

Aug 5 events caught Delhi off guard: BBC

It reported that India believed Hasina's stay there would be short

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian government, on the morning of August 5 last year, was under the impression that Sheikh Hasina would overcome the crisis; it could not realise that she would become a semi-permanent guest when the deposed prime minister arrived later that day, reported BBC Bangla yesterday.

Although Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and Home Minister Amit Shah had been briefed by intelligence officials that Hasina was facing the most formidable political challenge of her career, they were assured that she would weather the storm.

The events that ultimately unfolded on August 5 last year caught Indian government officials off guard, claimed BBC Bangla.

It reported that during what is believed to have been the final conversation over the hotline, likely on August 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then premier Hasina did not discuss the possibility of her seeking refuge in India.

The report said although Indian officials were aware that the ongoing protests in Bangladesh carried a distinct anti-India sentiment, the scale of hostility came as a

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In observance of July Mass Uprising Day yesterday, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus visited the under-construction "July Uprising Memorial Museum" at the Gono Bhaban, which was previously the residence of the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Clockwise from left: A symbolic mass grave stands in tribute to the martyred heroes of July. Sculptures in the outdoor area depict iconic moments from the July uprising. The interior gallery showcases photographs, artworks, books, and newspapers highlighting the past regime's brutalities and the rebellion.

PHOTOS: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

FROM PAGE 1

The announcement came at a time when major political parties are still divided over when the 13th parliamentary polls should be held.

The BNP and like-minded parties pressed for holding the election in February following a meeting between Prof Yunus and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman in London in early June.

The National Citizen Party (NCP) wants the polls to be held after visible progress in reforms and trial of those responsible for the killings during the uprising. The Jamaat-e-Islami has been demanding reforms before elections.

The BNP, Nagorik Oikya, Ganosamhati Andolan, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and AB Party welcomed the chief adviser's announcement.

NCP and Jamaat did not give any immediate reaction and said that they will come up with their statements after discussions in their party fora.

FINAL CHAPTER'

In his 35-minute speech, Prof Yunus recalled he had said four months ago that the next parliamentary election would be held by June 2026. But before that, the government needed to complete some essential tasks -- among them, the July Declaration and the July Charter.

"We had three responsibilities: reform, justice, and election," he said, highlighting the progress being made in democratic reform of the state system and the trial of those responsible for the July killings.

To that end, he said, the government formed several reform commissions and already implemented many urgent reforms within a short time.

The chief adviser said that for the implementation of long-term

reforms, the interim government formed the National Consensus Commission which held dialogues with more than 30 political parties and alliances for weeks and brought the July Charter to its final stage on the basis of intense talks.

"We hope that, based on this consensus, the political parties will soon sign the July Charter and reach an agreement on its implementation as well."

Yunus said the July Charter will ensure the smooth transfer of power in Bangladesh, the independence and efficiency of the state institutions, the genuine implementation of citizens' rights, and the proper management of state resources and capabilities.

"We must ensure that no future government can ever again become fascist," he said. "We must repair the state in such a way that if any sign of fascism appears anywhere, it can be eliminated instantly without having to wait another 16 years, without more lives having to be lost, without needing another mass uprising."

Speaking about the ongoing trial of people charged with committing crimes against humanity during the uprising, Prof Yunus said the procedure is progressing firmly with the start of formal hearings.

"Those involved in the most brutal killings in history will be brought to justice on the soil of this country," he asserted.

He added that the trial process and its outcomes will be made public step by step to ensure transparency and make it visible to the people.

In his speech, Prof Yunus also said that holding the polls will be his government's final task.

"From the moment I finish this address to you on this historic day, we will enter our final and most important chapter. We will

now begin the process of handing over responsibility to an elected government."

Praising the contribution of the expatriates in recovering the previously devastated economy with remittances, he said the Election Commission is making preparations to ensure that expatriate voters are able to cast their ballots this time.

"We also want to ensure that women voters across the country can cast their votes freely and with enthusiasm. We will take all necessary measures so that the polling centres overflow with women voters," he said.

The chief adviser said citizens could not cast their votes during the Awami League's tenure as they were robbed of their right to franchise.

"In this election, we want to cast our overdue votes in great joy and celebration. The first-time voters will head to polling stations amid festivities to create lasting memories of this day. These will include new women and men voters and also those who were eligible 15 years ago but never had the chance to vote in their lifetime."

He asked everyone to start discussing every day how to make voting arrangements smooth, festive, and enjoyable. "This election will lay the foundation for building a new Bangladesh. Get ready for that."

Prof Yunus said faulty elections were responsible for every major conflict and violence in the history of the country.

The July uprising showed the ultimate consequence of any party forcibly grabbing power through a flawed election, he said, adding, "We do not want any repetition of such disgraceful chapters of our history."

He cautioned that a certain group is desperate to obstruct the election process and engaged in various

conspiracies from both within and outside the country to disrupt democratic progress.

"The defeated forces will try repeatedly to re-emerge before the election," he said. "But if a free, fair, and impartial election is successfully held, those evil forces will face final defeat."

He said the government will use technology to get constant feedback on the polls. It is taking an initiative to launch an app, which will be available soon.

Through this app, people will be able to share all their suggestions, concerns, opinions, and initiatives. The relevant authorities will take necessary measures to resolve if any issue arises, he added.

The chief adviser urged the political parties to ensure that the youth and women are not left out in their manifestos, promises, and plans.

"Remember, the young men and women who have changed Bangladesh are also capable of changing the world. Give them the opportunity to do so through your party," he said.

ECONOMY, OTHER ISSUES

Prof Yunus said taming inflation was one of the biggest challenges of his government. Food inflation rose to around 14 percent due to the fragile state of the economy and the floods in the south and northern regions.

"It [inflation] has halved now. We hope to bring it down to 6 percent by December."

He stated that remittance inflow helped the currency get stronger and therefore the taka appreciated against the dollar after a long time.

Prof Yunus said in the last 11 months alone, Bangladesh paid \$4 billion -- the highest ever -- in principal and interest to foreign creditors.

"Even after settling previous dues, our foreign exchange reserves are increasing, and we hope this trend will continue."

Thanks to a raft of government initiatives, he said, the country received over Tk 10,500 crore in foreign investment in the first quarter of the year, more than double the amount received during the same period last year.

Since October, Bangladesh received Tk 16,500 crore in foreign direct investment in six months -- twice as much as the last six months of the previous government's tenure, he added. He also mentioned an investment pledge by Hong Kong-based industrial group Handa.

Prof Yunus said creating employment opportunities is one of the key priorities of the interim government.

On the money laundered during the past 16 years, he said the government has taken initiatives to bring these funds back and appointed a renowned international legal firm.

Due to appropriate legal actions, some of the assets laundered abroad have already been confiscated and the government believes that more positive outcomes will come soon, he said.

Emphasising the importance of freedom of journalism for democratic practices, Prof Yunus said the government repealed the Digital Security Act and withdrew all cases related to journalists under the act.

"We have made criticism open and accessible," he said. "It is now possible to criticise the government even in state media."

The Cyber Security Act has been amended, and internet access has been declared a fundamental right, he added.

Speaking about the modernising Chattogram Port's management, he said the government assigned Dry Dock Limited, operated by the Bangladesh Navy, to handle container operations at the New Mooring Terminal.

"Positive changes have already been observed since they took over," he said.

"If the port is being modernised, it will benefit not only Bangladesh's economy but also the economies of neighbouring countries including Nepal and Bhutan."

Prof Yunus said his government is working diligently to ease visa-related complications for Bangladeshi expatriates and has initiated preparations to send at least one lakh Bangladeshis to Japan in the next five years.

He also spoke about the measures to ensure smooth Hajj operations, improve the quality of education, and upgrade the pay scale of teachers.

The interim government is committed to never again allowing our educational institutions to be polluted by such politics that destroy the academic environment and the lives of our youth."

He also mentioned the steps on the treatment and support given by the government to the victims of atrocities during the July uprising, judicial reforms and police reforms.

The chief adviser concluded with a call to all citizens on the first anniversary of the uprising, "Come, let us overcome the first major challenge towards building a new Bangladesh."

"Let us take a vow on this July Mass Uprising Day that we will never again allow this nation to be divided," he said.

July Declaration to get constitutional recognition

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat-e-Islami, stood beside Prof Yunus on the steps of the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad (national parliament) as he read out the declaration.

Prof Yunus also said the people wish to recognise the martyrs of the July uprising as "national heroes" and ensure necessary "legal protection" for the students and citizens who participated in the movement.

The declaration chronicles events spanning decades, including the Liberation War of 1971, the November 1975 uprising and the struggle against military dictator H M Ershad during the 1990s.

The announcement was part of a daylong programme celebrating the "36 Days of July," organised by the government to commemorate one year since the mass uprising that culminated in the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government.

The former prime minister fled to India on August 5, last year.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar, National Citizen Party Convenor Nahid Islam, Islami Andolan Bangladesh Ameer Syed Rezaul Karim, Nagarik Oikya President Mahmudur

Rahman Manna, Ganosamhati Andolan Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki, Hefajat-e-Islam Secretary General Sajedur Rahman, Jatiya Ganofront Coordinator Tipu Biswas, Amar Bangladesh Party Chairman Mojibur Rahman Monju, and Gano Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur stood beside Yunus on the podium.

Sabrina Afroz, sister of July mass uprising martyr Mahbubul Alam, also joined them on the stage.

Amid light rain, the programme began with the national anthem, followed by a one-minute silence in honour of the fallen heroes of the mass uprising.

JULY DECLARATION

The declaration opens by stating that, as part of the historic struggle against colonialism, the people of this land rose against 23 years of deprivation and exploitation under Pakistan's autocratic rule. Through mass resistance against indiscriminate genocide, they declared independence on March 26, 1971, and established the state of Bangladesh through a Liberation War for national emancipation.

The people made the ultimate sacrifice through a long struggle to realise a liberal democratic state based on equality, dignity, and social justice, as articulated in the 1971 Proclamation

of Independence.

However, the declaration states, the post-independence Awami League government failed to meet public aspirations due to procedural flaws in drafting the 1972 Constitution, its structural weaknesses, and misuse of power, which undermined democracy and state institutions.

It says the AL, instead of fulfilling the democratic promises of independence, manipulated the constitution to establish a one-party BAKSAL system, curbing freedom of expression and judicial independence.

In response, soldiers and the masses staged an uprising on November 7, 1975, paving the way for the return of multi-party democracy, freedom of expression, and judicial independence.

Following the 1990 mass uprising against military dictatorship, parliamentary democracy was restored in 1991. But this process was later disrupted by internal and external conspiracies, leading to Hasina's rise through the orchestrated "1/11" episode.

Over the past 16 years, the declaration says, Hasina's regime pursued undemocratic and illegal constitutional changes driven by a desire to establish a one-party state. It says that Hasina's rule "turned Bangladesh into a fascist, mafia-style

and failing state," tarnishing the country's international image.

"In the name of so-called development," it says, Hasina's government devastated the economy through rampant corruption, bank looting, money laundering, and the destruction of financial institutions, while also endangering the country's environment, biodiversity, and climate.

The declaration adds that democratic opponents across society were subjected to imprisonment, torture, false charges, abductions, and extrajudicial killings.

It notes that Hasina's regime held three rigged elections -- in 2014, 2018, and 2024 -- to cling to power amid mounting public discontent.

Amid this, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement emerged, demanding the abolition of the discriminatory quota system in public recruitment. The student-led protests, joined by people from all walks of life, evolved into a full-scale mass uprising.

"The people of Bangladesh express their intent to democratically reform the existing constitution and all state and constitutional institutions in an orderly manner to ensure good governance, free and fair elections, and prevention of the recurrence of fascist rule," the declaration says.

It also affirms the people's "firm resolve" to ensure prompt and appropriate justice for crimes committed by the AL government during the 16-year anti-fascist struggle and especially the July 2024 uprising, including enforced disappearances, killings, and the plundering of state resources.

The declaration further states that "the people of Bangladesh declare all martyrs of the July mass uprising as

national heroes" and intend to provide full legal protection to the families of the martyrs, injured fighters, and all students and citizens who took part in the protests.

