Former secretary and writer AKM Abdul Awal Mazumder echoed this view. "During my tenure as secretary, I voluntarily stopped going

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Beijing open to trilateral

FROM PAGE 3
Imran Ahmed Siddiqui held a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of an exposition in Kunming.

Following the meeting, China also briefed diplomats from all South Asian countries about the achievements and the purpose of the trilateral discussions. There were no concerns expressed by any of these countries, Yao said.

Over the last year, China arranged tours for many political parties, including the BNP and Jamaat.

Asked about such engagements, he said China's interactions with the parties in the past decade were hindered. He, however, did not give reasons.

"We have a tradition of friendly exchanges with all major political parties. Recently, we have received high-level delegations from the BNP, and both sides expressed a strong desire to renew cooperation."

Asked about the polls, Yao said they hope to see a smooth, peaceful and broadly accepted election. However, it is for the Bangladeshi people and political parties to decide when the election will be held, he said.

On the US tariff, Yao said it is impossible for Bangladesh to decouple from China, especially in the textile and garment sector.

In the current context, there is a general perception that

Bangladesh needs to diversify its exports and enhance its economic competitiveness. China can help Bangladesh uplift its competitiveness and build industrial capacity, enabling Bangladesh to establish a stronger competitive edge."

On the crash of the Chinese-made F-7 aircraft in Dhaka, he said a technical expert team from China is expected to arrive in Dhaka soon in response to a request from Bangladesh.

China wants a comprehensive and impartial investigation, Yao said.

DCAB President AKM Moinuddin and General Secretary Arifuzzaman Mamun also spoke.

FROM PAGE 3
The researchers also conducted in-depth interviews with 37 individuals, including carers and caregivers, and reviewed 49 policy documents.

According to the study, 157 participants (around 38 percent) had ever been enrolled in school at any point in their lifetime, with most reaching only the preschool or primary levels.

Of those, around 61 percent were male. Most of them (69 percent) attended mainstream schools that didn't have specialised support.

Around 20 percent went to special schools, while only 8.71 percent reported having access to a special educational plan at their schools, shows the study.

Among the 278 participants aged 18 and above, only 16.48 percent had reported engaging in any kind of work during their lifetime.

Of those employed, 88.71 percent were male and 11.29 percent female. The most common occupation was day labour (41 percent).

About 33 percent of participants reported having coexisting health conditions, the most common being gastrointestinal issues, followed by epilepsy and asthma.

Among them, a total of 73 participants had sought healthcare services they raised concerns about the quality of care, citing short consultation times and negative attitudes from healthcare providers.

The survey also found that only 11 percent of participants used assistive devices such as spectacles, hearing aids, walking sticks, wheelchairs, and prosthetics.

The study made several sector-wise recommendations, including the need to make healthcare, education, and training infrastructure more accessible for persons with disabilities.

It also called for a comprehensive rights-based approach involving stronger policy enforcement, cross-sector collaboration, and community engagement.

Speaking at the event, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin Murshid stressed the need to expand the resource pool, citing a severe lack of skilled manpower in the sector.

She also called for stronger collaboration among organisations working with people with disabilities.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of CAMPE; Prof Mushtaque Chowdhury, senior adviser to James P Grant School; and Mahmud Hasan, chief executive of Apasen UK and Apasen International, also spoke at the programme, among others.

Several persons with neurological disabilities also shared their experiences at the programme, which was moderated by Bulbul Hasan, head of communication and policy at Apasen UK and Apasen International.

Trafficked, tortured

FROM PAGE 3
from BRAC, they returned to Bangladesh on July 9 — alive, but empty-handed.

"We've lost everything — our land, our savings. All that remains is debt. I want justice and compensation," Tanjir demanded.

The local broker, Rafizul, was arrested and is now in jail.

Tanjir's story is alarmingly common.

Md Alamgir Hossain, 45, from Noakhali, was also trafficked to Libya in 2022. After two years, a militia group abducted him and sold him to a Bangladeshi mafia group.

His family had already paid Tk 3.5 lakh to send him abroad. But to save his life, they were forced to borrow an additional Tk 5.5 lakh to meet the ransom demand.

Alamgir finally returned home in February this year with support from the IOM, the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya, and BRAC.

His brother filed a case in January this year seeking punishment for the traffickers and compensation. Two local brokers were arrested, but they are currently out on bail.

There are many more such stories.

According to the Monitoring Cell for Combating Trafficking in Human, Police Headquarters, 10,917 human trafficking cases were filed between 2009 and January 2025.

Of these, 5,450 cases are still pending, while 5,467 have been resolved — a number migration experts call alarmingly low.

