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## CA may unveil polls month on Aug 5 or 8

July Declaration set to be  
rolled out on Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is likely to announce the month for the next general election in a televised address to the nation on August 5 or August 8.

Multiple government sources said the exact date and time are yet to be finalised, but the address will coincide with either of two key dates: August 5, the anniversary of the student-led mass uprising that led to the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, or August 8, which marks the formation of the interim government led by Yunus.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday announced it will unveil the "July Declaration" on August 5.

According to insiders, Yunus prefers not to place too much emphasis on the date of the formation of the interim government.

"So, there's high chance the address will be on August 5," said a government source.

Another official said the chief adviser, after announcing the month of the polls, will urge the Election Commission to announce the national election schedule.

At a meeting on July 26, Prof Yunus assured political parties that the election date would be announced soon.

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## 'Manifesto for a new Bangladesh' at NCP rally today

Party demands July Charter  
be legally binding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam has announced that the NCP will hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar today, where the manifesto for a new Bangladesh will be read out.

"Tomorrow [today] we will officially conclude our July march at Shaheed Minar. There we will read out the manifesto of a new Bangladesh, where we, on behalf of the NCP, will unveil our vision and action plans for the future of the country," he told a press conference at the party's office in Banglamotor yesterday.

He also stated that the party would use the rally to demand that the July Charter be issued by August 5 and the document be made legally binding.

"The next parliament must be formed on the basis of the July Charter, and the charter must be implemented during the tenure of this interim government."

Nahid expressed regret over the NCP rally overlapping with the Chhatra Dal programme, and HSC and BCS exams.

"There will likely be traffic congestion in the city. We sincerely apologise to the residents and students for this. As August is a historic month, we have to hold our programme on this day."

In the same vein, Chhatra Dal yesterday also expressed advance regret for any public inconvenience that may arise due to its rally at Shahbagh intersection.

In a press statement, it said it is aware of the potential disruption such a rally could cause on a working day in

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Today is the 12th Death Anniversary of  
**Sobera Ahmed Rizvi (Rita)**



We request all relatives, friends  
and well-wishers to remember her in their  
prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul

Jowher (Shahinshah), Yasser, Nasser, Fatema, Zain, Zarah & Zameer



With each monsoon swallowing more than the last, this sliver of land on the bank of the Pasur river now barely holds the homes of its riverine residents. With no functional flood control or protective system in place, they've weathered the elements year after year, fighting to preserve their lives and livelihoods that now teeter on the edge. The photo was taken recently in Chila union of Bagerhat's Mongla upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

US deports 39  
Bangladeshis  
Deportees allege  
mistreatment

DIPLOMATIC  
CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-nine Bangladeshi citizens have been deported from the United States on charges of staying in the country illegally.

They arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka yesterday morning aboard a US military aircraft, a top official from the airport's Immigration Department told The Daily Star.

The official added that although initial reports suggested that 60 individuals would be deported, the final figure was 39.

The returnees complained that they were kept in handcuffs for the entire duration of the long flight.

"We are not criminals... we were simply seeking refuge. But we were treated like dangerous prisoners," said one of the deportees.

Upon their arrival, BRAC provided transportation, and the Expatriates' Welfare

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## Made with US cotton? Pay less at US customs

A tariff clause offers reduced duties on goods that include at least 20% US-origin content

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is likely to benefit from reduced US tariffs on garment exports under a new clause that incentivises the use of American materials, potentially enhancing the country's competitiveness in the US market.

Under a recent executive order issued by President Donald Trump on Friday, US customs will apply a tariff rate only to the non-American portion of a product's value, provided that at least 20 percent of its content is sourced from the United States.

For example, a T-shirt valued at \$10 that includes 20 percent US content will face a tariff of \$1.60 instead of \$2, as the 20 percent tariff -- the rate imposed on Bangladesh -- will be calculated only on the \$8 non-US portion.

