

## Reform must begin within, not remain on paper

### Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul yesterday said constitutional



amendments and legal reforms alone would not be enough to build a better country unless both citizens and government employees internalise those changes and improve themselves.

“We need to reform ourselves. We need to have dignity as a nation... when we carry the green passport, we feel shame and anger,” he said while addressing a seminar marking July Uprising Day 2025 at the Foreign Service Academy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised the seminar.

Asif Nazrul said, “What

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## CHITTAGONG CLUB Ex-army chief Harun-Ar-Rashid found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid was found dead in a room at Chittagong Club yesterday morning.



He was serving as chairman of Destiny Group.

On information, his body was recovered around 10:00am, said Abdul Karim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The OC said police have launched an investigation. Officials from the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) visited the spot and collected evidence, he said.

The exact cause of the death has yet to be confirmed, he said, adding that the body was sent to the Chattogram Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy around 3:00pm, he added.

Harun came to Chattogram to appear in court in connection with a financial forgery case filed against Destiny, said police sources.

Arish Ahmed Shah, a

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## JULY KILLINGS Court orders exhumation of 114 bodies for identification

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to exhume 114 bodies of individuals killed during the July uprising in order to identify them.

Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman passed the order after Mahidul Islam, a sub-inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station, submitted an application.

According to the application, during the anti-discrimination movement last year, 114 martyrs were buried as unrecognised individuals in the Rayerbazar cemetery in Mohammadpur.

“For the purpose of taking legal action in the future and identifying the bodies, it is necessary to exhume those through proper legal procedures, conduct post-mortem and collect DNA samples to confirm their identities,” the application said.



The July Memorial Monument is being installed at Shahbagh to commemorate the martyrs of the July uprising. Inset, like elsewhere, a similar structure is also being set up at the C&B intersection in Rajshahi. The monuments will be inaugurated today.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, AZAHAR UDDIN

# Political clashes left 15 dead, 661 hurt in July

Finds HRSS report; terms last month’s rights situation ‘concerning’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights body Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) has described the human rights situation in Bangladesh in July 2025 as “concerning”, citing incidents of political violence, mob attacks, minority persecution, custodial deaths, and violence against women and children.

In a statement issued yesterday, the organisation also said incidents of interference with freedom of expression, attacks on journalists and workers, obstruction of assemblies, and deaths in prisons continued throughout the month. Crimes like extortion, theft, mugging, robbery, and murder also triggered public fear.

Attacks on political leaders and activists were reported at court premises and jail gates. In some cases, accused individuals were forcibly taken from police custody during attacks involving political activists, it said.

Additionally, tensions at the India border, provocations by the Border Security Force (BSF), pushbacks of Bangla-speaking people, killing, injury, and arrest of innocent Bangladeshis, as well as incidents of gunfire, landmine, and mortar shell explosions by Myanmar’s Arakan Army along the border have raised serious concerns about the human rights situation, the HRSS said.

Citing incidents of July, it said that on July 16, five people were killed and over 100 injured in Gopalganj in clashes between joint forces and activists of the Awami League and the banned Chhatra League over a programme by the National Citizen Party.

HRSS said the victims were buried without postmortems, though three bodies were later exhumed. That day, AL activists also allegedly

### AT A GLANCE

12 killed, 39 hurt in 32 mob violence incidents

233 children abused; 42 died

162 women, girls faced violence; 68 raped

6 custodial deaths; 8 prisoners died

27 journo assaulted or harassed

17 labour unrests left 5 workers dead

attacked the NCP event in Gopalganj municipal park with firearms, crude bombs, and sticks.

In Rangpur’s Gangachara upazila, communal violence on July 26-27 saw at least 20 Hindu homes vandalised and looted after a teenager was arrested over an alleged defamatory social media post, HRSS said.

On July 9, scrap trader Md Sohag was beaten and hacked to death in front of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital in Old Dhaka. HRSS called it one of the most brutal killings of the month.

A Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into Milestone School and College in Uttara on July 21, killing at least 34 people, mostly students, and injuring more than 150.

HRSS reported 59 political violence incidents that left 15 people dead and 661 injured. Among the dead were six BNP, five AL, and four United People’s Democratic Front (UPDF) activists. Thirteen additional attacks resulted in the deaths of four more individuals – three BNP and one AL activist.”

At least 27 journalists were assaulted or harassed in 17 incidents. Fifteen were injured, five threatened, and two named in cases.

Six attacks on minorities led to the vandalism of 20 homes, two temples, and two idols. One land grabbing attempt was also reported.

Thirty-two mob violence incidents left 12 dead and 39 injured. Some opposition activists were beaten by locals and students before being handed to police, HRSS said.

HRSS said six Bangladeshis were killed, four injured, and four arrested in eight border-related incidents involving BSF. The BSF also allegedly

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## ‘If EC lacks backbone, how am I standing?’

Commission secretary hits back at NCP leader’s remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after a National Citizen Party leader accused the Election Commission of being “spineless”, EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed yesterday said, “If the EC lacks a backbone, how am I standing?”

“Political statements are not our area. We deal with administrative matters. So far, I am standing straight. Pray that I can continue to stand this way,” he said while speaking to reporters at the EC headquarters in Dhaka.

Asked whether everything [election preparation] would be completed by October, he said some tasks may remain pending but could be addressed later.

According to Akhtar Ahmed, a revised voter list – updated through door-to-door visits – will be published on August 10. It will add about 44 lakh previously unlisted voters and remove deceased ones. Claims and objections will be resolved, and the final list will be published by August 31.

A supplementary list will be released one month before the polls, as per the

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# Govt slashes stent prices by up to Tk 88,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has revised the prices of coronary stents from three major US companies, lowering the cost of each stent by Tk 3,000 to Tk 88,000, providing much-needed relief to heart patients.

According to a health ministry document, prices of 10 types of stents from Abbott, Boston Scientific, and Medtronic have been revised.

Meanwhile, hospitals will not be allowed to charge more than five percent in service fees, it said.

Yesterday, the ministry issued a letter instructing the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) to monitor compliance with the new prices.

A DGDA director confirmed to The Daily Star that the letter was received yesterday.

According to the American Heart Association, a stent is a flexible tube placed in an artery to increase blood flow to the heart. Stents can help reduce the chance of a heart attack.

The steepest price cut is for Abbott’s Synergy XD stents, the price of which has been reduced from Tk 1.88 lakh to Tk 1 lakh.

On the other hand, the price of Abbott’s Xience Expedition stent remains unchanged at Tk 71,500.

Prices of nine other types of stents were reduced by Tk 3,000-Tk 50,500, the letter shows.

“In light of the recommendations of the expert advisory committee, and considering taxes, VAT, various

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# Dhaka Central University to hold both online, on-campus classes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed Dhaka Central University, which includes seven government colleges in the capital, will follow a hybrid model – 40 percent of classes will be held online, and the remaining in person.

All exams, however, will be conducted in person.

Officials from the education ministry shared the latest updates at a press briefing held at the Secretariat yesterday.



An ordinance to formally establish the Dhaka Central University is expected within this year, they said.

Md Mojibur Rahman, acting secretary of the Secondary and Higher Education Division; Prof SMA Faiz, chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC); Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, member of the UGC; and Prof AKM Elias, principal of Dhaka College and also the interim administrator for the seven colleges, described the plan at the briefing.

According to the plan, the School of Science will be based at Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, and Begum Badrunnessa Government Mohila College. The School of Arts and Humanities will be based at Government Bangla College, and the School of Business will be at Government Titumir College. The School of Law and Justice will be

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A long tailback left Mirpur Road in the Dhanmondi area at a standstill for hours. Various protests and upcoming programmes centring August 5 resulted in heavy traffic in multiple areas of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS