



Cars move along a waterlogged road in the capital's Rajarbagh yesterday. *Inset*, even this alley in Bakshibazar was submerged after just a few hours of heavy rain. Persistent waterlogging continues to plague the city, reflecting its poorly managed drainage system.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, RASHED SHUMON

Protest turns chaotic as 'rival July warriors' clash at Shahbagh

STAR REPORT

Protesters under the banner of "July warriors" continued their demonstration for a second consecutive day at the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday, demanding immediate finalisation of the proposed July Charter.

After a 32-hour blockade since Thursday morning, another group, identifying themselves as the "real July warriors", arrived at the protest site around 6:30pm yesterday and attacked the demonstrators. This group included injured participants of the July uprising who had been undergoing treatment at various hospitals.

They also removed the barricades set up around the intersection by the first group.

At one point, clashes broke out between the two sides.

Police then intervened and dispersed both parties from the street. Traffic flow at Shahbagh resumed fully afterwards.

Several individuals were injured in the clashes.

At least five of them received primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while two others are in critical condition and currently undergoing treatment there, confirmed Inspector Md Farouk, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost.

Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of police (Ramna Division), told Prothom Alo, "A group

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'We may boycott polls if our rights overlooked'

Warns Minority Rights Movement, urges govt to act on their 8-point demand

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh's minority population could boycott the upcoming national election if their rights are not protected in the lead-up to the polls, warned the Minority Rights Movement, a platform representing minority communities.

While minority communities make up eight percent of the country's population, the group expressed concern that they may be "used for political gains only" during the election, citing silence from both the interim government and political parties on safeguarding their rights.

The remarks came during a press conference titled "The Situation of Eight Percent Population After One Year of Uprising," organised by the platform at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

At the event, the platform also announced the "National Minority Conference-2025", scheduled for August 22, to press home their various demands.

Sushmita Kar, a representative of the platform, said following last year's July uprising, members of minority communities took to the streets on August 9 to push for an eight-point demand. These included enacting a Minority Protection Act and a law to eliminate discrimination.

She said the demands were submitted to the interim government, and repeated pleas have been made for their

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DEMANDS AT A GLANCE

- Enact Minority Protection Act
- Form Minority Affairs Ministry
- Ensure inclusion of minority representatives in National Consensus Commission
- Punish perpetrators of communal violence
- Provide compensation, rehabilitation for victims

Veggie, onion and egg prices soar in Dhaka markets

Traders cite crop damage due to rain, low supply behind hike



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of various vegetable items have increased in the capital's kitchen markets over the past week, with traders blaming a lack of supply due to countrywide rain.

In addition, the price of locally grown onions has risen by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per kilogram, while farm eggs have become costlier by Tk 15 per dozen.

This picture of price hike was observed yesterday at several kitchen markets, including those in Mirpur-II, Kazipara, Shewrapara, Ibrahimpur Bazar, Farmgate, and Karwan Bazar.

Rakibul Hasan, who visited the Karwan Bazar kitchen market from the Begunbari area to purchase daily essentials, said he had to spend extra money on items like onions, long beans, and eggs. He noted that

prices of some other essentials, such as soybean oil, remained unchanged over the week.

Trader Kalam Sheikh, who typically buys vegetables like long beans and eggplants directly from farmers in Manikganj and sells them wholesale at Karwan Bazar, said he was receiving less supply than usual.

According to him, farmers in Manikganj reported that continuous rain over the past week had submerged many vegetable fields. As a result, they were unable to harvest the produce on time, causing much of it to rot in the water. This disruption, he said, led to a supply shortage and eventually higher prices.

Yesterday, traders at various city kitchen markets were selling long

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CUSTODIAL DEATHS OF 3 BAWM MEN

155 eminent citizens want judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judicial inquiry has to be conducted into the deaths of three Bawm men in jail custody, demanded 155 eminent citizens yesterday.

In a statement, they also sought the immediate release of all detained innocent people from the Bawm community.

"We strongly condemn the ongoing repression of the indigenous people in Bandarban in the name of combating terrorism in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. Ordinary citizens, including women and children of the Bawm ethnic group, have been detained... and imprisoned for years," it said.

On July 17, Bhan Lal Rual, 35, died in jail custody. Earlier, Lal Sangmoy, 55, and Lal Tleng Kim, 29, died in prison.

In the statement, they said on April 2 and April 3, 2024, the repression of the Bawm community began in the name of a "joint operation" following bank robberies in Ruma and Thanchi of Bandarban.

"We think that indiscriminate detention of villagers and state repression in multiple false cases in the name of preventing activities and crimes of KNF members

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'Fascism research institute' banner now hangs at AL central office

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A large red banner reading "International Fascism and Genocide Research Institute" now hangs in front of the abandoned central office of the Bangladesh Awami League in the capital's Gulistan area.

During a visit on Saturday, workers were seen clearing bricks, rubble, and garbage from various



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

floors. The ground and the second floor had already been cleaned, they said.

Cleaning began on the ground floor on Wednesday morning. Many curious pedestrians stopped to take photos of the building.

Shakhawat Hossain, a man estimated to be in his early 30s, said they were preparing the building to set up the International Fascism and Genocide Research Institute.

When asked who assigned them the task, he said, "We will disclose that after July 31."

Several young men were sitting on plastic chairs in front of the building. One cleaner said they were students.

On the afternoon of August 5 last year, during a student-led mass uprising, the Awami League's central office was vandalised and set on fire.

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'SECRET MEETING' OF AL MEN

Army to probe involvement of detained official

Says ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has constituted a court of inquiry to investigate allegations of political involvement against one of its officers, who was taken into military custody on July 17, according to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) yesterday.

The officer was detained from his residence in the capital's Uttara area following a complaint received through a law enforcement agency.

"To ensure an impartial and thorough inquiry, a court of inquiry has already been formed. Preliminary investigations have yielded credible evidence supporting the allegation," the ISPR statement said.

"Based on the findings of the full investigation, appropriate punitive action will be taken in accordance with military laws and regulations," it added.

The ISPR also said coordination is underway with Bangladesh Police and other law enforcement agencies in connection with the matter.

A separate court of inquiry has been set up to investigate the officer's unauthorised absence from duty. Upon completion of the investigation, the "Command Responsibility" of the officer will be determined under military law, based on the court's recommendations.

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This large tree, uprooted during midday rain, crushed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw near Dhanmondi-6 in the capital on Thursday. The injured passenger and driver were rescued by onlookers before they were taken to hospital. However, as of yesterday, the tree and the damaged vehicle had yet to be removed, leaving an obstacle for traffic in the area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Yasmeen Murshed laid to rest

CITY DESK

Yasmeen Murshed, founder chairperson of Scholastica School and former adviser to the caretaker government led by then-president Iajuddin Ahmed, was laid to eternal rest at Banani Graveyard yesterday.

Earlier in the day, her first namaz-e-janaza was held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Juma prayers. Family members, Scholastica alumni, and many distinguished individuals from across the country attended to pay their respects.

Later, her body was taken to Scholastica's Senior Campus in Uttara.

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