"This offers a unique opportunity for Bangladesh to cut export costs to the US and strengthen our position in the market," Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will have the authority to request documentation from importers to verify compliance with the content-based tariff provision. Importers may be required to submit

**Some Bangladeshi factories already use up to 40 percent US-originated materials in production. Under the new rule, this would mean the 20 percent tariff applies only to the remaining 60 percent of product value, further reducing the effective duty paid at the US border.**

information at the time of entry to demonstrate both the proportion and value of US-origin components used in a product.

Verification measures are intended to ensure that only eligible products benefit from the reduced tariff calculation based on US content.

The executive order defines "US content" as components either wholly produced or substantially transformed in the United States.

Khan said the BGMEA has begun working with US partners to ensure traceability and third-party certification of American cotton used in local manufacturing, a prerequisite for claiming the lower tariff rate. "We're prioritising compliance and verification so that US customs can easily recognise our use of US materials," he said.

Bangladesh imports more than \$4 billion worth of cotton annually, including around \$500 million from the US. With local cotton

production unable to meet domestic demand, manufacturers often rely heavily on imports, offering a natural pathway to increase US-origin content in garments destined for the American market.

Some Bangladeshi factories already use up to 40 percent US-originated materials in production. Under the new rule, this would mean the 20 percent tariff applies only to the

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Dhaka  
roads to  
avoid today

STAR CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday issued a public notice advising commuters to avoid key roads in the capital today due to multiple political rallies and events scheduled throughout the day.

In a notice signed by DMP Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali, the police said major gatherings are expected in and around Shahbagh, Shaheed Minar, and Suhrawardy Udyana. As a result, vehicle movement, particularly through Shahbagh intersection, will be severely hampered.

According to the notice, pro-BNP student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal will hold a rally at

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## Our Deepest Condolences

We mourn the sad demise of eminent industrialist Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, Founder Life Member and Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees, North South University. He passed away on August 1, 2025; Inna Lillahi Raji'ut.

Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed was a visionary leader whose guidance and dedication played a pivotal role in shaping North South University into the institution it is today. As a founder life member and former chairman, he contributed significantly to the growth of private higher education in Bangladesh.

His legacy continues through the thousands of students, faculty, and alumni whose lives were touched by his commitment to excellence in education.

The NSU community including members of the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, students, and alumni extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prays for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

The NSU Board and the University Administration would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to the family members of Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed, in this trying time, and may they find solace that his legacy will live on long after his passing.



Mr. Azim Uddin Ahmed



North South University



**THE JULY  
THAT ROCKED  
BANGLADESH**

AUGUST 3, 2024

A nation united  
under one  
demand

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On August 3, 2024, the anti-discrimination movement in Bangladesh reached a new peak as protesters rejected prime minister Sheikh Hasina's offer for dialogue and instead placed a singular, uncompromising demand before the nation: the resignation of the

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Interim govt  
echoes AL  
fascism

Says Anu Muhammad

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Anu Muhammad said yesterday that the interim government's actions are reminiscent of the fallen Awami League administration.

"We see the shadow of Sheikh Hasina's administration in how the interim administration is currently operating. The same authoritarianism, the same oppression of the people, and the same discriminatory system still exist."

If the government keeps deviating from the July expectations, the people's march will have to continue, he said.

Anu Muhammad made the remarks while addressing a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar prior to the "Droho Jatra 2025" procession.

The event was held to mark the anniversary of last year's "Droho Jatra" -- a massive rally held in front of the Jatiya Press Club on August 2, which was joined by people from all walks of life seeking justice for the July killings.

Various left-wing political, cultural, women's, labour, and student organisations arranged yesterday's event to call for the abolition of the fascist state structure, the prosecution of all mass killings in the hills and plains -- including the July killings -- and resistance to neo-fascist tendencies.

Like last year, Prof Anu Muhammad presided over yesterday's programme.

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RELATED STORY, PHOTO ON PAGE 12