In this period, a total of 7,517 cases were registered involving 13,424 trafficking

victims. 10,579 victims were rescued, and 14,583 traffickers were arrested — though most are now out on bail. Only 247 cases have resulted in conviction.

In 2023 alone, 1,589 new cases were registered. The same number was filed in 2024. Despite that, only 109 cases were disposed of, and just 345 individuals were convicted.

In January 2025, another 93 cases were filed.

Shariful Hasan, associate director of BRAC's Migration and Youth Platform, warned that the trafficking landscape has shifted significantly over the last decade.

"Bangladesh has ranked number one for the past three years among countries whose citizens try to enter Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea," he said.

Trafficking is happening in the name of migration. While cases are being filed, they're not being resolved because the relevant government agencies are not treating them as a priority."

He said the lack of teamwork among ministries and law enforcement agencies is one of the main reasons behind the slow progress.

"If this continues, our future migration prospects will collapse. Destination countries will stop hiring Bangladeshi workers, which will severely impact our economy," he warned.

Kuet remained closed for 160 consecutive days — from February 18 to July 28 — with all academic activities suspended.

On July 24, the government appointed Helali, a retired Buet professor from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, as Kuet's new VC.

districts don't have one, which delays proceedings," she explained.

"Additionally, many victims and witnesses don't feel safe testifying due to fear of retaliation. That's another major reason for the slow pace of justice."

She urged the government to establish more tribunals, ensure effective witness protection, and improve coordination between agencies to expedite justice.

Classes

FROM PAGE 4
newly appointed Vice Chancellor Professor Md Maksud Helali officially instructed the resumption of academic activities and issued a formal notice.

Rahatul Islam, a civil engineering student, said, "We just want to return to our studies. All we hope for is a stable academic environment."

On February 18, clashes broke out on the campus centring the demand to ban student politics on the campus.

Following the unrest, both the VC and pro-VC were removed from office. On May 1, Cuet Professor Dr Hazrat Ali was appointed as interim VC, but he resigned on May 22 amid opposition from the teachers.

Kuet remained closed for 160 consecutive days — from February 18 to July 28 — with all academic activities suspended.

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Handa to invest \$250m

FROM PAGE 3
Investment Development Authority), BEZA (Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority) and BEPZA (Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority)," said Han Chun.

BIDA, BEZA and BEPZA officials said this is one of the largest single Chinese investments in Bangladesh's textile sector.

The chief adviser welcomed the investment plan of Handa Industries Ltd. "You take the leadership in Chinese investment in Bangladesh's textile sector and encourage other Chinese investors to come here," he said.

Han Chun also presented the chief adviser with a design of their factory that they are going to set up in the

Mirsarai economic zone. The land lease agreement for the garment factory in Mirsarai will be signed on Wednesday, with an investment value of 80 million USD in phase-1.

The finalisation of land and other facilities for phase-2 is in process now and is expected to be finished by the end of 2025.

Meanwhile, 60,87,739 new voters have been added and over 20 lakh deceased voters have been removed from the list, according to the EC's report on its NID wing.

On January 20, the EC began the process of updating the voter list by collecting information through door-to-door visits.

Ref No. 46.207.014.09.23.2025.104

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer
Zone-03 (Azimpur), Dhaka
Phone: 02-41061381
E-mail: dsczone3@gmail.com

Date: 29/07/2025

e-Tenders are invited through e-GP Portal by Executive Engineer, Zone-3 (Azimpur), Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following packages which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from 29/07/2025, 22:00.

| S.L No. | Tender ID & Package No. | Name of work | Last selling date and time | Tender closing date & time |
|---------|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. | Tender ID: 1135349 WI/Z3/2025-26/shptomvo | Construction of anti-aggression eight pillars at Palashi Roundabout in memory of Shaheed Abrar Fahad and development works of Palashi Intersection. | 13-Aug-2025 14:00 | 13-Aug-2025 15:00 |
| 3. | Tender ID: 1130713 W13/Z3/2024-25/W-55 | Development work of road including drain at Mahadinagar Road No. 01 & 02 in Kalunagar area at Ward No. 55 under Zone-3 of DSCC. | 20-Aug-2025 14:00 | 20-Aug-2025 15:00 |

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

তিএসসি/পিআরডি/২৪/২০২৫-২০২৬

GD-1681

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.200

Date: 29/07/2025

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Brief Description of Tender | Publication Date | Last Selling Date & Time | Opening Date |
|---------|-----------|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1132912 | Procurement of heavy chemicals (H ₂ SO ₄) through framework contract | 24-Jul-2025 | 13-Aug-2025 12:00 PM | 14-Aug-2025 |
| 2 | 1134235 | Spare parts for GT natural gas Vent Valves, Blow-off valves and others | 29-Jul-2025 | 01-Sep-2025 10:00 AM | 01-Sep-2025 |