It reaffirms the intent to establish the rule of law, human rights, a corruption-free, exploitation-free, and equitable society based on values, and a democratic state system -- through constitutional reforms undertaken by a national parliament formed via free, fair, and impartial elections, in line with the aspirations of the people, especially the youth.

It also expresses the hope that the rights of present and future generations will be safeguarded through an inclusive, sustainable development strategy that is environmentally and climate resilient.

Finally, it affirms that the 2024 uprising will receive due state and constitutional recognition, and that this declaration will be included in the schedule of the reformed constitution by the next elected government.

The government announced the "July Declaration" after consulting political parties. It took on the responsibility last December amid protests led by Students Against Discrimination, the platform that spearheaded last year's uprising.

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The July spirit burns bright

Thousands from all walks of life poured into the streets yesterday to mark the first anniversary of the July uprising. From Manik Mia Avenue to Shahbagh and the Dhaka University campus, crowds gathered in solidarity, waving flags, chanting slogans, and reaffirming their commitment to justice, democracy, and the people's power that defined the uprising.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



36 days of JULY THE REBEL WITHIN YOU

'THE REBEL WITHIN YOU'

Star organises month-long exhibition on July uprising



Participants at the inaugural ceremony of "The Rebel Within You" -- a month-long group art exhibition at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long commemorative art exhibition, titled "The Rebel Within You," to mark one year of the July uprising, was inaugurated at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

The exhibition, organised by the newspaper, features artworks of 11 young artists who participated in an art camp held at The Daily Star Centre on July 29.

The exhibition paid tribute to the student-led mass movement, and spotlighted the events of July that continue to resonate through the creative expressions of a new generation of artists.

The event was curated not only to display artistic output, but also the lived experiences of the July uprising. Many of the participants expressed that the act of painting felt both cathartic and liberating. Artists described their work as a way to document the psychological weight of the protests and to resist forgetting.

Participants at the exhibition included Abdulllah Al Junayed, Lata Chakma, Aishae Chakma, Mong Shonic Rakhaaine, Ayan Anon, Tanvir Ibn Kabir, Badhon Akther, Safiqul Islam Sagor, Ovi

Rahman, Arham Habib, and Farhad Husen Sumon.

The artists, from Dhaka and Chattogram, crafted art and visual commentary rooted in personal experiences of the uprising.

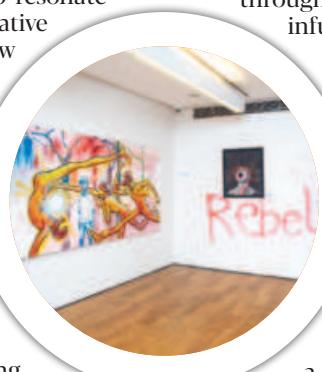
The exhibition also featured textile-based pieces from Mohammed Maaz, the founder of "1972 Art 39," along with the works produced during the art camp.

Maaz, who stitches social justice into fashion, offered a parallel medium for understanding the July events through his embroidery-infused artworks.

The opening ceremony included a slam poetry session and rap performances. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition, "The Rebel Within You," aimed to offer a multi-layered understanding of the July Uprising by bringing together visual art, written reflection, and music.

The ceremony commenced with a slam poetry segment presenting Raian Abedin and Tahseen Nover Prachi. This was followed by a public reading by the winners of a youth writing

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'We'll fight on until justice is served'

Vow families of July martyrs, injured at event hosted by Dhaka district admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families of those killed and injured during the July uprising have demanded justice and punishment for the perpetrators, declaring that no election should be held until the attackers are brought to trial.

They have also urged the government to formally recognise the martyrs and ensure long-term support for the wounded.

They made the remarks while speaking at a commemorative event organised by the Dhaka district administration at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center in the capital yesterday.

Various government officials were present at the programme, who expressed solidarity with the victims' families, promising to deliver justice and spare no one responsible.

At the event, the mother of martyr Akram Khan Rabbi spoke with tearful pride. "My son was killed on July 19. He went to offer prayers and never returned. I am proud to be the mother of a martyr, but how does a mother live without her child?"

She demanded exemplary punishment for those responsible, including the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

As she spoke, the audience chanted slogans: "Bichar chai, bichar chai (We demand justice)" and "Khuni Hasinor bichar chai (Trial of killer Hasina demanded)".

Jamil Ahmed Shahzada's mother, whose two sons were injured during the protests on July 18, said, "I consider myself a fighter. But my sons have yet to receive justice. No election should take place without prosecuting those responsible for attacking our children."

She thanked the doctors who treated the wounded and vowed to remain on the streets until justice is served. "Before politics, we want the recovery of our children," she said. "On behalf of all mothers, I say,

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Struggle for a better future continues

Says Prof Yunus marking July Uprising Day



BSS, Dhaka

The sacrifices made by the "July heroes" will only be truly meaningful when Bangladesh is transformed into a real welfare state, said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

"Today, the entire nation remembers a day that has left an indelible mark on the history of our country. August 5 is not just a special day; it is a symbol of mass uprising and the dawn of a new beginning," he said in a video message marking the July Mass Uprising Day, organised by district administrations across the country.

Marking the day, he paid tribute to all the heroic freedom fighters of the 1971 Liberation War, saying that Bangladesh

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Dengue death toll hits 89; experts warn of Aug surge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more dengue patients died and 319 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), two of the latest deaths were reported from Chattogram division, and one from the Dhaka South City Corporation area.

With the latest figures, the total number of dengue-related deaths has risen to 89, while the number of recorded cases stands at 22,384 so far this year.

Experts have warned that the situation may deteriorate significantly in August due to the prevailing rainfall pattern, which creates

ideal conditions for the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes -- the primary vector of the virus.

"Intermittent rain is highly favourable for the spread of the dengue virus, which is already present across the country," said entomologist GM Saifur Rahman.

He said Aedes mosquitoes tend to be more active during overcast or gloomy weather, which has persisted nationwide. "During the monsoon, the number of dengue cases can be up to nine times higher than during the dry season," he added.

Saifur urged the public to take preventive measures, such as wearing full-sleeve clothing, using mosquito nets, and conducting regular cleaning drives at home to eliminate breeding grounds -- particularly on rooftops.

He also criticised the authorities for failing to conduct effective anti-mosquito drives. "They often neglect proper operations in infected areas and even in homes where cases are reported," he said.

Jahangirnagar University entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar warned that dengue cases in August could be at least three times higher than in July, with the possibility of further increase in September.

"The current rain pattern is one of the main drivers behind the surge. Once an outbreak begins, cases tend to rise at a geometric rate," said Bashar.

He stressed the importance of widespread larvae control and elimination of breeding sites. "When both the mosquito population and the number of infected individuals rise simultaneously, the disease spreads rapidly."



Sand being extracted from a river in Netrakona using a dredger machine. *Inset*, piles of sand stored beside a road. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR



Sand syndicates thrive across Netrakona

JAYDUL ISLAM, Netrakona

Despite repeated government restrictions, illegal sand extraction from various rivers in Netrakona shows no signs of slowing down.

Unscrupulous traders are using dredger machines day and night, turning it into a booming business while disregarding official bans, alleged locals.

This rampant extraction poses a serious threat to riverside farmlands, homesteads, roads, religious establishments, market places, and government infrastructure. It is also causing significant environmental degradation.

According to the Revenue Department of the District Administration, there were once seven authorised sand quarries in the district. However, following a High Court directive, five sand quarries on the Someshwari River in Durgapur and one on the Mahadeo River in Kalmakanda have been shut down.

Currently, only one legal sand quarry remains in Bobahala mouza on the Gomai River in Sadar upazila, covering 14.58 acres.

It has been leased to a contractor firm named Arif Enterprise for Tk 6,25,000.

There are, however, allegations that the lessee is extracting sand beyond the authorised area. He is reportedly operating dredgers near the Sidhi Bridge in Kailati union, Kalmakanda.

A recent field visit confirmed sand extraction just 70 metres from the bridge, where a large boat was using a dredger to pile sand on the shore.

Locals have accused former Union Parishad chairman Rubel Bhuiyan of involvement in the illegal activity.

Asked, Rubel denied the charges while Arif claimed he was operating within legal boundaries.

In another instance, sand is being extracted from the Mirkathi River in Gaokandia union, Durgapur, allegedly under the pretext of repairing the Krishnapur-Munisipara road.

Local Jubo Dal leader Shuvo Ahmed has been named in connection. On Sunday afternoon, he was seen supervising sand extraction with a dredger and delivering it to the roadside.

Asked, he said, "I am doing it to ease the suffering of locals... what's wrong with that?"

Illegal sand mining also continues at night in several parts of Rangchhati union in Kalmakanda upazila, including Krishnapur, Hasanagaon, Omargaon, Diarkanda, and Bishoropsha.

Recently, a mobile court conducted a raid in Diarkanda, fined the perpetrators Tk 50,000, and seized the extracted sand.

Across the district, influential syndicates are reportedly running illegal sand extraction businesses in areas such as Barhatta, Khalijuri, Sadar, Lengura, Mangalshwari, Telsindur, Shimulia, Chakua, and Rasulpur.

Although local authorities have conducted some raids, they have failed to bring the situation under control.

Dilwar Khan, a member of Bela's Netrakona chapter, said, "Administrative action alone isn't enough, we need the active participation of law enforcement and civil society to stop this illegal practice."

Md Abdullah Al Matin, assistant director of the Department of Environment in Netrakona, said, "Even with a lease, environmental clearance is mandatory. If anyone violates this requirement, legal action will be taken."

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Banani Biswas said, "Currently, there is only one legal sand quarry in the district. We are taking action wherever illegal sand extraction is reported, and these operations will continue."

Struggle for a better

FROM PAGE 3

was born as an independent and sovereign state at the cost of countless lives.

Prof Yunus said despite achieving independence, the people of Bangladesh have continued to be denied justice and democracy for more than five decades.

He said the country's path to true freedom has been marred by discrimination, corruption, and misgovernance.

The nation must now strive to honour the sacrifices of those who fought for independence and those who died during the July uprising by transforming Bangladesh into a place where justice, equality, and democracy truly prevail, said the chief adviser.

He stressed that July Mass Uprising Day should serve as a reminder that

The rebel

FROM PAGE 3

competition themed "Our July Stories" -- Iftehaz Yesair Iftee, Ohona Anjum, and Samara Subaita.

The programme ended with a musical segment, featuring young independent artists from Dhaka's burgeoning music scene. Nishan and Kid Nazze delivered rap performances, channelling the spirit of protest into beats and lyrics and giving voice to sentiments often left unsaid.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, delivered remarks during the ceremony, highlighting the importance of holding space for memory and dialogue.

The exhibition will remain open to the public until the end of August at the Ground Floor and Level 1 of The Daily Star Centre between 10:00am and 7:00pm.

We'll fight on

FROM PAGE 3

we will not cry anymore. Let the tyrants cry instead."

Martyr Shuvo's mother recounted how her son was shot on July 18 and died the next morning due to a lack of treatment. "A year has passed, yet there is no justice. What was his crime?" she asked.

The audience responded with chants: "Abu Sayed-Mugdho, shesh hoyni juddho (war isn't over yet)" and "Tomar desh, amar desh (your country, my country), Bangladesh."

"My son was killed on July 19. He went to offer prayers and never returned. I am proud to be the mother of a martyr, but how does a mother live without her child?"

Mother of martyr Akram Khan Rabbi

Maulana Nesar Uddin Naeem, a teacher injured on July 29, said he had stood by students in their struggle. "Sheikh Hasina must be tried. Those already arrested must receive capital punishment, and the Ministry of Law must be pressurised for that," he said.

No election would be acceptable without dismantling the remnants of the former regime, he added.

Government officials also shared their views at the event.

Tanvir Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Dhaka, said preparing an official list of martyrs was a key responsibility of the administration, as Dhaka had witnessed the highest number of casualties during the movement.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Sharafuddin Ahmed Chowdhury said, "Families of the martyrs have demanded justice for their children. We want to stand by them. Their demand for justice is our

martyrs did not sacrifice their lives to put any particular group in power. All advisers are unanimous -- justice must be ensured, no matter how long it takes."

"You are still living the war," she told the audience.

"It's true we may not have managed to fix the country entirely yet. But we promise -- no blood will go in vain. We are here today to renew our vow that justice will be done," she added.

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin S. Murshid, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Abdul Hafiz, and leaders from various political parties and government officials also attended the programme.

PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 6
Faz Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15
JAMAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

JULY UPRISING ANNIV

Global powers back country's democratic aspirations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has called on all parties in Bangladesh to engage in peaceful and constructive dialogue to embed key governance and human rights reforms ahead of the parliamentary elections.

"Bangladesh can count on the EU's support as it moves ahead with its democratic process," said the EU Embassy in Bangladesh in a statement marking the first anniversary of July uprising.

The embassy said one year ago, Bangladeshis from all walks of life took to the streets to stand up for their rights and demand a more just and democratic future.

"Today we honour their courage and resilience, remember those who lost their lives, and reaffirm our support for the survivors still recovering from their injuries," it said.

The UK, France, Canada, Australia, Italy, and Germany also issued statements congratulating the people of Bangladesh on the day and honoured the memory of those who lost their lives.

"Canada joins the people of Bangladesh in marking this important day to recognise their courage and democratic aspirations. We stand in solidarity with all those working towards a just, peaceful, and inclusive future," said the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh.

The UK High Commission in Dhaka said they honour the memory of those who lost their lives and remember those who were injured, while extending support to the interim government and the people of Bangladesh as they chart the pathway to a democratic, inclusive, and prosperous future.

The Italian embassy congratulated Bangladesh and its people for carrying forward a transition process towards a more democratic and prosperous country underpinned by inclusivity and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The German embassy said it stands with the people of Bangladesh and remains committed to supporting the aspirations of the Bangladeshi people for a peaceful, inclusive, and democratic future that ensures the rule of law, justice, and dignity for all.

On its Facebook page, the Australian High Commission said it acknowledges the significance of this day for the people of Bangladesh and remembers those who died or were injured during last year's civil unrest.

"We support Bangladesh as it moves towards free, fair, and participatory elections," it said.

The French embassy in Dhaka said August 5 opened a new chapter in the history of Bangladesh, and France stands with the people of Bangladesh in their pursuit of a peaceful, inclusive, and democratic future.

Milli Bhat: the soulful taste of Jamalpur's heritage



SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

In Jamalpur, food is not just nourishment -- it is memory, emotion, and identity. At the centre of this culinary tradition stands "Milli Bhat", a rich, hearty dish that locals speak of with pride and nostalgia. Some call it Manda, others Pithali, but to most, it is simply "Milli" -- the taste of home.

Traditionally, this beloved dish was cooked only on special occasions such as weddings, religious events, and village feasts. Over time, however, Milli Bhat has found its way onto local restaurant and hotel menus. Yet, even as it gains popularity, it remains deeply rooted in tradition. Those who have tasted it say the experience is unforgettable.

What makes it so special? The slow-cooked beef, the blend of nearly 20 aromatic spices, and the smooth thickening of rice flour come together to create something truly unique -- flavourful, soulful, and deeply satisfying.

Historically, it is believed that the people of Jamalpur have been cooking Milli Bhat for over 200 years. The dish is more than food -- it is a celebration. At community events, villagers still gather in open fields, seated on hay-covered ground, sharing plates in the spirit of togetherness.

Moreover, the cooking process itself is a ritual. Beef is marinated and slow-cooked over a wood fire for hours. Rice flour is then added to

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

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“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

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১২ এক্সেলেন্সি সম্মত
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(৪) সরকারের নাম

(৫) সরকারি বিভাগ বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ ও সরকার

(৬) সরকারের মুসলিম বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ
(৭) বাবুল ও কার্তুল উপকা

(৮) সরকার আবাদুল্লাহ প্রকাশ

(৯) সরকার মুসলিম বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

(১০) সরকার মুসলিম বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ সময়

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(৩৭) সরকার আবাদু

OIL TRADE Russia slams Trump tariff threats on India

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia yesterday accused the United States of exerting illegal trade pressure on India after US President Donald Trump threatened again to raise tariffs on India over its purchases of Russian oil.

"We hear many statements that are in fact threats, attempts to force countries to cut trade relations with Russia. We do not consider such statements to be legal," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"We believe that sovereign countries should have and do have the right to choose their own trading partners, partners for trade and economic cooperation, and to choose for themselves the forms of trade and economic cooperation that are in the interests of a particular country."

UTTARAKHAND Four dead, 50 missing as mudslide hits Indian village

REUTERS, Lucknow

Surging floodwaters and a torrent of mud swept through a village in the northern Indian Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, killing at least four people while more than 50 others were missing, authorities and local TV channels said yesterday.

Teams from army and disaster response forces had reached the area, local authorities said, with workers trying to rescue people trapped under debris and sludge.

TV news channels showed floodwaters and mud surging down a mountain and crashing into the village, sweeping away houses and roads as people ran for their lives.

The mudslide cleaved through Dharali village, burying some houses, according to a video update shared by the state chief minister's office.

Four people were killed and many more had been rescued so far, Uttarkashi district administrator Prashant Arya told local media. "A massive mudslide struck Dharali village in the Kheer Gad area near Harsil, triggering a sudden flow of debris and water through the settlement," the Central Command of the Indian Army said in a post on X.

ALLEGED COUP PLOT Brazil judge puts Bolsonaro under house arrest

US State Dept condemns the order

REUTERS, Brasilia

Brazil's Supreme Court put former President Jair Bolsonaro under house arrest on Monday ahead of his trial for an alleged coup plot, underscoring the court's resolve despite escalating tariffs and sanctions from US President Donald Trump.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, the target of US Treasury sanctions last week, issued the arrest order against Bolsonaro. His decision cited a failure to comply with restraining orders he had imposed on Bolsonaro for allegedly courting Trump's interference in the case.

Bolsonaro is on trial before the Supreme Court on charges he conspired with allies to violently overturn his 2022 electoral loss to leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Trump has referred to the case as a "witch hunt" and called it grounds for a 50 percent tariff on Brazilian goods taking effect today.

The US State Department condemned the house arrest order, saying Moraes was using Brazilian institutions to silence opposition and threaten democracy, adding the US would "hold accountable all those aiding and abetting sanctioned conduct."

It did not provide details, though Trump has said the US could still impose even higher tariffs on Brazilian imports.

The Monday order from Moraes also banned Bolsonaro from using a cell phone or receiving visits, except for his lawyers and people authorized by the court.



A local resident walks past a damaged passenger train at the site of a Russian drone strike in the town of Lozova, Kharkiv region, Ukraine, yesterday. Russian strikes killed three people, including a mechanic at the railway station, and wounded 12 people, authorities said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Israel expands ground, air raids on Gaza

52 Palestinians, including eight aid seekers, killed

AGENCIES

An Israeli military ground campaign accompanied by "very heavy fire from its air force and also from Israeli artillery units" was under way in various parts of Gaza yesterday, according to the Gaza authorities.

Israel is still deepening its operations in Gaza City. This comes amid reports that Israel's cabinet could authorise a complete military takeover of the Palestinian enclave for the first time in two decades, despite international pressure for a ceasefire to ease appalling conditions in the besieged territory.

- ➲ Aussie FM warns of 'risk there will be no Palestine left to recognise'
- ➲ Palestinians too weak to travel on foot to aid sites: aid agency
- ➲ Israel allowing just 86 trucks of aid into Gaza a day

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to meet security chiefs in Jerusalem to issue new orders yesterday, even as Israel's diplomats convened a UN Security Council meeting in New York to highlight the plight of Israelis held in Gaza.

The timing of the security meeting has not been officially confirmed. Netanyahu said



Monday that it would be "in the coming days".

Inside Gaza yesterday, Israeli gunfire and strikes killed at least 52 Palestinians, local health authorities said, including five people in a tent in Khan Younis and eight aid seekers near Rafah in the south.

Israeli tanks pushed into central Gaza, but it was not clear if the move was part of a larger ground offensive, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong has told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) "there is a risk there will be no Palestine left to recognise".

However, Wong did not elaborate on when Australia would recognise Palestinian statehood, saying only that it was "a matter of when, not if".

The UN's children's fund has decried the scale of children being killed in Gaza, which it said averages out to 28 a day — "the size of a classroom", Al Jazeera reports.

"Gaza's children need food, water, medicine and protection. More than anything, they need a ceasefire, now," said the UN agency.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has said that 70 percent of Palestinians are suffering from "extreme weakness caused by starvation" making it difficult to access aid.

"The physical exhaustion is so profound that many are unable to make the long journey on foot to distribution sites or carry heavy loads even if they receive assistance," the DRC said in a survey of Palestinians in Deir el-Balah, Khan Younis, Gaza City and North Gaza.

Israeli military intercepts Houthi missile fired from Yemen

AFP, Jerusalem

Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for firing a missile at Israel's main airport yesterday, as the Israeli military said it intercepted it.

The Iran-backed rebels targeted Ben Gurion airport "using a 'Palestine 2' hypersonic ballistic missile" in support of Palestinians in Gaza, their military spokesman Yahya Saree said in a video statement.

The Israeli military posted on X that "a missile that was launched from Yemen was intercepted by the Israeli air force".

Since the start of the war in the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, the Houthis have repeatedly fired missiles and drones at Israel. Most of them have been intercepted but they have prompted Israeli air strikes on rebel targets in Yemen.

The rebels have also attacked commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, alleged to be linked to Israel, prompting several rounds of US-led air strikes.

The Houthis sank the Magic Seas and Eternity C in separate Red Sea attacks this month, after a temporary hiatus in their campaign against maritime traffic.

Pak police arrest 120 workers of PTI ahead of protest

REUTERS, Lahore

Police arrested 120 activists of Pakistan's main opposition party in raids overnight, security officials said, ahead of protests planned for yesterday, the second anniversary of the jailing of their leader, Imran Khan.

Most of the detentions, made on Monday night and early yesterday, were in the eastern city of Lahore, two police officers told Reuters, where Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party vowed its biggest demonstration, as well as protests elsewhere.

At least 200 activists had been arrested from Lahore, said party spokesperson Zulfiqar Bukhari, adding that the protest would go ahead.

Lahore is the capital of the eastern province of Punjab, the country's most politically important region and home to half its population.

The Punjab government and the provincial police did not respond to requests for comment yesterday. In a statement on Monday, police said large contingents of police were providing security in all the province's major cities.

CLASHES WITH CAMBODIA Thailand approves \$600m deal for Swedish fighter jets

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand approved the purchase of four Swedish-made Gripen fighter jets yesterday, the air force said, week after reaching a ceasefire in deadly border clashes with Cambodia.

The \$600 million agreement for the Saab JAS 39 Gripen was first announced in June as part of a long-term plan to modernise the air force's combat capabilities.

During five days of clashes with Cambodia that left more than 40 people dead, Thailand used its fleet of F-16s to strike military targets across the border.

It was the deadliest border fighting between the two countries in decades.

"The cabinet has approved the purchase of JAS 39 Saab Gripen to strengthen the Royal Thai Air Force and protect Thailand's sovereignty," the air force said on its official Facebook page.

A procurement committee began deliberations in August last year, concluding a 10-month review that favoured the Scandinavian-made jets over American F-16s.

The kingdom already operates 11 older Gripen, as well as dozens of F-16s acquired in the 1980s.

The country's total defence budget stands at 200 billion baht (\$6 billion), which includes allocations for the army, navy and air force.

Meanwhile, Thailand's cabinet has approved a 10 million baht (\$310,000) compensation payment to the families of its soldiers who died in the last month's border conflict with Cambodia, acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai said yesterday.

Families of civilians who died during the conflict will each receive a payment of 8 million baht, Phumtham said after a cabinet meeting.

Thailand and Cambodia may have reached a ceasefire to halt their bloody border clashes, but cyber warriors are still battling online, daubing official websites with obscenities, deluging opponents with spam and taking pages down.

Iran detains cell linked to exiled opposition

AFP, Tehran

Iran has arrested three members of a suspected sabotage cell linked to the exiled opposition for attempting to disrupt public order, Iranian media reported yesterday.

