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JULY UPRISING

'I just did what any teacher should'

College teacher recalls standing up to protect students from violence

MD ZAHIDUR RABBI

On July 18, 2024, tensions flared outside the home of Aklima Akter, an assistant professor at Kabi Nazrul Government College.

From her balcony in Dhaka's Middle

harassed, and beaten.

Just across from her home stood a local Awami League office, and the situation was quickly spiralling out of control.

I saw a boy being hit. I rushed downstairs. They said he was a terrorist. I asked, 'Where is his weapon?' They couldn't show anything.

AKLIMA AKTER

Badda, she watched as students from institutions like BRAC University, Gulshan Commerce College, and Canadian University attempted to join a protest rally -- only to be stopped,



Aklima Akter confronting a group of men, including a police official, in Dhaka's Middle Badda area on July 18, 2024 while she was shielding students from being beaten and harassed.

PHOTO: VIDEO GRAB

"I could see everything from above," Aklima recalled. "First, they tried to push the students away. Then they started beating them."

And I could not just watch." So, she stepped into the chaos.

"I saw a boy being hit. I rushed downstairs," she said. "They said he was a terrorist. I asked, 'Where is his weapon?' They couldn't show anything."

That moment, captured on video, went viral. It showed Aklima shielding students and confronting men twice her size with calm yet firm resolve. She was risking everything for a student she didn't even know.

"No, he wasn't from my college," she said. "I didn't know his name. But he was a student, and that was enough."

Later that day, a clip from a live TV broadcast circulated online, showing Aklima in a heated exchange with police and unidentified men in plain clothes. As she tried to shield students, she was being called a "Razakar".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Tajuddin Ahmad was a statesman beyond party lines'

DU event honours the founding PM's legacy, leadership; 7 students awarded



PHOTO: COLLECTED

DU CORRESPONDENT

From his wartime leadership to his post-independence efforts to stabilise the new nation, Tajuddin Ahmad stood out for his honesty, clarity, and commitment to democratic values, said speakers at a memorial event at Dhaka University yesterday.

They made the remarks at a memorial lecture and award-giving ceremony held at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

Auditorium, organised by the Tajuddin Ahmad Memorial Fund.

Speaking at the programme, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan said, "We are honouring a civilised and principled figure, Tajuddin Ahmad, whose career left a deep impact on the nation. We have taken the initiative to preserve and expand his legacy through the efforts of our talented students."

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

5 lands in jail over attack on Hindu houses in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Rangpur court yesterday sent five people to jail in a case filed over the attacks on Hindu houses, vandalism, and looting of valuables in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila.

Rangpur Judicial Magistrate Court passed the order after police produced them before the court in the afternoon, said Kishoreganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ashraful Islam.

The accused are Yasin Ali, 25, Swadhin Mia, 28, Ashraful Islam, 28, Atiqur Rahman Khan, 30, and Saddam Hossain Selim, 22, of neighbouring Magura village under Nilphamari's Kishoreganj upazila, said police.

Members of joint forces arrested them in a drive from their houses early yesterday, said OC Ashraful.

Earlier on Tuesday night, Rabindra Nath Roy, one of the victims, filed a case of vandalism and looting with Gangachara Model Police Station, accusing 1,200 unidentified individuals.

"Five of my cattle, cash, and gold ornaments have been looted. I have incurred a loss of around Tk 20 lakh," he told The Daily Star.

The attack on the Hindu community at Aldadpur Balapara village of Betgari union took place in two phases -- first on Saturday night and again on Sunday afternoon -- by people protesting a Facebook post allegedly made by a local teenager, which "hurt religious sentiments".

Before the first round of attacks, a local 17-year-old

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8



Motorcyclists take over the footpath in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday, attempting to dodge traffic congestion -- a reckless practice that puts pedestrians at risk and worsens public nuisance.

ABU SAYED
KILLING
Decision
on charge
framing
August 6



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday set August 6 for delivering its decision on whether to frame charges or discharge 30 accused in connection with the killing of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, and one of the martyrs of the July 2024 uprising.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, fixed the date after wrapping up hearings from both the prosecution and the defence.