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) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1677

29/07/2025

Engr. Md. Abu Zafar Siddique
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-1682

“গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।”
“বিদ্যুৎ ও জলানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অ্যাধিকারী”

বাংলাদেশ গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)

Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd.
(A Company of Petrobangla)

INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NOTICE

1. Ministry/Division
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division

2. Agency
Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFLC), A Company of Petrobangla

3. Procuring Entity
Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFLC)

4. Procuring Entity Code

5. Procuring Entity District
Brahmanbaria

6. Invitation Reference No.
Tender Ref. No. BGFLC/GOODS(FP)/229(R1) Dated July 29, 2025

7. Invitation for
Procurement of Masonelian Liquid Level Controller and its spare parts.

8. Procurement Method
Single stage two-envelope open tendering (International Competitive tendering)

9. Budget & Source of Fund
Own Fund of BGFLC

10. Tender Publication Date
July 30, 2025

11. Tender Selling Date & Time
a) Tender documents will be available between 09.00 hrs & 14.00 hrs (BST) on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from July 31, 2025 to August 27, 2025. No extension in closing date for selling of tender documents will be allowed.
b) Place:
BGFLC's Liaison office at Petrocentre (14th Floor), 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka.
c) Price of Tender Document:
Tender documents will be sold on payment of USD 15.00 or BDT. 1,800.00 (Non-refundable)

12. Tender Closing Date & Time
a) Date & time:
August 28, 2025 up to 11:00 hrs (BST).
b) Place:
BGFLC Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400.

13. Tender Opening Date & Time
a) Date & time:
August 28, 2025 at 11:15 hrs (BST) in presence of the Tenderer's representatives, if any.
b) Place:
BGFLC Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria – 3400.

14. Date, Time & Place for Pre- Tender meeting
Not Applicable

15. Eligibility of Tenderer
Reputed firms, manufacturers and suppliers from all countries except Israel with the following international experience :<br

Digitising Borders

Electronic Trade Facilitation Act



LAW VISION

Why Bangladesh urgently needs an Electronic Trade Facilitation Act

An Electronic Trade Facilitation Act will be a lot more than just a change in rules for Bangladeshi traders, it will completely improve how trade works. By replacing queues and paperwork with a single digital platform, the Act will usher in transparency, speed, sustainable growth, and thereby ensure competitiveness as the country graduates from its LDC status.

FUAD M KHALID HOSSEN

Bangladesh's trade has doubled in a decade, yet border trade formalities remain manual, redundant, and outdated. While peers digitise, Bangladesh risks falling behind without urgent reform. An Electronic Trade Facilitation Act (ETFA) would legally compel every border agency to adopt online systems, embed transparency, curb corruption, and align procedures with international standards.

Currently, an array of regulatory agencies, customs, port authorities etc. oversee parts of border trade formalities. With ministry-specific paperwork, fees, and data formats, consignments ping pong between checkpoints, causing delays and undercutting exporters already racing to meet global deadlines. Hundreds of scattered Acts, ordinances, and rules underpin this maze, of which many are archaic and internally disconnected. Overarching legal and quasi-legal instruments like the Customs Act, 2023 and Import Policy Order cover only fragments of trade and ignore data-sharing, e-payments and risk-based clearances.

The urgency to enact an ETFA is growing because Bangladesh is set to graduate from its Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026. In addition, the country must meet its WTO TFA Category C commitments between 2025 and 2030. Bangladesh may fast-track passing the ETFA to take advantage of the remaining grace period and prove its competence to meet high international standards as soon as it graduates from LDC.

The use of risk-management (RM) tools is an important element of trade facilitation. A study by the USDA BTF Project titled "Quantifying the Benefits of Risk-Based Clearance," shows

that introducing RM tools could reduce customs release times by 40-81%. Yet reforms are stalled because the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) can only request, not require, agencies to digitise. Similarly, the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) issues non-binding advice, so its decisions on second testing and RM remain largely unimplemented. Likewise, the Bangladesh Single Window (BSW), envisioned to link 19 border agencies, keeps missing rollout deadlines because no statute obliges participation as such. The ETFA can fix these gaps by granting the NTFC statutory authority, empowering the MoC to enforce deadlines, and compelling every regulator to join and use the BSW.

In effect, the ETFA will reboot Bangladesh's trade regime with an "electronic by design" mandate. As an umbrella law, it will merge the scattered facilitation measures, obliging all the border agencies to operate on interoperable platforms like the Bangladesh Single Window. Every permit, certificate, payment, and inspection must flow online which eradicates paper trails and reduces delays and grafts. Standardised risk-based rules deliver quick clearance, especially for perishables, through pre-arrival data, post-clearance audits and formal inter-agency groups that unblock bottlenecks. The prospective Act will override the conflicting statutes and clarify the grey areas. It will also oblige the MoC to publish an annual, agency-level Trade Facilitation Review to keep reforms on track. By cross-linking existing Advance Rulings and Authorised Economic Operator provisions in the Customs Act, 2023, ETFA can knit every process into a trusted digital highway for trade.