The suspects, who are allegedly linked to banned former rebel group the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran (MEK), were detained by the Revolutionary Guard in the county of Pakdasht, southeast of Tehran, the ISNA news agency said.

"Three members of MEK-linked sabotage cells who sought to disrupt public order and security were identified and arrested," prosecutor Mohammad Hassanpour told ISNA.

He accused the MEK of using underground propaganda networks to recruit individuals to form "sabotage cells" aimed at disrupting public order.



Congress supporters protest in Srinagar yesterday, demanding statehood for India's Kashmir region—six years after New Delhi revoked Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, which had granted the region special status and autonomy. India's Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a petition seeking the restoration of Kashmir's federal statehood later this week.

PHOTO: AFP

Is the spirit of August 5 being betrayed?

TIB report paints a grim picture of post-uprising reality

As the nation celebrates one year of the historic August 5 that put an end to the autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, it is deeply troubling that the corrupt, authoritarian, and exclusionary practices that had made the regime so reviled in the first place persist to this day. While the interim government has made some progress in certain areas, the challenges that remain are enormous—be it in politics, or economy, or governance. It would be unfair to place the blame squarely on the government. Political parties, newly formed civil platforms, the media, and citizens and public servants alike have all contributed to the growing sense of disillusionment.

That disillusionment is well reflected in a recent report of the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) that analysed developments across key sectors to present a sobering assessment of the first year since the uprising. The report highlights how systemic problems in politics, public administration, law enforcement, and even reform initiatives remain largely unaddressed, with troubling continuities in crimes, corruption, and mismanagement.

In politics, for example, violence remains a key concern. According to TIB, between August last year and June this year, 121 people were killed and 5,189 injured in political clashes, mostly involving BNP. In July, as per another estimate, political violence left 15 dead and 661 injured. Moreover, since the uprising, political leaders have conveniently filled the vacuum left by Awami League in various sectors, continuing the same patterns of extortion and control. About Tk 2.21 crore is apparently extorted daily from 53 terminals and stands in Dhaka alone. Political leaders and activists have also grabbed leases of bridges, jetties, quarries, and marketplaces across the country. Many have been involved in filing and manipulating dubious cases, and in orchestrating mob attacks for various ends. And despite proposing numerous reform agendas, most parties have failed to initiate internal democratic practices. Politicisation of public institutions continues as before.

The performance of law enforcement agencies has been similarly disappointing. They continue to allow arbitrary cases and detentions, custodial deaths, and even extrajudicial killings. Their handling of mob attacks has often raised questions. Crimes of all sorts remain rampant. The justice system, too, has failed to live up to the promise of change. TIB notes that political partisanship in the judiciary still prevails, undermining public confidence in the courts.

It has also flagged serious issues within the administration, including chaos, corruption, and conflicts of interest. Public recruitments and promotions continue to be questionable. So far, 11 reform commissions were formed, but important sectors like education continue to be sidelined. No steps have yet been taken to reform state agencies like DGFI, DB, NSI, and NTMC—long used to enforce authoritarian control. The reform drive has also been frequently marred by a lack of clarity and political will. Even agreed-upon reforms, such as curbing executive overreach, have been met with conditional support from some political parties.

Given these circumstances, there are fears that the rare opportunity that we were handed to build a new Bangladesh will be squandered if we are not careful. So, one year on from the uprising, we urge critical reflection from all its stakeholders. They must all do more, and do better.

Finalise the draft parking policy

We need to stop illegal parking practices, reduce traffic jams in Dhaka

It is quite disappointing that the parking policy drafted by the previous government in 2019 has remained idle for years. Reportedly, the Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), responsible for developing and coordinating transportation services and traffic management in line with the infrastructure growth of Greater Dhaka, has been unable to finalise the draft even after five years. At a time when the capital city is witnessing unchecked proliferation of motor vehicles and the resultant increase in roadside parking, such a policy is urgently needed to guide the construction and use of proper parking facilities.

A modern city should have 20-25 percent of its space allocated for roads, but Dhaka has only 7-8 percent. Unfortunately, these roads often remain illegally occupied by vehicles, further shrinking the space for commuters and pedestrians. In Karwan Bazar, for example, cars are regularly seen parked illegally near buildings like the WASA office, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel and the metro station, creating heavy congestion. From Banglamotor to Moghbazar, New Eskaton Road is seen lined with auto repair shops, where vehicles are parked and serviced on the street. Similar scenes can be found citywide. Even places like hospitals, shopping malls, and community centres are using public streets for parking, aggravating traffic conditions.

The draft parking policy outlines several directives regarding the development and use of parking spaces. It strictly prohibits parking on roads except in designated areas marked by approved road signs and markings within urban zones. It also recommends that traffic police take action against unauthorised parking on the roads. Additionally, before public transport vehicles are granted registration approval, proper parking facilities must be confirmed. For buildings that lack sufficient parking facilities, they must ensure compliance with construction regulations. Failure to comply will result in legal action as prescribed by law, the policy says.

Traffic congestion is one of the most pressing challenges facing Dhaka, which continues to waste precious work hours affecting both our productivity and quality of life. Although previous governments undertook various infrastructure development projects like building flyovers and also implemented some ad hoc solutions such as demarcating separate lanes for rickshaws to reduce jams, these efforts proved ineffective. To address this problem, restore pedestrian access to pavements, and enhance the city's overall environment, establishing sufficient parking facilities is essential. To that end, a proper policy is paramount.

The nation we envision

One year after the fall of the Hasina regime, five Bangladeshi students at Cornell University, US, reflect on a nation in transition and envision a future beyond fascism.

Prioritising health and nutrition

SHAH MOHAMMAD FAHIM and SAIF MAHMUD

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in many health indicators over the years; however, health services still rank at the top of public dissatisfaction. Several critical reforms are essential.

First, the country should introduce and strengthen a comprehensive referral system to ensure seamless patient transitions between primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare facilities. Reform efforts should prioritise primary care, especially in urban areas where disparities exist for low- and middle-income citizens. Slum residents, in particular, experience severe undernutrition and limited access to essential women's health services, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions.

Additionally, Bangladesh must confront the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, hypertension, heart

diseases, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, mental health disorders, and age-related neurodegenerative conditions. With the elderly population projected to nearly double by 2050, the overburdened healthcare system must prioritise specialised care for the at-risk population. Primary care facilities require substantial investments in infrastructure, diagnostic tools, and trained personnel.

Emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence-powered wearable devices like smartwatches, can monitor vital signs, allowing early detection of potential health risks and chronic conditions. Such proactive monitoring could significantly reduce emergency hospitalisations and premature deaths while improving overall health outcomes. Aggregating data from wearables would also offer valuable real-time insights into national health trends, enabling preventive strategies rather than costly treatment approaches. However, widespread adoption requires a robust digital infrastructure. To effectively adopt

digital health solutions, the country must develop a unified electronic health record (EHR) system integrating data from hospitals, primary care facilities, and wearable devices.

Advancements in AI and biomedical technology can also significantly improve nutrition outcomes. Instead of "one-size-fits-all" nutrition programmes, the country should adopt and implement precision nutrition approaches tailored to individual needs to combat deficiencies and prevent associated chronic diseases. A nationwide school-based nutritional assessment programme, the inclusion of health and nutrition education in the curriculum, and the improvement of school meal programmes are essential. This would significantly boost overall nutrition and prevent the future onset of nutrition-related NCDs.

Finally, health sector allocation should rise, from five percent to at least 15 percent of the national budget. In addition, effective policies and evidence-based public health programmes are necessary.



PHOTO COURTESY: SHAH MOHAMMAD FAHIM
Placards displayed by Bangladeshi students at Cornell University's Arts Quad in the US on July 20, 2024, expressing solidarity with the anti-discrimination movement in Bangladesh.

Rethinking adaptation planning for climate change

YOUSUF MAHID

Bangladesh is internationally recognised as a climate adaptation leader, admired for its vulnerability-driven planning and proactive role in global climate negotiations. However, a critical paradox is: adaptation planning in Bangladesh has often prioritised technocratic solutions over climate justice, sidelining communities most at risk.

Years of dedicated efforts have led to ambitious strategies such as the Delta Plan 2100, the National Adaptation Plan, and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan. These initiatives heavily depend on foreign investment, limiting the country's autonomy in shaping its own climate future. Consequently, they have enabled elite-led and donor-driven interventions that failed to meaningfully protect or empower vulnerable communities. Most projects remain short term and experimental, treating affected populations as mere subjects rather than active participants.

The July uprising presents an opportunity to transform this paradigm. It creates space for climate adaptation models grounded in

justice, participation, and national sovereignty. Policymakers must re-envision adaptation planning as a long-term, community-centred process, instead of launching a series of uncoordinated ventures. Local governments and frontline communities should be engaged to identify risks, set priorities, and evaluate their measurable outcomes.

The country should also diversify climate finance strategies, reducing reliance on external donors by increasing domestic budget allocations, leveraging regional partnerships, and establishing community-based adaptation funds.

Planning must integrate local knowledge systems, inclusive governance, and enforceable accountability mechanisms.

However, genuine transformation demands redistribution of decision-making power, commitment to ecological and social equity, and strong political will to reject superficial solutions in favour of lasting change. The country should prioritise rebuilding adaptation planning as a tool for climate justice, not compliance, to restore dignity and reclaim national agency in the era of global climate uncertainty.

AYAJ RANA

Bangladesh's demographic dividend risks becoming a liability unless its growing workforce gains access to meaningful employment. Unemployment rose from 2.49 million in 2023 to 2.66 million by September 2024, with millions more lacking formal jobs. Nevertheless, the country is already the world's second-largest supplier of online freelance workers, contributing approximately 16 percent globally. Recent surveys show many aspire to entrepreneurship, while many prefer remote work.

This signals a significant policy gap. To convert freelancers into entrepreneurs,

the government must treat digital work on platforms like Upwork, Fiverr, Freelancer, and Toptal as strategic exports. Education and vocational training must emphasise digital skills, English proficiency, and client management. Collaborations between the National Skills Development Authority and industry can produce modular curricula, while scholarships and stipends should encourage enrolment of women and rural youths.

Infrastructure and regulatory support are equally critical. Reliable broadband and uninterrupted electricity are essential for remote work. The government must streamline payment gateways and establish formal partnerships with global platforms

to facilitate secure financial transactions. Issuing freelancer identity cards and expanding loan access can further support digital entrepreneurship. Additionally, creating freelancing hubs with shared services, mentorship, and legal support can nurture startups.

Labour laws should also evolve to recognise digital workers, ensuring fair contracts and effective dispute resolution. Trade negotiators must advocate for cross-border data flows to secure international market access. These targeted reforms are essential to transform Bangladesh into a hub for exportable digital services, reducing the economy's reliance on sectors like the garment industry and remittances.

AI, robotics, and the future of communications

TAUHID TANJIM

AI and robotics are reshaping our daily lives. While the global tech giants race ahead, Bangladesh cannot afford to remain a passive consumer of foreign technology. We must develop our own AI and robotics applications to solve unique challenges. In developed countries, firefighters deploy water drones

to combat blazes and search-and-rescue robots to save lives. Drones and automated systems offer transformative solutions for Bangladesh's specific needs during floods, cyclones, and earthquakes. These devices can deliver emergency supplies to stranded communities and conduct search-and-rescue operations in areas hazardous to human responders.

AI can also be leveraged for the future of communications, which lies not just in faster

internet but in seamless connections between citizens, AI assistants, and robotic systems. The government must take decisive action to transition from 4G to 5G infrastructure, enabling the high-speed connectivity essential for real-time AI coordination and robotic response systems. The country should also develop policies and allocate a sufficient budget to support innovators of digital solutions and develop AI-powered technologies in our context.

Bangladesh must stop driving its talents away



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MD MANJURUL AHSAN

In 2014, while working for a reputed company in Bangladesh, I had to wake up at 5am every day to catch a bus, which typically took around two hours to reach my workplace in Gazipur. After a full day of work, compounded by heavy traffic jams, I usually arrived home between 9 and 10pm. This left me with only six to seven hours for showering, dinner, spending time with my family, sleeping, and preparing for the next day. As an industrial engineer earning a limited salary in a highly competitive and overcrowded job market with few facilities, I felt increasingly unfit for the relentless race.

I attempted the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exam once but was not selected in the preliminary stage. I found myself among many engineers

who lacked practical opportunities to apply their skills. After discussing my frustrations with seniors and friends from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, I decided to leave the country. In 2015, I landed in the US to study at Lamar University.

The experience was completely different. There was no student politics or noise pollution; everything was clean, and people were incredibly cooperative. As a graduate student in the US, I benefited from systems starkly contrasting with those in Bangladesh. For instance, American universities offer extensive funding through teaching and research assistantships (TAs and RAs), which often cover full tuition, provide stipends for living expenses, and health insurance—opportunities

rarely available in Bangladesh, where higher education is largely self-funded with minimal scholarships. Students studying in American universities also have access to state-of-the-art laboratories, advanced technology like high-performance computing clusters, and collaborations with expert faculty from top institutions.

political disruptions. These US facilities were instrumental in my success. During my time at Lamar University, I worked to develop a facial recognition system for unmanned aerial vehicles using machine learning techniques, gaining hands-on experience in computer vision and AI domains. The access to

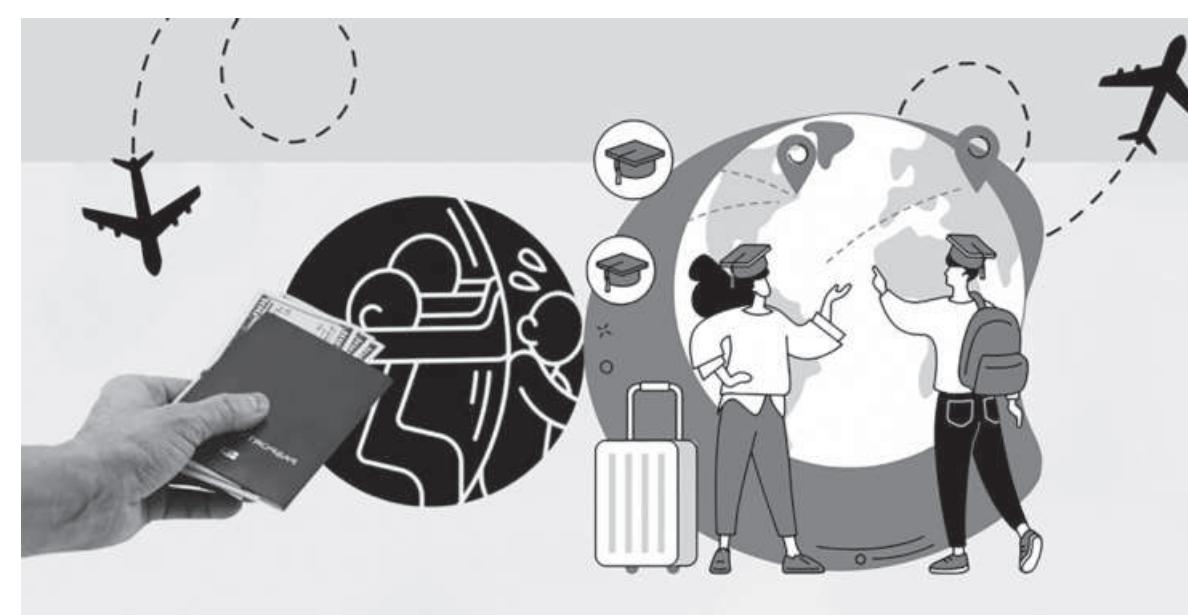
These US facilities were instrumental in my success. During my time at Lamar University, I worked to develop a facial recognition system for unmanned aerial vehicles using machine learning techniques, gaining hands-on experience in computer vision and AI domains. The access to

In Bangladesh, graduate and PhD programmes often suffer from insufficient funding, outdated facilities, and a disconnect between academia and industry demands. Political instability, frequent strikes, and economic challenges like low salaries (often below living wages for skilled professionals) exacerbate the issues, leading to a nearly 10 percent

skill shortages that hinder national development.

To reduce brain drain, Bangladesh can implement targeted strategies: first, increase government investment in education by expanding scholarships and modernising university infrastructure to match global standards; second, align academic programmes with industry demands through partnerships, offering internships and vocational training to boost employability; third, improve economic incentives like competitive salaries, tax breaks for returning professionals, and dual citizenship policies to encourage "brain gain"; fourth, promote political stability and anti-corruption measures to create a safer, more attractive environment; finally, foster entrepreneurship with low-interest loans and startup incubators, turning potential emigrants into local innovators. If adopted, these steps could stem the outflow and build a thriving knowledge economy.

My journey from Bangladesh's challenges to the opportunities of the US has been transformative. Now, at the University of Oklahoma, I develop AI-driven digital twins for metal additive manufacturing at the Sooner Advanced Manufacturing Lab, reducing costs and waste. Looking back, the supportive ecosystem of the US was key to my success—but with reforms, Bangladesh could nurture its own talents and reverse the tide.



FILE VISUAL: MAHIYA TABASSUM

In Bangladesh, graduate and PhD programmes often suffer from insufficient funding, outdated facilities, and a disconnect between academia and industry demands. Political instability, frequent strikes, and economic challenges like low salaries (often below living wages for skilled professionals) exacerbate the issues, leading to a nearly 10 percent rise in educated unemployed individuals over the past decade.

Additionally, international students can utilise Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) to gain paid work experience and pathways to H-1B visas or green cards. Bangladesh's system, meanwhile, suffers from limited infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, and

cutting-edge tools and a supportive environment helped me secure a fully-funded scholarship for my PhD at the University of Oklahoma. Without the advanced labs and funding, I might not have built the portfolio that led to publications, collaborations, and ultimately, prestigious positions.

rise in educated unemployed individuals over the past decade. The brain drain is rampant; Bangladesh's brain drain index stands at 6.7 out of 10 (higher than the global average of 4.98 5.55), with thousands of skilled professionals emigrating annually for better opportunities abroad, resulting in economic losses and



Crew members aboard the humanitarian migrant rescue ship Sea-Watch 5 perform a rescue drill yesterday, as the vessel heads toward the search and rescue zone in the central Mediterranean Sea.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Childhood buried in trash

FROM PAGE 12
million children in Bangladesh are engaged in hazardous work. Conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics with support from the International Labour Organization, the survey found that out of 39.9 million children aged five to seventeen, 3.54 million are economically active. Of them, 1.76 million are involved in child labour.

The BSS also notes that many of the working children contribute as primary earners in their homes. Despite working long hours in harsh conditions, they are consistently paid less than adults.

Dr Hanif, a professor of nephrology at Anwer Khan Modern Medical College Hospital, warned of serious health risks.

Child labour in waste handling is not only a rights violation; it is a public health hazard. They often suffer cuts from sharp, contaminated objects, risking hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, and chronic infections. Many face poor nutrition, respiratory issues, and skin diseases."

He added that prolonged exposure to foul odours may dull their sense of smell. In extreme cases, a lack of medical care can lead to antibiotic resistance.

Wahida Banu, executive director of Parajeyo Bangladesh, pointed to the policy vacuum. "Bangladesh adopted a national child labour policy in 2010, but there is still no standalone law to eliminate it. The government's action plan has stalled. Unless child labour is prioritised politically and budgeted accordingly, we will continue to fall short."

She stressed that poverty is not the only driver. "Many families push children into work because they don't see short-term benefits from school. But if the state invested in quality education, joyful learning, and targeted support through social safety nets or small enterprise funds, families might choose school over labour."

Amal Krishna Mondal, additional secretary at the labour ministry, said, "There is still a serious lack of awareness around child labour. Many employers exploit children for cheap labour, and families push them into work for short-term relief."

"Our ministry is running several projects, but poverty remains a powerful driver. This is not a problem that can be solved overnight. It requires time, commitment, and collective action."

Never again will Bangladesh allow

FROM PAGE 12
regular part of life.

"During the movement against this fascism, which lasted for more than 15 years, Tarique said lakhs of leaders and activists from BNP and other pro-democracy parties were made to suffer by turning the country into hell."

"Due to hundreds of false cases, lakhs of opposition leaders and supporters were forced to leave their homes. Many even lost their family ties."

Tarique also said secret detention centres, known as 'Aynagar', were built to silence dissent. "Many people were locked up in dark rooms for years. Some, like former MP Ilias Ali and commissioner Chowdhury Alam,

are still missing."

He accused the Awami fascist regime of destroying key state institutions like the judiciary and the Election Commission, rigging elections and undermining the constitution.

Blaming the Hasina regime for ruining the economy, the BNP leader said, "Banks were looted and nearly Tk 28 lakh crore was siphoned off abroad from the country."

Praising the people's courage in the July uprising, Tarique said, "People from all walks of life -- students, workers, farmers, journalists, women, even mothers -- joined the streets to fight for democracy. Helicopters were used to shoot at protesters. Many children and young people lost their

lives."

He said more than 1,500 people were killed and at least 30,000 were injured in the uprising, while hundreds suffered life-altering injuries.

The BNP leader said the sacrifices of these brave people have united the nation against fascism. "Never again will Bangladesh allow dictatorship to rise. Democracy will be protected, and no one will be allowed to turn the country into a subservient state again."

He also called for unity among all political parties. "Different parties may have different views and goals. That's the beauty of democracy. But disagreements must not allow extremism or dictatorship to return."

Aug 5 events caught Delhi off guard: BBC

FROM PAGE 2
shock after the vandalism of the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka.

Besides, majority of staffers at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, along with their family members, had been flown out on commercial flights to Kolkata or Delhi.

According to BBC Bangla, in the days before August 5, the army chiefs of Bangladesh and India, General Walker-Uz-Zaman and General Upendra Dwivedi, had been in "constant communication."

While the deployment of Indian troops on Bangladeshi soil was never under consideration, the report stated that Delhi had conveyed its willingness to provide all other support.

The report noted that shortly after noon on August 5, two successive phone calls from Dhaka were received in New Delhi, an incident later confirmed in parliament by Jaishankar.

The first call came from the office of Hasina, who spoke directly.

Although Jaishankar did not reveal the identity of who was on the other end, BBC Bangla noted that as per the protocol, communication generally occurs between the heads of governments in such a situation.

By then, India learnt that Hasina had decided to resign after a meeting with the country's security forces.

In the call to Delhi, she requested temporary refuge in India, and the request was immediately granted.

The report noted that a second call was made. The Bangladeshi Air Force called the commander of Indian Air Force in New Delhi. It was a request for clearance to land a military aircraft carrying Hasina at a designated Indian

airbase.

The request was approved without delay, according to BBC Bangla.

BBC Bangla reported that the Bangladesh Army requested India to send an aircraft to take Hasina from Dhaka but India's political and military leadership maintained that if Hasina were to go to India, she would need to use a Bangladeshi aircraft or helicopter.

Delhi indicated that, in the case of a helicopter, she could be flown to a nearby location such as Kolkata or Agartala. It was also conveyed that once a mode of transport had been finalised, Bangladesh's military would be required to formally request landing clearance.

Accordingly, Bangladesh Air Force prepared a C 130 military transport aircraft to carry Hasina and her entourage.

The report said when India formally granted permission for Hasina to enter the country on the afternoon of August 5, it assumed that she would have a stopover en route to a third country.

This prompted Indian authorities to instruct the Bangladesh Air Force's C130 transport aircraft to stay overnight at Hindon airbase.

Sources at the Indian home ministry told BBC that Hasina would be heading to the UK.

The report added that through its High Commission in Delhi, the British government, led by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, informed the Indian authorities that it was not in a position to receive Hasina then.

Since the evening of August 5, 2024, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval took on the role of Hasina's unofficial guardian in India.

The report stated that whenever India extends refuge to a high profile political figure from abroad, its security agencies typically conduct a series of structured debriefing sessions.

A similar protocol was followed over six decades ago for the Dalai Lama, and, according to BBC Bangla, comparable sessions have reportedly been held for Hasina, some of them personally led by Doval.

Schedule for polls

FROM PAGE 12
the election timeframe in his address to the nation yesterday.

Masud said, "We are ready to hold the election. We will announce the schedule 50 to 60 days prior to the election day. Based on that, the schedule may be announced in December."

Tagore's 84th death anniv today

FROM PAGE 12
"Rabindra Sangeet".

He also wrote eight novels, 84 short stories and numerous poems in his prolific literary career that spanned over almost seven decades.

Gitanjali, Gora and Ghare Baire are his best-known works.

Rabindranath became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.

His compositions were chosen by two countries as national anthems: Bangladesh's "Amar Shonar Bangla" and India's "Jana Gana Mana".

Lanka parliament sacks disgraced police chief

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's parliament yesterday voted overwhelmingly to dismiss Police Chief Deshabandu Tennakoon for misconduct and criminal behaviour, making him the island's first inspector-general to be impeached.

Tennakoon, 54, was removed less than two years after his controversial appointment, with a disciplinary committee finding him unfit to lead its 85,000 strong law enforcement body.

Tennakoon was appointed in November 2023 by then president Ranil Wickremesinghe, despite the Supreme Court having previously ruled that he had tortured a suspect in custody by rubbing menthol balm on his genitals.

Public Security Minister Ananda

Wijepala told parliament yesterday that Tennakoon should never have been put in the top job, given that he faced 40 court cases for abuse of power.

"He is the most disgraced police chief in the history of our country," Wijepala said.

Parliament backed a resolution by Speaker Jagath Wickramaratne to impeach Tennakoon, following a disciplinary hearing led by a Supreme Court judge and two others.

"I am pleased to inform that the motion to impeach Deshabandu Tennakoon has been approved with 177 votes in favour, and none against," Wickramaratne said.

Members of the main opposition SJB party also voted to remove the

police chief.

Shortly after his appointment to head the force, Tennakoon was accused of authorising a botched raid in December 2023 that led to a gun battle between rival police units in the coastal resort town of Weligama, resulting in the death of an officer.

A disciplinary inquiry found that Tennakoon had "spearheaded the questionable, illegal act of shooting".

The Supreme Court suspended him in July 2024 pending the outcome of a separate case.

In March, the state prosecutor told a court that Tennakoon was operating a paramilitary hit squad to carry out illegal activities and was unfit to serve, even at the lowest rank in the police force.

India hits back

FROM PAGE 12

million tonnes.

The United States, the statement said, continues to import Russian uranium hexafluoride for use in its nuclear power industry, palladium, fertilisers and chemicals. It did not give a source for the export information.

The US embassy and the EU's delegation in New Delhi did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Both the United States and EU have sharply scaled back their trade ties with Russia since it launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

In 2021, Russia was the EU's fifth largest trading partner, with goods exchange worth 258 billion euros, according to the EU executive European Commission.

Election shines a path forward

FROM PAGE 1

domestic and international investors have remained on the sidelines, waiting for a signal of political predictability. While the interim administration has managed to contain inflation and protect foreign exchange reserves, only the promise of a stable, elected government can truly unlock Bangladesh's economic potential.

Of course, an election alone does not resolve all the challenges, nor does it guarantee the execution of the monumental tasks that lie ahead. It does, however, create a new opportunity to rebuild trust in core institutions, from the judiciary to the bureaucracy. This is essential, as the interim period presided over by Yunus has itself been fraught with difficulties.

The abuse of the legal system and

politically motivated arrests are the key concerns.

Despite these challenges, Yunus, an essential leader for a time of crisis, has provided a crucial anchor in the country's tumultuous journey. In the chaotic power vacuum a year ago, he was perhaps the only figure who could have stepped into the breach. His unparalleled international prestige as a Nobel laureate made him a symbol of hope and neutrality.

As Bangladesh looks toward the polls, the focus for all political actors must be to ensure this opportunity is not wasted. The goal is not merely to hold an election, but to conduct one that is "fair, peaceful, and festive," as Yunus promised, and cements the foundation for a reformed, resilient, and democratic Bangladesh.

Waiting to see the Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

discrimination student movement. It ultimately turned into a mass uprising and led to the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5.

"My son's sacrifice brought a new kind of independence to Bangladesh," Manwara said.

"I want that no other mother has to lose her child like I did. If I can die

seeing that Bangladesh he dreamt of, it will bring me peace."

She said people frequently visit their home to learn about her son's bravery.

"Morning turns to evening, and visitors still come. But in the crowd, I feel a terrible emptiness. I live every moment with this grief. Who can fill this void?" she asked.

Sayed's father Mokbul said, "The sacrifices of many like my son freed the country from the clutches of an autocratic regime."

Demanding that those responsible for his son's death must be brought to justice. "I want the execution of the police officer who shot my son and all others involved in his killing."

War criminals' photos removed

FROM PAGE 12

Pakistan's collaborators", "Ekattore Bangla e Razakarer Sthaan Nai" (There's no place for collaborators in 71's Bangla), "Shoirachar Aar Razakar, Mile Mishe Ekakar" (Autocrats and collaborators have blended into one).

Speaking to reporters, Assistant Proctor Rafiqul said, "A group of our students raised objections regarding the exhibition. After speaking to Shibir leaders, we removed the photos with their cooperation."

Mazharul Islam, a leader of Chhatra

Shibir at DU, acknowledged the university's request and said, "We organised the programme with the university authorities' permission to celebrate the July anniversary. Now,

to maintain overall discipline, the authority requested us to take down the photos. We gave our consent for the sake of discipline."

The incident sparked strong reactions among progressive student bodies.

Organisations including the Bangladesh Student Union, the Democratic Student Council, and the Socialist Student Front condemned what they termed a "despicable" attempt to rehabilitate anti-Liberation War figures on campus.

They raised four demands in this context: immediate removal of all photos of convicted war criminals and cancellation of the event; a public apology from Chhatra Shibir for displaying the

photos; a formal assurance from the university administration that such activities will not be allowed in future; and a public explanation and apology from the university for allowing the exhibition to proceed.

Umama Fatema, former spokesperson of Students Against Discrimination (SAD), said, "Shibir is trying to assert that it has the space to promote anti-independence figures at TSC, and if questioned, they portray themselves as victims. This is the narrative they are attempting to establish.

"The university administration must be clear about its stance. If any activity on this campus dishonours the Liberation War, students will not accept it."

BNP, other parties hail polls timeline

FROM PAGE 1

announcement would dispel doubts surrounding the election. They urged the government to ensure an environment conducive to holding free and fair polls.

BNP said the chief adviser's announcement would help restore political stability.

"Through this announcement, the doubts many people had about the election are gone," BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters in front of the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

He said the announcement would help create an election oriented environment and expressed hope that the EC would soon declare the schedule.

Urging people to prepare for the election, the BNP leader expressed hope that the polls would be free, fair, neutral, and among the most admired in the world.

On June 13, following a meeting between BNP's acting chairman

Tarique Rahman and Prof Yunus, the government had said the election could be held in mid February.

After the meeting, BNP also called on the interim government to formally inform the Election Commission of the decision to hold the polls in February.

Nagrik Oikya President Mahmudur Rahman Manna said, "I am very happy with it [the announcement]. Many people had doubts about the election. A lot of that uncertainty was removed today."

"The tensions among political parties will also ease now," he told this newspaper.

Ganos

JULY UPRISING

JU expels 64 students over attacks on protesters

STAR REPORT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday expelled 64 students for their involvement in attacks on protesting students of the anti discrimination student movement between July 14 and 17 last year.

All of them were affiliated with the banned student group Chhatra League (CL).

Additionally, 46 other students were suspended for different terms, while the academic certificates of 73 former students were permanently revoked.

The university syndicate, the highest decision making body, took the decision based on a fact-finding report submitted by a probe committee formed on March 17 this year.

JU Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan made the announcement following a syndicate meeting early yesterday.

The VC said, "Initially, allegations were brought against a total of 229 persons in connection with the attacks -- 130 current students and 99 former students."

"Of the 130 current students, 110 have been penalised. Among them, 64 were expelled, 37 suspended for two years, eight for one year, and one for six months," he added.

"Of the 99 former students, 79 were penalised -- 73 had their certificates permanently cancelled, and six had their certificates suspended for two years."

The investigation report will be forwarded to the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) for further action, the VC informed.

Out of 229 individuals, 40 students -- 20 current and 20 former -- were acquitted due to a lack of evidence.

Prof M Abdur Rab, JU treasurer and head of the probe committee, said the 40 students were acquitted as no involvement was found through direct testimony or video footage.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Two people run across a slippery road amid oncoming traffic, putting their lives at risk. Despite road accidents being common in such situations, many still disregard traffic rules. The photo was taken yesterday in Dhaka's Shahbagh area.

KURIGRAM'S ROUMARI UPAZILA

Risky bamboo bridge their only means

Over 50,000 people across 30 villages suffer for lack of a permanent bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Salmanirhat*

More than 50,000 people across 30 villages of three unions -- Dantbhanga, Char Shoulmari, and Saheber Alga -- have long been suffering due to the absence of a bridge in Kurigram's Roumari upazila.

Every day, residents of these unions are forced to cross the Holholia river using a makeshift bamboo bridge, risking their lives. The situation worsens significantly during the monsoon.

Kuddus Sarkar, a resident of Shantir Char, said, "This bridge is our only lifeline. We built it ourselves because we had no other option. But how long can we go on like this?"

Due to the poor communication

network, farmers cannot transport their produce to the markets on time. As a result, they are deprived of fair prices. The lack of accessible education facilities has led to rising school dropouts, while child marriage and other social problems are on the rise.

Dilbar Hossain, a farmer from Char

Kajaikata, said, "Because of poor roads, we can't easily take our vegetables to market. So, we are forced to sell them to wholesalers at a lower price. We don't get the fair value for our crops."

Shahidul Islam, a schoolteacher from Shantir Char, said, "If a bridge and connecting roads were built, communication between Kurigram and Roumari would become safer and easier. It would save both time and money, and also promote education, healthcare, culture, and economic development."

Contacted, Roumari UNO Uzzal Kumar Halder said, "We have submitted a proposal to the higher authorities for the construction of a bridge over the Holholia River at Kajaikata area. If approved, work will begin within this fiscal year."

Flags, flares and freedom take over Manik Mia

FROM PAGE 1

organised programmes to observe the day, and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus addressed them through video messages.

Joining the celebrations at Manik Mia Avenue, Prof Yunus also announced the July Declaration, flanked by political leaders and others, around 5:00pm.

Earlier in the day, he released a commemorative stamp and inaugural envelope at the State Guest House Jamuna.

He also visited the construction site of the July Uprising Memorial Museum at Gono Bhaban, the former prime minister's residence. The memorial is being built to document the uprising's struggle, martyrdom, and victory.

The event at Manik Mia Avenue began an hour late due to rain. It continued drizzling through the day, but attendees remained, drenched but undeterred.

Meanwhile, familiar slogans from last year's movement echoed through the area.

The cultural segment opened around 12:10pm with Saimun Shilpigosthi of Islami Chhatra Shibir performing "Ei desh amar Bangladesh, amar bhalobasha" (This country is my Bangladesh, my love).

Bands including Artcell, Shunno, Souls, Warfaze, Basic Guitar Learning School, F Minor Chittagong Hip-Hop Hood, and Kolorob Shilpigosthi took the stage.

Solo performers included Shayan, Elita Karim, Parsha, Nahid, Tashfi, Sezan, Ethun Babu, and Moushumi.

In total, over 250 artistes participated in the cultural lineup.

One of the highlights was a drone drama show titled "Do You Miss

Me", written by the Anonymous -- the story of July told through nearly 2,000 flying drones.

Draped in national flags, thousands continued to join until nightfall.

Among them was Barnali Chowdhury, who, after the July Declaration was announced, said, "Merely announcing the declaration is not enough; we want its full and effective implementation."

Eighty-year-old Begum Hosnara came to witness the moment. "The July Declaration is a reflection

Abul Kashem, a schoolteacher who came all the way from Feni, said, "The students dreamt of a Bangladesh free from exploitation, corruption, and inequality -- a dream we must now honour through action and accountability."

of public aspiration. [It is] a document recognising the youth-led uprising.... We could not give the students the country they dreamt of. Their sacrifice must not go in vain."