On Monday, the prosecution urged the tribunal to indict the accused, including former BRU vice-chancellor Md Hasibur Rashid, former Rangpur Metropolitan Police (RPMP) commissioner Md Moniruzzaman, and former BRU proctor Shariful Islam, for their alleged roles in crimes against humanity during the uprising.

The following two days saw arguments from four state-appointed lawyers representing 24 absconding accused, along with defence counsels for six others currently in custody.

Earlier on June 30, the tribunal took cognisance of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Govt to hike police risk allowance by 20%

REZAUL KARIM BYRON and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The government has decided to increase the monthly risk allowance by 20 percent for police personnel from the ranks of constable to sub-inspector.

The finance ministry is going to issue a circular in this regard within the next few days.

This marks the first revision in a decade, updating the existing allowance structure that was set in 2015.

According to the revised structure, the lowest risk allowance will be Tk 1,800 for constables with under five years of service, while the highest will be Tk 6,480 for SIs with over 20 years of service.

A ministry official confirmed the development to The Daily Star yesterday.

"The revised risk allowances will cost the government an additional Tk 100 crore per year," said the official, requesting anonymity.

According to the decision, the risk allowance will be paid based on the length of service.

For constables, the monthly

years of service.

For the position of nail, the allowance will be Tk 2,040 for up to five years of service, Tk 2,400 for five to 10 years, Tk 2,880 for 10-15 years, Tk 3,480 for 15-20 years, and Tk 4,080 for over 20 years of service.

Assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs, Grade-14) will receive a monthly risk allowance of Tk 2,160 for up to five years of service, Tk 2,640 for five to 10 years of service, Tk 3,240 for 10-15 years, Tk 3,840 for 15-20 years, and Tk 4,560 for more than 20 years of service.

SIs, sergeants, and traffic sub-inspectors or TSIs (Grade-10) with up to five years of service will get Tk 3,240 as a monthly risk allowance. Those with five to 10 years will receive Tk 3,840; 10 to 15 years, Tk 4,560; 15 to 20 years, Tk 5,400; and over 20 years, Tk 6,480, according to the ministry decision.

Speaking to The Daily Star, police officials said it would benefit everyone more if the allowance were based on basic salary.

For instance, a constable on

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

JP's income, expenditure surged in 2024

YEAR	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
2024	Tk 2,64,38,938	Tk 1,79,88,044
2023	Tk 2,22,02,405	Tk 1,13,18,525

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite ongoing turmoil within the Jatiya Party, both its income and expenditure saw a rise in 2024.

The party earned Tk 2,64,38,938 and spent Tk 1,79,88,044 during the year.

JP Presidium Member Rezaul Islam Bhuiyan submitted the party's audit report for the 2024 calendar year to the Election Commission Secretary Akhtar Ahmed.

According to the audit report, the party now has Tk 84,50,894 remaining after expenses in 2024. Its income sources include the sale of nomination forms, member contributions, publication sales, and more. Expenditures covered publicity campaigns, office staff salaries, and other administrative costs.

As per the Representation of the People Order, all registered political parties must submit their audited income and expenditure reports for the previous calendar year to the EC by July 31 each year.

In the election year of 2023, the party earned Tk 2,22,02,405 and spent Tk 1,13,18,525. In 2022, it earned Tk 2,29,14,968 and spent Tk 1,28,37,542, leaving a bank balance of Tk 1,07,77,426.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Touhid calls for ceasefire in Gaza

BSS, Dhaka
Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain has urged an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and accountability for crimes against Palestinians.

"We [Bangladesh] reaffirm our steadfast support for the establishment of a viable and independent State of Palestine, based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital," he said while speaking at the "High Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two State Solution" in New York on Tuesday.

The adviser described the current situation in Gaza as "one of the gravest genocides of our time".



SEE PAGE 9 COL 4