Moreover, the ETFA will provide institutional strength and transparency by

upgrading the NTFC to a statutory body with an adequately staffed secretariat and budget and thereby enable it to give binding decisions. It will also mandate prompt WTO notification of any new or amended trade rules, keeping businesses and partners fully informed and ensuring predictable, trustworthy trade.

Bangladesh can fast-track reform by mirroring proven innovations of global pioneers. The US Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (2015) mandated agency automation and risk-based inspections. South Korea's Electronic Trade Facilitation Act (2005) created a fully digital single window. Countries such as Mauritius, Nigeria and Zambia followed the suit. Each model rests on an umbrella statute, compulsory digitisation, shared data platforms, and binding accountability pillars that reduces time and cost to trade and keep the country competitive in business.

To conclude, the ETFA will be a lot more than just a change in rules for Bangladeshi traders, it will completely improve how trade works. ETFA automates filings and e-payments, ending office visits, cash fees, and paper forms. Data-driven "Green Lanes" then speed trusted traders' cargo avoiding demurrage and sharpening supply-chain planning. A public portal, tariffs, rules, service timelines, and a live release-tracking dashboard, cuts information costs and lets businesses challenge delays. By replacing queues and paperwork with a single digital platform, the Act will usher in transparency, speed, sustainable growth, and thereby ensure competitiveness as the country graduates from its LDC status.

The writer is a Trade Facilitation and Policy Reform Specialist.

LAW LETTER

The silent crisis of tort law in Bangladesh

ALPH IMRAN CHOWDHURY

Although tort law has great potential to ensure accountability and remedy for quotidian civil wrongs, it is largely disregarded and neglected in Bangladesh. The result of such neglect has slowly yet surely become a crisis, siphoning the rule of law and restricting the access to justice for the masses. Thousands of incidents such as road accidents, unsafe workplace conditions, environmental pollution, and institutional negligence remain without civil remedies. Victims are either unaware of their right to compensation or face difficult legal and procedural hurdles if and when they intend to claim the same.

Several factors contribute to this crisis in Bangladesh. First, unlike many other jurisdictions, Bangladesh does not have a codified tort legislation. By and large, this body of law relies on rules of common law from the British colonial period. These rules are scattered across court judgments and patchwork of statutes and are therefore inaccessible to most practitioners, let alone the public. Lacking clear legal rules, the



courts struggle to handle tort cases, and judges do not wish to leave binding precedents either.

In addition, Bangladeshi legal education does not accord adequate significance to the laws of tort. Tort is normally taught as a secondary theoretical subject in most law schools, divorced from practice. Young lawyers graduate with little or no knowledge about how to litigate tort cases.

Additionally, there remains in-built inertia within our institutions as well. The family and property cases already clog the civil courts. There are no tort benches, nor any procedural innovations to accelerate or make tort litigations cheaper. Finally, public awareness is pitifully low. Most citizens are unaware that they can claim damages for the negligent behavior of drivers, faulty products, sloppy doctors, and rogue officials. In the absence of legal literacy campaigns and affordable legal assistance, tort law remains in lofty legal textbooks, divorced from day-to-day legal battles.

The lack of an effective regime of tort law has serious social consequences. Victims have

BOOK REVIEW

On 'Intellectual Property Law: Text, Cases and Materials'

MOHAMMAD FOYSAL

Intellectual property (IP) law remains a relatively unexplored area in Bangladesh. From judicial pronouncements to academic scholarships, there is an evident scarcity of authoritative and critically analytical literature on this subject. Yet, this field seeks greater consideration, as Bangladesh is potentially poised to be a battleground for IP due to its nuanced IP law issues surrounding the graduation from its Least Developed Country status in 2026 and legal alignment with international instruments such as the TRIPS Agreement.

Against the backdrop of a dearth of legal literature on IP in Bangladesh, the book titled 'Intellectual Property Law: Text, Cases and Materials' authored by Professor Mohammad Towhidul Islam is a timely contribution. This book has painstakingly addressed all basic concepts of IP law through a comprehensive casebook approach blending statutory texts and judicial pronouncements from both home and abroad alongside the author's analytical insights.