Abdur Rahim, who came from Uttara, said, "This declaration must receive constitutional and legal recognition. We've seen frameworks developed before but they never implemented. This time, we demand real change."

Abul Kashem, a schoolteacher who came all the way from Feni, said, "The students dreamt of a Bangladesh free from exploitation, corruption, and inequality -- a dream we must now honour through action and

accountability."

In the morning, The Daily Star spoke to several attendees. Some called the day a victory for the mass movement; others saw it as a symbol of the fall of fascism.

Mohammad Solaiman, 12, a student from Jurain who was injured on July 19 last year, said, "It's been a year since Sheikh Hasina ran away. I want a beautiful Bangladesh where people can live happily."

Shot in the leg during a protest, he now struggles to walk.

His mother, Rekha Begum, added, "My son was hurt protesting for the country. I want him to recover and return to a normal life."

Masum Billah, a student from Tongi, arrived by 11:00am. "This is a day of joy. The Hasina government fell on this day a year ago. That's why this day matters."

Around the same time, the mother of Parvez Mia, a 28-year old garment worker killed in Jatrabari during the uprising, also arrived. "I came to meet the chief adviser. I want to share my pain and tell him about my son."

Lal Mia, injured in Mohammadpur on July 19, came from Bosila. "I'm happy to be here. It was a great moment for us when Hasina left. Now we hope the country will be led by good people."

While the gathering remained peaceful, it was held under tight security.

A moment of panic erupted when a gas balloon touched overhead wires and exploded. Ten people were injured and treated at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, said resident surgeon Dr Shawon Bin Rahman.

However, the fire from the explosion was soon brought under control using airflow from a drone.

Milli Bhat: the soulful taste of Jamalpur's heritage

FROM PAGE 4

thicken the gravy, followed by a final touch of bagar -- a tempering of hot spiced oil that elevates the flavour and scent.

Yet, Milli is not something just anyone can prepare. The technique has been passed down through generations of specialised cooks. One such veteran, Naushad Ali, said, "I've been cooking Milli for

30 years. Whether it is a wedding or a family gathering -- no feast feels complete without Milli on the table."

Despite modern changes, such as banana leaves being replaced by plates and clay pots, the communal spirit remains. Even today, during festivals or large gatherings, people sit cross-legged on the ground and eat together, just as their ancestors did.

In an effort to preserve this legacy, locals have formed Milli Sangha, a community group that organises an annual Milli Utsav. The event brings people together to celebrate the dish -- and the culture behind it.

"We see Milli as the signature dish of Jamalpur," said Advocate Rishad Rejuan Babu, who leads the group. "Our goal is to introduce it to the rest of Bangladesh and highlight the tradition it represents."

Chittagong Medical University
BITID Building, Fouzderhat- 4316
Chittagong, Bangladesh
Website: www.cmu.edu.bd



স্মারক নথি/চেমেরি/সংস্থাপন/নিয়োগ/২০২৫/৪৫৪২

চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
বিআইটিআইডি ভবন, হোজুনুরহাট-৪৩১৬
চট্টগ্রাম-বাংলাদেশ

২০ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩২ বঙ্গাব্দ
তারিখঃ ০৮ আগস্ট ২০২৫ প্রিটার্ড
০৮ আগস্ট ২০২৫ প্রিটার্ড

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর রাজ্যস্ব হাতের আওতায় নিম্নোক্ত শৃঙ্খল পদের বিধি মোতাবেক জাতীয় পে-ক্লেক ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী
বেতন ও অন্যান্য সুবিধাগুরুত্বে জনবল নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী যোগ্য নাগরিকদের নিয়োগ হইতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে এবং নিম্নোক্ত
শর্ত অনুযায়ী দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতনক্রম	বয়স	পদের সংখ্যা
১	রেজিস্ট্রার, (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-) প্রেড-০৩	সর্বোচ্চ ৫০ বছর	০১টি
২	পরিচালক (প.পি), (৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-) প্রেড-০৩	সর্বোচ্চ ৫০ বছর	০১ টি
৩	উপ রেজিস্ট্রার, (৪৩০০-৬৯৮৫০/-) প্রেড-৫ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪৫ বছর	০২টি
৪	উপ কর্মকার পরিচালক, (৪৩০০-৬৯৮৫০/-) প্রেড-৫ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪৫ বছর	০১টি
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৬	উপ পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক, (৪৩০০-৬৯৮৫০/-) প্রেড-৫ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪৫ বছর	০১টি
৭	উপ পরিচালক (প.পি), (৪৩০০-৬৯৮৫০/-) প্রেড-৫ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪৫ বছর	০১টি
৮	পিএস টু ভিসি, (২৯০০০-৬৩৬৪০) প্রেড-৭ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর	০১টি
৯	সহকারী রেজিস্ট্রার, (২৯০০০-৬৩৬১০) প্রেড-৭ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর	০২টি
১০	সহকারী পরিচালক (প. ও পি), (২৯০০০-৬৩৬১০) প্রেড-৭ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর	০১টি
১১	সহকারী পরিচালক রিসার্চ, (২৯০০০-৬৩৬১০/-), প্রেড-৭ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর	০১টি
১২	সহকারী কলেজ পরিচালক, (২৯০০০-৬৩৬১০), প্রেড-৭ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর	০২টি
১৩	সহকারী পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক, (২৯০০০-৬৩৬১০) প্রেড-৭ম	সর্বোচ্চ ৪০ বছর	০২টি
১৪	লিয়াজোঁ ও প্রটোকল অফিসার, ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (প্রেড-৯ম)	সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর	০১টি
১৫	প্রাবলিক রিলেশন অফিসার, ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (প্রেড-৯ম)	সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর	০১টি
১৬	এক্সটে অফিসার, ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (প্রেড-৯ম)	সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর	০১টি
১৭	বাজেট কর্মকর্তা, ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/- (প্রেড-৯ম)	সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর	০১টি
১৮	সহকারী কম্পিউটার প্রোগ্রামার, ২২০০		

RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Victims' right to public law compensation



MD. ASIF UZ ZAMAN

To establish tortious liability, it is usually necessary to prove the negligence of the responsible party. However, an exception to this rule is the principle of 'strict liability,' under which a party is held liable for a breach of duty irrespective of negligence.

to life, save in accordance with law. This constitutional duty was breached in the jet crash incident, resulting in severe casualties.

Although the words 'constitutional tort' or 'public law compensation' are not directly mentioned in the Constitution of Bangladesh, a careful analysis of the constitutional provisions can reveal that these ideas already exist within the constitution. Article 44(l) of the Constitution of Bangladesh guaranteed the right to move the HCD in accordance with Article 102(l), for the enforcement of the fundamental rights. Article 102(l) states that the HCD, on the application of any person aggrieved, may give such directions or orders to any person or authority as may be appropriate for the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. Here, the word 'appropriate' provides a wide jurisdiction to the HCD to make 'any order' to 'any person', either state or individual, to enforce the fundamental rights. Therefore, the HCD is empowered by the Constitution to grant appropriate remedy, including compensation, for the violation of any fundamental right.

Usually, when a fundamental right granted in the constitution is violated due to someone's negligence and the right-holder suffers due to the said violation, it raises a claim in constitutional tort. Consequently, the right-holder becomes entitled to receive compensation from the wrongdoer, which is popularly known as public law compensation.

In this piece, I argue that the incident of the training jet crash contains all the elements of a constitutional tort to establish the victims' right to public law compensation. According to Article 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, it is one of the constitutional duties of the state to uphold everyone's fundamental right

to life, save in accordance with law. This constitutional duty was breached in the jet crash incident, resulting in severe casualties.

Additionally, the granting of public law compensation as a remedy has been in the judgments of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Bilkis Akter Hossain v Bangladesh (1997) was the pioneer case in this context,

where the concept of public law compensation as a remedy was introduced by the HCD. However, the Appellate Division (AD) modified the lenient 'case-by-case' test to a stricter 'exceptional cases' test.

The successful application of public law compensation further came up in the landmark case of CCB Foundation v Government of Bangladesh and others (2016), which is commonly known as the 'Jihad Case.' In this case, the HCD ordered Bangladesh Railway, and Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence to compensate BDT 10 lakh each to the parents of the four-year-old boy, who died after falling into a deep shaft adjacent to the Shahjahanpur Railway Colony playground. The shaft was 16-inch-wide and more than a hundred feet deep and was left uncovered and unattended by the respondents. The AD upheld the decision of the HCD, thereby giving effect to the application of constitutional tort and public law compensation in Bangladesh.

In 2019, the HCD issued an order in favour of Russell Sarker, a car driver who lost his left leg after being run over by a Green Line bus. The court directed the company to compensate Rassel Sarker with BDT 50 lakh. This decision of the HCD was then upheld by the AD and consequently, widened the scope of the application of constitutional tort in Bangladesh by making a private party liable to public law compensation.

To establish tortious liability, it is usually necessary to prove the negligence of the responsible party. However, an exception to this rule is the principle of 'strict liability,' under which a party is held liable for a breach of duty irrespective of negligence. It is a worldwide recognised principle of tort law, which was established in the famous case of Rylands v Fletcher (1868). This legal concept is essential in cases where the activities pose inherent risks, regardless of the precautions taken. In this regard, even if we assume that there was no negligence on part of the responsible authorities in the jet crash incident, they still fall under the strict liability principle for the activities such as flying training aircrafts in the airspace of a densely populated urban area, setting up a public school so close to an international airport and directly in aircrafts' flight path, etc.

Where there is a right, there must be a remedy. It is a legal principle that comes from the Latin maxim *ubi jus ibi remedium*. Considering the maxim, it can be said that the existence of the right to life in Article 32 of the Constitution of Bangladesh itself opens the door to a remedy against its infringement.

The writer teaches law at Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, Dhaka.

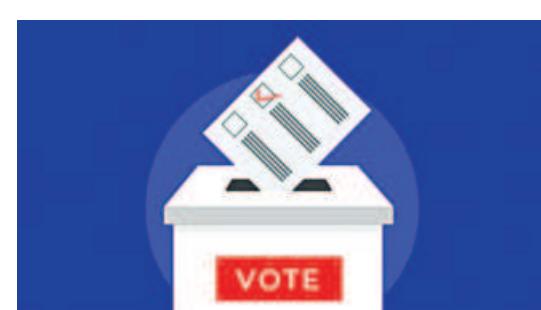
RIGHTS WATCH

Realising the voting rights of the Bangladeshi Expatriates

The right to vote is a cornerstone of any democracy. The fundamental nature of such a right places an obligation on a country to enable its citizens to vote and elect their representative. No matter where in the world a lawful citizen resides, they should retain their right to participate in the democratic process as long as they hold ties with their country. However, it is frustrating to see that over 15 million Bangladeshi citizens living abroad remain largely disenfranchised in our national elections, despite being an integral part of the country's economy and development narrative. This calls for urgent policy-legal reforms in order to guarantee voting rights of this sizable population in a meaningful manner.

Article 11 of the Constitution of Bangladesh enumerates that "the Republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights and freedom and respect for the dignity and worth of the human person shall be guaranteed, and in which effective participation by the people through their elected representative in administration at all levels shall be ensured." Article 27 ensures equality before the law, and Article 122 lays down voter eligibility based on citizenship, age, registration and by the court decisions, in some cases. Nowhere does the constitution say that residence within the country's territory is a precondition to exercise the voting right. Hence, the Constitution of Bangladesh requires no amendments to afford voting rights to its citizens living abroad. For a long time, several factors such as a combination of bureaucratic inertia, logistical reluctance, shortage of trained personnel, inadequate funding, technological constraints, and most significantly lack of staunch political contributed to the delay in actualising this constitutional right of the expatriates.

The de facto disenfranchisement began with the Electoral Rolls Ordinance of 1982, particularly through Section 8, which described the term "resident" as a person who "ordinarily resides" in an electoral area or constituency. This narrowly tailored definition of residency effectively disenfranchised even those expatriates who physically returned to Bangladesh during elections to get registered and vote, as they were not considered to "ordinarily reside" in any constituency for that matter. This matter didn't go unquestioned, but was challenged



in the case of Ali Reza Khan v Bangladesh Election Commission (1997) 17 BLD 641. In that case, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh held that if a person who is temporarily residing abroad, is a permanent resident of Bangladesh and has fulfilled all other conditions required by law to be a voter, is entitled to be registered as a voter in Bangladesh.

