



**HSBC to close retail banking in Bangladesh**

**B1**



**Shrinking farmland threatens livelihoods**

**P4**



**Myanmar junta mandates prison sentences for polls critics**

**P5**



**Injuries, fatigue add to decisive Oval Test's intrigue**

**P11**

## CONSENSUS TALKS

# Deal reached on women's JS seats

Key issues of July Charter still not agreed upon with discussions entering final day

MD ABBAS

The deadline set by the National Consensus Commission for finalising the July Charter expires today, yet several crucial issues remain unresolved.

Outstanding matters include the formation of the caretaker government, the selection of its chief adviser, the structure and process of establishing the upper house, the fundamental principles of state policy, and the method for electing the president.

On the penultimate day of talks, the 22nd day of the second phase held yesterday at the Foreign Service Academy, political parties reached consensus on women's representation in parliament. Seven key topics were on the agenda.

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the

Parties agree that 5% of total nominees in the next election will be women

They also agree to retain existing system of having 50 seats reserved for women

National Consensus Commission, told reporters after the talks around 9:30pm that parties agreed to nominate women in at least 5 percent of constituencies in the next national election.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Buses jostling for passengers block the entire side of airport road at Kuril Bishwa Road bus stop yesterday. The photo was taken only a stone's throw away from the spot where two racing buses killed two school students in 2018, sparking a nationwide protest demanding safer roads.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Manifesto for a new Bangladesh on Aug 3

Says Nahid; NCP's march ends

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Narsingdi, Savar

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said they will declare the manifesto for a new Bangladesh on August 3 at Central Shaheed Minar.

He urged people of all walks of life to join the event to realise their demands.

"For a new and discrimination free Bangladesh, we again took to the streets after one year with the slogan 'Desh Gortey July Padajatra' [March to rebuild the nation]. We have seen that many

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

## July crackdown was 'a political decision'

Ex-IGP Mamun says in confessional statement; choppers were deployed to create climate of fear



Ex-IGP Javed Patwary advised 50% vote stuffing night before 2018 polls

Enforced disappearances ordered by Hasina's defence adviser Tarique Siddique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun has said that most of the decisions made to suppress the July uprising came from political high-ups, including the prime minister herself.

He said this in a confessional statement to a Dhaka magistrate on March 24.

Mamun is now behind bars in a case filed against him over crimes against humanity during the July movement. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and ex-home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal are his co-accused.

He was made an approver upon his request on July 10.

In a legal context, an "approver" is someone who was involved in a crime but, in exchange for a reduced sentence or pardon, confesses their guilt and provides testimony against their accomplices.

In his statement, Mamun said regular meetings of a "core committee" were held at Asaduzzaman's house almost every night around 8:00-9:00pm from July 19, 2024, onwards to suppress the uprising.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

## BOND SCAM

Salman Rahman barred from stock market for life

Star exposed the irregularities in 2023

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission has declared Salman F Rahman, former adviser to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, unwanted for life in the stock market for misleading investors with a deceptively named bond.

The same punishment has been handed down to his son, Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman, and former BSEC chairman Prof Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam for their involvement in the scam.

In a press release issued yesterday, the regulator said the trio deceived investors by naming a bond "IFIC Aamar Bond", creating the false impression it was issued by IFIC Bank, when the actual issuer was Sreepur Township Ltd.

The Daily Star exposed the irregularities in a report titled "Aamar Bond not IFIC's", published on Nov 23, 2023.

However, it took the BSEC until after the fall of Hasina's Awami League government to form an inquiry committee in October last year over



SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

## Last push to beat US tariff deadline

Bangladesh hopeful of earning a reprieve as Trump prepares to impose a blanket 15-20% tariff on countries without bilateral trade deals

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

As US President Donald Trump prepares to roll out sweeping new tariffs on countries without bilateral trade deals, Bangladesh has entered final negotiations in Washington, DC, scrambling to shield its economy from the threat of a 35 percent duty on its exports.

Speaking from his luxury golf resort in Scotland on July 28, Trump told reporters that countries failing to secure tailored trade agreements with the United States would soon face tariffs of 15-20 percent on their



We are confident our position is being seriously considered. We've made major offers to help balance trade, and the tone of the meetings has been constructive.

Mahbubur Rahman, commerce secretary

exports. "Probably one of those two numbers," he said, sitting alongside British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "We can't sit down and make 200 deals," Trump added, signalling a sharp departure from multilateral trade norms.

The announcement, which follows an earlier 10 percent baseline tariff imposed in April, has ignited a frenzy of negotiations around the world. Countries including Pakistan, Thailand, and Canada are all in last-ditch talks to reduce the blow. Yesterday, Trump said he would impose a 25 percent tariff on India's exports.

Bangladesh, which had already been in bilateral discussions with the United States Trade Representative (USTR), is now racing to finalise a deal before the window closes on August 1.

On Wednesday, it was expected to join the second day of the final negotiations in Washington, DC, led by Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Landlord killed inside BNP office for seeking rent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A landlord was beaten to death allegedly by local BNP activists in Narayanganj's Araihaazar yesterday, following a dispute over unpaid rent for a local party office set up on his property.

The victim is Md Jahangir Hossain, 57, of Salmodi Nayapara village. Local BNP leaders claimed Jahangir was the assistant general secretary of the Mahmudpur union unit of Jatiyabadi Matsyaji Dal, but his family denied he had any political ties.

Khandaker Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Araihaazar Police Station, said the incident took place around 11:30am at Salmodi Bazar after Jahangir went to the newly set-up party office to demand due rent.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the shop space belonged to the victim. A few months ago, local BNP leaders had established a party office there," the OC said. The dispute reportedly escalated when Jahangir confronted them, leading to an altercation inside the BNP office, during which he was beaten.

Jahangir was taken to Araihaazar Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared him dead. Police said there were injury marks on his body.

"We have received complaints about one local BNP leader, Tota Mia Pradhan, his son, nephews, and several BNP activists. The matter is under

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## The hospital that did not back down



SHAHEEN MOLLA and NAZIBA BASHER

At the height of the July uprising, many hospitals turned their backs -- some out of fear, others silenced or forced into complicity. State forces roamed halls of healing, seizing CCTV footage, erasing patient records, and threatening doctors not to treat the wounded.

Elsewhere, hospitals shut their doors, fearing protesters couldn't pay.

Teenagers with gunshot wounds were refused entry, ambulances were stopped, and lives were lost -- not just to bullets, but to suppression and cowardice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Since July 17, Jatrabari had turned into one of the uprising's fiercest battlegrounds. This photograph was taken near the Jatrabari Police Station -- a site marked by tear gas, bullets, and chaos. Just across the road stood Safa Marwa Hospital, its doors open through it all, becoming a lifeline for the wounded.

PHOTO: FILE

## Riyad-led group targeted another former AL MP

Cheques worth Tk 2.25cr found at ex-SAD leader's home

RAFIUL ISLAM

The group led by former Students Against Discrimination leader Abdur Razzak Riyad, arrested for allegedly extorting a former Awami League lawmaker's family in Gulshan, had targeted another ex-AL MP, Abdul Kalam Azad, a month earlier, said police.

According to police and the victim, a group of 10-12 individuals led by Riyad stormed Azad's Green Road office on June 26, threatened him with public humiliation, and forced him to write cheques worth around Tk 5 crore.

Talking to The Daily Star, the former MP said the attackers demanded money, threatening that about 200 people were waiting outside to humiliate him.

"Do you want to get slapped by 200 people, get beaten with shoes by 200 people?" one of them threatened, Azad told The Daily Star.

"They said, 'Will you go to the police

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1