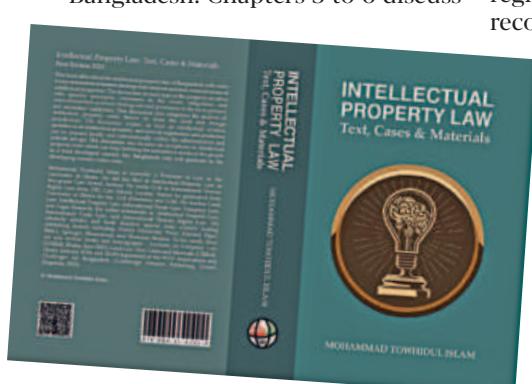
This book contains thirteen chapters. The first two chapters

deal with the introduction to IP law and its development detailing definitions, nature, classification and reasons for the protection of IP and key international instruments and their status in the context of Bangladesh. Chapters 3 to 6 discuss

and so on. Similar to the preceding chapters, these chapters also discuss rudimentary ideas and practices and engage in critical discussions of IP issues of Bangladesh. For instance, chapter 7 critically assesses the GI regime of Bangladesh and furnishes recommendations for a more robust GI protection regime considering the overlapping GI claims from the neighbouring countries.

This book is perfectly crafted from a Global South perspective, especially emphasising on the perks and challenges faced by Bangladesh marked by its critical transition from an LDC to a developing country. The citation of a substantial number of legal authorities—case laws and statutes—from both international and several domestic jurisdictions brings a comparative legal perspective, which paves the way for creating a qualitative value judgement among various IP law regimes.

Each chapter of this book is logically devised and enumerates both the conceptual foundations and nuanced legal discussions making room for advanced legal debates. Another highlight of this book is that it addresses IP law issues both conceptually and theoretically.



core areas of IP law namely Patent, Industrial Design, Trademarks and Copyright. Each of this chapter illustrates all basic concepts of the aforementioned areas and contains references to relevant international and national statutes, case laws and exceptions to the general rules. The remaining seven chapters deal with some specific and contextual areas such as Geographical Indications (GI), Plant Varieties Protection, Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expression

This book is not drafted targeting a particular segment of readers, rather keeping in mind a vast readership ranging from students to academicians to practitioners. For students, it introduces them to the basics of IP law and provides them with food for thought and encourages engagement in thought-provoking conversations. As for academicians and legal researchers, it serves as a reliable authority for both conceptual and theoretical analysis of the Bangladeshi IP law regime. For practitioners, it could be a day-to-day guide. Overall, it is one of its kind and offers value to a wide audience.

To sum up, this book is indeed a tremendous addition to the rather scarce existing legal literature on IP law in Bangladesh. It holds significant promise for shaping academic discourse and practical understanding in this field. Through the upcoming editions, it is expected that the author will further enrich the book by incorporating more domestic judicial decisions and providing a deeper critical analysis of Bangladesh's overall IP law regime, particularly through an assessment of legislative enactments and judicial pronouncements.

The writer is an LLM candidate at the University of Dhaka.

Tort law guarantees justice for the voiceless, the victims, and the wronged. However, in Bangladesh, it is mired in silence — neither used in courtrooms nor discussed in policymaking circles.

to bear the economic and emotional costs of harm caused to them by others. Hospitals can get away with malpractice suits. Factories have the freedom to pollute rivers without fear of litigation. Institutions can indulge in overt negligence without being held responsible for civil damages. In such context, accountability diminishes, and the people lose faith in the legal system as a whole. This gap is particularly tragic in low-income and rural areas, where tortious harms continue to destroy lives and livelihoods. A small injury resulting from an out-of-control construction site or tainted water supply can leave a family destitute, with no recourse to law.

Tort law guarantees justice for the voiceless, the victims, and the wronged. However, in Bangladesh, it is mired in silence — neither used in courtrooms nor discussed in policymaking circles. If justice is to be more than an empty constitutional slogan, the state must awaken to this long-forgotten crisis. Bangladesh may start by passing an exhaustive Tort Law Act laying down wrongs, liabilities, and procedures specific to the social and legal milieu of Bangladesh. Strengthening tort law will not only protect individual rights but also foster a culture of responsibility and civic obligation, two essential ingredients for any democratic society.

The writer is law student at the University of London, freelance contributor and social worker.

Butler & Co looking to embrace Asian Cup challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Peter Butler was looking to embrace the challenge of facing strong opponents after his side were drawn in a tough group, which included defending champions China, in their maiden Women's Asian Cup campaign.

The women in red and green (Ranked 128th), who sealed a historic qualification earlier this month after upending higher-ranked sides like Myanmar and Bahrain in the qualifying stage, will be playing record nine-time champions China (ranked 17th), three-time winners North Korea (ranked 9th) and Uzbekistan (ranked 51st) in the 12 team tournament, to be held in Australia from March 1-21, 2026.

The draw of the continental competition was held yesterday at the Town Hall in Sydney, which is one of the three host cities alongside Perth and Gold Coast.

Talking about the draw later in the day, Butler said his side were prepared to embrace the challenge, and that they were ready to announce their arrival on the continental stage, come March 2026.

"It's a very strong group but I look forward to it. I think you've got to embrace it," Butler said in a video message shared by the BFF.

"China will be very difficult as will be North Korea but anything's possible. I'd rather embrace the challenge and say to everybody out there that we will be



as good as we can. The most important thing is we'll make an impact," the Englishman added.

Bangladesh, the only side in the competition ranked outside 100, will begin their campaign against China on March 3 in Western Sydney Stadium before meeting North Korea at the same venue three days later. Butler's charges will wrap up the group stage against Uzbekistan at the Perth Rectangular Stadium.

The top two teams from each of the three groups alongside the two best-third place finishers will make it to the quarterfinals. However, this tournament will also serve as qualifying platforms for the next Women's World Cup as well as the 2028 Olympic Qualifiers.

The four semifinalists will directly qualify for Brazil 2027 while the four losing sides in the quarter-finals will have another chance with a playoff to claim two more World Cup spots.

All the eight quarter-finalists will book a ticket to the Los Angeles 2028 qualifying tournament.

Butler, who is currently training the under-20 team for the AFC Women's U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers to be held in Laos early next month, also reflected on the 'consistent improvement' his side have made since he took over around 17 months ago. With only seven months left, the Englishman said that he won't tinker much with his team ahead of the mega event in Australia.



China will be very very difficult as will be North Korea but anything's possible. I'd rather embrace the challenge and say to everybody out there that we will be as good as we can. The most important thing is we'll make an impact.

Bangladesh coach Peter Butler

GROUPS

Group A: Australia, South Korea, Philippines, Iran

Group B: North Korea, China, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh

Group C: Japan, Vietnam, Chinese Taipei, India

BANGLADESH'S GROUP FIXTURES

Bangladesh vs China: Sydney, March 3, 2026

Bangladesh vs North Korea: Sydney, March 6, 2026

Bangladesh vs Uzbekistan: Perth, March 9, 2026



PHOTO: COLLECTED

After 37 years, Bangladeshi swimmers Mahfizur Rahman Sagor and Nazmul Haque Himel crossed the English Channel, a strait in the Atlantic Ocean, on Tuesday. It took them 12 hours and 20 minutes to complete a relay, along with three Indians and a Mexican. Bangladesh Swimming Federation joint secretary Nibedita Das confirmed the news to The Daily Star. Mosharraf Hossain was the last Bangladeshi swimmer to cross the English Channel in 1988.

Gambhir clashes with Oval staff

AFP, London

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was involved in an angry exchange with Surrey's head groundsman at the Oval ahead of Thursday's final Test against England -- the latest incident during an increasingly tetchy tour.

Ben Stokes' team are resting ahead of the decisive fifth Test but the tourists were practising in the nets as they attempt to salvage a 2-2 draw.

Gambhir was seen sharing terse words with Lee Fortis, Surrey's lead curator at the London ground. The 58 Test veteran was caught on camera wagging his finger as Fortis towered over him, repeatedly stating: "You can't tell us what to do" and "You don't tell any of us what to do".

Gambhir can also be heard adding: "You're just the groundsman, nothing beyond."

Fortis is understood to have been keeping a protective eye on the playing area during India's practice, with plenty of cricket still to be played on it this season.

After walking away in conversation with India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, who appeared to take on the role of mediator, Fortis told Gambhir he may be forced to lodge a complaint against him, drawing a response of: "You can go and report to whoever you want".

It is unclear whether India have concerns over the pitch, which is expected to provide greater pace and bounce than has been seen in the previous four matches, potentially favouring England's quick bowlers.

The home team's attack has struggled for penetration at times, including in India's second innings at Old Trafford, where the bowlers took just four wickets in 143 overs as the fourth Test ended in a draw on Sunday.

The series has become increasingly heated, with the tourists refusing to shake hands on a draw early in Manchester to allow Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja to reach centuries, a decision that angered England.

India captain Shubman Gill accused England of ignoring the "spirit of cricket" with time-wasting tactics in the third Test at Lord's, where India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj was fined for the aggressive "send-off" he gave to Ben Duckett.

Aminul steps in as 'wickets exist but no plan'



Zinnat Ferdous lands a punch on Achia Khatun in the 52kg weight category semifinal of the National Boxing Championships at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. Zinnat went on to beat her opponent comfortably, setting up a final showing with Afra Khandokar today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Wickets have been at the centre of recent conversations in Bangladesh cricket. Not only did the surfaces recently used against Pakistani draw sharp criticism, concerns over practice wickets have also been simmering for years, with players increasingly voicing their discomfort.

So, when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam Bulbul personally inspected the practice pitches at the Academy Ground and the ones near the indoor facility, it naturally raised eyebrows. Why would the board president need to get involved in such matters, especially when the Grounds Committee exists to handle them? His presence suggested just how far the department had lagged behind.

As a former Bangladesh captain with experience at the ICC, Aminul felt compelled to intervene. "I talked to the players after the last match we played [against Pakistan] and felt their needs regarding good practice wickets," Aminul told The Daily Star on

Tuesday. "Since I understand wickets quite a bit, that's why I wanted to see for myself."

He added that while the players offered hints, his own observations confirmed that wicket preparation lacked planning. With major assignments like the Asia Cup and World Cup coming up, he stressed the importance of aligning practice conditions with the ones players will face -- particularly in places like Dubai.

"If our boys can play in similar wickets, they will perform there."

Cricketers, in fact, have long felt that the practice surfaces, particularly the greenhouse wickets meant for use during the monsoon, have hampered development. According to the BCB boss, the problem stems from poor planning.

"Most of the wickets are underprepared, especially the greenhouse wickets where only two wickets out of 14 can be used. I am not a groundsman and my main reason for going there was whether we were preparing the wickets to reflect conditions such as Dubai or Sharjah."



"When I went there, I found that wickets exist, but no plan is there. I have been seeing it for years and years but what action has taken place?" he said.

The BCB president says he is shifting focus to also bring wickets into the equation, recognising its crucial role in impacting top-level performance. "I really feel bad about this that I demand so much from a player and even chastise them for

playing badly. But do we think about what wickets we serve them?"

"I have started asking for reports from the relevant department (grounds)... so that at least we quickly prepare wickets such as Sharjah and Dubai's for immediate needs... You have to give the players that confidence," he said, adding that weather cannot be a factor behind poor wickets since countries like

Sri Lanka have more rain than Bangladesh. Not only practice surfaces, but the centre wickets were also under inspection. Mirpur's head curator, Gamin de Silva, often comes under the spotlight for wrong reasons. Aminul asked questions regarding soil and process.

"I asked when he [Gamin] used new soil and whether he plants the grass or uses seeds. He said he plants them. I asked him how deep the roots go since sometimes when you plant, the root doesn't go deep. But when you use seeds, it will. Since we have regular matches in the centre wicket, it's better to plant rather than use seeds. But in the academy, you must use seed," the president reflected.

Amid speculation that Gamin might be reassigned outside Dhaka, Aminul informed "there is no truth to that" but the board is "talking with other curators and may replace him".

"His contract ended so maybe something like a sudden death phase may come up," he concluded.

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Secy goes on official foreign trip days ahead of retirement

BAHARAM KHAN

Allegations have surfaced against Social Welfare Secretary Md Mohiuddin of violating instructions from the Chief Adviser's Office by undertaking a foreign trip for what has been described as an "insignificant" event just days before his retirement.

Mohiuddin is scheduled to return on August 3, a day before his last working day and him going on post retirement leave (PRI). Several senior officials at the ministry confirmed to The Daily Star that Mohiuddin left for the US on the morning of July 26 on a Qatar Airways flight.

He is leading a five-member team to a programme titled "Social Protection and Labor Knowledge Exchange Event". According to a ministry notification, the travel expenses would be borne by the World Bank.

The delegation also includes



SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Even Pak forces in 1971 did not commit brutality like Hasina did
Says Asif Nazrul, apologises hours later

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said the brutality committed by Sheikh Hasina and her associates during the July uprising may have exceeded that of the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War.

He made the comments at a discussion after the screening of a documentary titled "Trial of July Carnage" at the Judicial Administration Training Institute.

However, hours later, in the wake of criticism over his comments, Nazrul offered an apology.

On his Facebook page, he wrote, "... I now realise that it was not right of me to compare her [Hasina's] brutality with that of the Pakistani forces during 1971 against the people of Bangladesh. Both are heinous crimes. I offer my sincere apologies to those who felt I had

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Gunman kills NYPD cop of Bangladeshi origin, 3 others

STAR REPORT

A gunman killed four people, including a policeman of Bangladeshi origin, after storming a skyscraper in central Manhattan of New York yesterday.

Dildarul Islam, 36, from Moulvibazar in Bangladesh, was shot dead while providing security for the site on Park Avenue.

Officials said he had migrated to the US from Bangladesh, had two children and his wife was expecting a third. He died "a hero", they said.

Police identified the shooter as Shane Tamura, a 27-year-old Las Vegas resident with a history of mental illness struggles, who ended the Monday evening (US time) massacre by shooting himself in the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Mourners carry the bodies of Palestinians killed in an Israeli strike during their funeral in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Famine now 'playing out' in Gaza Strip

Warns global hunger monitor; 62 Palestinians killed, including 19 aid seekers

AGENCIES

Famine is "playing out" in the Gaza Strip, a global hunger monitor said in an alert issued yesterday as international criticism of Israel intensifies over rapidly worsening conditions in the Palestinian enclave.

"The worst-case scenario of Famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip," said the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) alert. "Mounting evidence shows that widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are driving a rise in hunger related deaths."

Its alert coincided with a statement from Gaza health authorities saying Israel's military campaign had now killed more than 60,000 Palestinians.

The IPC alert does not formally classify Gaza as being in famine. Such a classification can only be made through an analysis, which the IPC said it would now conduct "without delay," reports Reuters.

"Immediate action must be taken to end the hostilities and allow unimpeded, large-scale, life-saving humanitarian response. This is the only path to stopping further deaths and catastrophic human suffering," the IPC alert said.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed at least 62 Palestinians across Gaza since dawn yesterday,

- Israel's offensive has killed 60,000 so far: officials
- UN agencies issue call to 'flood' Gaza with food aid
- Israeli FM ignores int'l pressure for ceasefire

including 19 aid seekers, despite "pauses" in fighting to deliver essential humanitarian aid, reports Al Jazeera online.

The United Nations food agency said that it is not getting the necessary volumes of humanitarian assistance into Gaza despite Israel issuing new measures to enable more supplies to enter the enclave.

"We have not gotten the authorisation, the permission to move in the volumes that we've requested," Ross Smith, a senior regional programme adviser at the World Food Programme's Regional Bureau for East & Central Africa said at a UN briefing in Geneva via video link.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

1,200 sued over attack on Hindu homes in Rangpur
Victim families still reeling from shock

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three days after the first round of attacks on Hindu homes in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila, a case was filed last night against 1,200 unidentified individuals on vandalism and looting charges.

The attack on the Hindu community in Aldadpur Balapara village of Betgari union took place in two phases -- first on Saturday night and then once again on Sunday afternoon -- by people protesting a Facebook post allegedly by a local teenager, hurting religious sentiment.

"We are withholding the identity of the complainant for security reasons," Gangachara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Al Emran told The Daily Star last night while confirming the filing of the case.

As of last night, no one was arrested in connection with the attacks.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

July Charter must guide next polls
Says Nahid, condemns attacks on Hindu homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said the next election must be held on the basis of the July Charter and the next government will be obliged to implement the charter.

"There is no alternative to the July Charter and July Proclamation...It is our clear message," he said at a street rally in Gazipur as part of the party's "July March to Rebuild the Nation" campaign.

He also stated that the July Charter and July Proclamation must be declared by August 5. "We don't want any alternative," he said, adding that the July Charter must have a legal basis.

The NCP leader said national consensus must be achieved on how the charter will be implemented.

In another rally, Nahid said, "Our fight for a new Bangladesh is going on... We have declared we will drive Mujibism out from every inch of this land."

Nahid also condemned the recent attacks on Hindu homes and businesses in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila and called for justice.

Speaking at a rally at Nirala intersection in Tangail yesterday, he said, "We've seen that Hindu homes were recently attacked and looted in Rangpur. We strongly condemn this."

Nahid said no one should be spared for insulting the Prophet [PBUH], but "justice must follow the law."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



Eighth-grader Fatema Sayria Prerona, right, returned to Milestone School & College in Uttara's Diabari yesterday for the first time since the jet crash. She was there to retrieve the schoolbag of her younger brother, who is currently receiving treatment for burn injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Seeing her arrive, a friend offers words of comfort.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Arakan Army oppressing Rohingyas like junta did: HRW

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Arakan Army has imposed severe restrictions and committed grave rights abuses against the ethnic Rohingya population in Myanmar's Rakhine State, said Human Rights Watch in a new report yesterday.

The territorial gains in the state have been accompanied by movement restrictions, pillage, arbitrary detention, mistreatment and unlawful forced labour and recruitment, among other abuses against the Rohingya.

Myanmar's military has long subjected the Rohingya to atrocity crimes, including the ongoing crime against humanity of apartheid.

And now the Arakan Army, which controls some 90 percent of Rakhine State, is carrying out policies of oppression against the Rohingya similar to those long imposed by the Myanmar military, said the New York-based rights watchdog.

"The Arakan Army should end its discriminatory and abusive practices and comply with international law," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

The Arakan Army pledged inclusive, equitable governance in areas it captured from Myanmar's abusive military junta after fighting resumed in November 2023.

But Rohingya describe life under the Arakan Army as harsh and restrictive, with discriminatory regulations and practices, according to the report.

From April to July, HRW interviewed 12 Rohingya

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2