After that, a significant legislative reform was brought about in August 2009, when Parliament repealed the 1982 Ordinance altogether. In its place, the Voter List Ordinance of 2007 was enacted with a forward-looking provision: "Bangladeshis residing abroad would be deemed residents of the constituency where they had previously lived or where they still maintained ancestral property". This legal reform marked a pivotal moment; it was the first concrete step toward recognising the voting rights of the expatriates within Bangladesh's electoral framework.

According to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), based in Stockholm, over 126 countries and territories worldwide have already extended some form of voting rights for their expatriate citizens. Bangladesh has no reason to lag behind in this global progress. At present, as Bangladesh goes through a political transition and as a new spirit of reform and inclusivity rises in the wake of the July-August mass uprising, a window of opportunity for meaningful institutional reforms has opened. Notably, the interim government has already expressed its commitment to ensuring voting rights of expatriate Bangladeshis.

As part of ongoing reformation process, the Electoral Reform Commission has recently proposed four possible methods for enabling overseas voting. One proposed method is In-Person Voting, which requires voters to be physically present at a designated polling location on election day, feasible at embassies or consulates. Another option is Postal Voting which allows voters to cast their ballots via post from their country of residence. The third alternative proposal is Proxy Voting, which allows a designated proxy in Bangladesh to vote on behalf of the expatriate voters, based on prior nomination and legal authorisation. Finally, the Commission is also exploring Electronic Voting that enables voting through digital means, such as Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) or Internet-based systems (I-voting).

Implementing such a system will mark a tipping point for democracy in our country. It would not only strengthen democratic participation but also enhance the legitimacy of governance and reinforce inclusivity within the electoral system. By embracing this long-overdue reform, Bangladesh can take a pivotal step toward a more inclusive, participatory, and globally connected democracy—a vision truly reflective of its constitutional values and democratic ideals.

The writer studies law at the University of Dhaka.

LAW REVIEW

Fragmentary approach toward maritime tribunals

MD. MUHTASIM FAIAZ, PREETI KANA SIKDER

Apparently, the legal promise of establishment of maritime tribunals is facing a dead end. Even if the current provisions are enforced, there will be limited benefits to be shared by the justice seekers. It is high time that the promised tribunals be established and accessibility to environment justice is ensured.

After 47 years, the Territorial Water and Maritime Zones Act of 1974 had been updated with a lengthy amendment back in 2021. Following the enforcement of the Bay of Bengal cases and ratification of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones (Amendment) Act of 2021 came into force. One of the aims of this Act was to carry out the duties described in Article 143(2) of the Constitution where it is stated that the Parliament may from time to time by law provide for the determination of the boundaries of the territory of Bangladesh and of the territorial waters and the continental shelf of Bangladesh. This updated legislation has introduced several new definitions, including Continental margin, Convention, dumping of waste, Maritime Pollutions Installations, Internal Waters, Maritime Zones, Maritime Tribunal, Blue Economy, Waste, and Warship etc. and tried to bring domestic legislation into compliance with UNCLOS.

The introduction of a new adjudication system named Maritime Tribunal ushered in high hopes for strengthening ocean governance in the country. With an

aim to safeguard the marine ecosystem, conserve marine biodiversity and to ensure accountability for any crimes committed within maritime boundaries Section 27 of the Act envisaged establishment of one or more maritime tribunals across the country. Sadly, after 4 years of entering into force, any tribunal of this nature is yet to be established.

The law also prescribes that the Government may appoint any district Judge or additional district judge to adjudicate in the Maritime Tribunal, after consulting with the Supreme Court. However, this Act does not ordain establishment of a distinct or independent maritime tribunal rather the judges will perform the duties of the tribunal, in addition to their own duties.

Moreover, Section 30 of the TWMZ (Amendment) Act, 2021 has shown a restrictive approach in case of access to justice before maritime tribunal. This section bars the ordinary citizens to file a case to the tribunal directly. Rather the tribunal can take cognizance only when written complaint is submitted by the duly authorised person by the government.

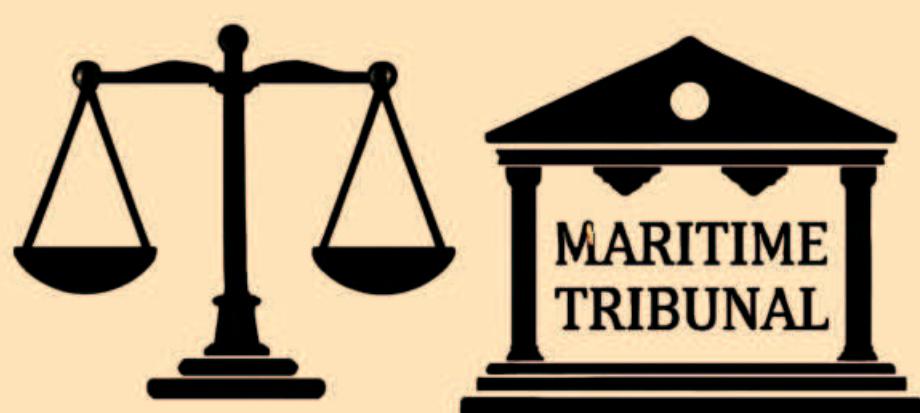
Another limitation of this Act is that "the duly authorized person by the Government" is not specified. Furthermore, there is no

mention of knowledge, specialisation, or qualifications of judges of this tribunal. Due to these obstacles, the victims are unable to seek remedy through accessing environmental justice under TWMZ (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Admittedly, this amended Act has introduced many new offences; for instance, any individual/ legal entity or foreign company, who commits any of the specified acts in Bangladesh's Maritime Zones, such as discharging pollutants to sea without following the provisions or affecting the marine environment in coastal areas, shall be imprisoned for a maximum of three years or fined between 2 crore and 5 crore Taka or both. However, without the establishment of tribunals, the victims will not get justice, and this Act will remain unvalued and only in the statute books.

In conclusion, the TWMZ (Amendment) Act 2021 has taken a fragmentary approach to maritime justice. It needs thorough and critical scrutiny in case of ensuring access to justice before the maritime tribunal. The provisions of this Act must be amended, and additional provisions should be included for ordinary people so that the tribunals are more approachable and accessible. Apparently, the legal promise of establishment of maritime tribunals is facing a dead end. Even if the current provisions are enforced, there will be limited benefits to be shared by the justice seekers. It is high time that the promised tribunals be established and accessibility to environment justice is ensured. Only then will it function as the key to protect the marine ecosystem, preserve marine biodiversity, prevent criminals from committing any crimes and hold accountable the marine polluters.

The writers are lecturer, Department of Law, University of Information Technology and Sciences (UTS) and Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Bangladesh University of Professionals.





Potatoes for Danish football's MOTM



French footballer Maxime Soulas's prize for his man-of-the-match award in the Danish first division did not go down like a sack of potatoes -- more like a wheelbarrow's worth.

After performing when the chips were down by opening the scoring for Sonderjyske in their 3-2 win against Nordsjælland on Sunday, Soulas received 55 kilograms of the tasty tubers, the 26-year-old defender told AFP on Tuesday.

"I gave the potatoes to my club's cafeteria, and they donated some to a soup kitchen," he said.

It marks the first time the man of the match can eat his award for his post-match supper.

"The sponsor of the match decides on the reward. He found it funny and now the story's gone round the world," said the club's communications director, Jacob Ravn.

Originally from Montpellier in southern France, Soulas came to Denmark in 2020 to play for Amager in the capital Copenhagen, before joining recently promoted Sonderjyske in 2021.

Before that he played his football in the Netherlands.



NEYMAR MAKING A CASE FOR BRAZIL RETURN?

Neymar, once seen as the next big phenomenon coming out of Brazil, has fallen by the wayside due to recurring injury problems. Having plied his trade outside Europe for over two years now, Neymar remains a story of "what could have been" for Brazil supporters. Could the 33-year-old be getting another shot in the famous blue and yellow jersey? The forward certainly thinks so. "Everyone knows what I'm capable of. I'm available and I feel good. The decision [of getting a call-back by Carlo Ancelotti's Brazil] is in the hands of the national team staff," Neymar said after a standout performance in Brazil's Serie A on Tuesday. He scored twice in Santos' 3-1 win over Juventus -- his first brace in over two years. It was also the first time he started five consecutive matches since August 2022. Santos, however, are still struggling in 15th place on the points table. But Neymar, who moved to his boyhood club after an injury-plagued and disappointing stint at Saudi Pro League side Al Hilal, certainly seems eager to make a case for the national team once again.



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-20 women's team will look to build on their recent run of form when they face hosts Laos in their opening Group H match of the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers today.

The match is set to kick off at 6:30pm at the Lao National Stadium in Vientiane.

From the senior side to the youth teams, the women in red and green have shown steady progress under English coach Peter Butler. Last month, he guided the senior national team to their first-ever Women's Asian Cup qualification before leading the U-20s to an unbeaten title run in the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at home.

Butler's squad will aim to carry that momentum into the Asian qualifiers, strengthened by a mix of senior players and rising talents who impressed in the recent SAFF campaign. Still, Bangladesh's track record at this level offers little comfort -- they failed to clear the qualifiers in their

five previous attempts between 2006 and 2023.

In the last edition, however, they managed a breakthrough of sorts, beating Turkmenistan 4-0 before narrowly losing 1-0 to Iran, who scored just five minutes from time to top the three-team group.

This campaign, too, presents a steep challenge -- especially with two-time champions South Korea in the mix -- but Bangladesh remain hopeful of strong showings against Timor-Leste and Laos.

"Our goal is to make an impact," Peter Butler said during the pre-tournament briefing in Laos yesterday. "I think the most important thing is we know we're streets behind [South] Korea in terms of their actual professionalism, organisation, investment, quality of players, etc."

"We've restarted... we've achieved a long-term goal by qualifying for the Women's Asian Cup next March. Obviously, this is a very, very important competition for us in terms of seeing where

we are, and in

terms of development at the U-20 level," added the English coach.

Captain Aleida Khandokar added: "We have come here to qualify for the finals and we will be trying our best to display a good show in every match."

South Korea -- also twice finishing third -- are favourites to top the four-team group. Bangladesh, however, could still qualify for the 12-team final round as one of the three best runners-up from eight groups. For that, they must rack up big wins over Timor-Leste and Laos, and limit the damage against South Korea in the final match.

Laos remain something of an unknown for Bangladesh, though they have pedigree at this level -- having beaten Myanmar 4-2 in 2018 and drawn 2-2 with the Philippines in the previous edition.

Still, it's Bangladesh's young women who have been rewriting the script in recent months. And they'll hope to keep that momentum going on Asia's bigger stage.

What to WATCH

SONY SPORTS 5
The Hundred
Manchester Originals
vs Southern Brave
Live from
11:30 pm

Charioteer at The Oval: Krishna delivers under fire

KHALID HOSSAIN

In every great war, the final blow is rarely dealt by the generals. The ones history often conveniently chooses to forget are the footsoldier in the mud, the archer behind the ridge, the undercover who doesn't blink. The battle, however, remembers. If Mohammad Siraj was the warrior who swung the sword at the decisive moments at The Oval Test, fellow pacer Prasidh Krishna was the charioteer who steered the charge.

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STORY



Wirtz unfazed by huge Liverpool price tag

AFP, London

Florian Wirtz says his huge price tag "doesn't matter" as he prepares for his first season in the Premier League after a switch to champions Liverpool from Bayer Leverkusen.

The attacking midfielder arrived at Anfield for an initial £100 million (\$132 million) that could rise to £116 million with add-ons, making his move a potential British record.

However, speaking after impressing in a 3-2 friendly win over Athletic Bilbao on Monday, the 22-year-old brushed off the size of his transfer fee.

"I don't think about it. I just want to play football, and how much money the clubs pay between each other, it doesn't matter," he said.

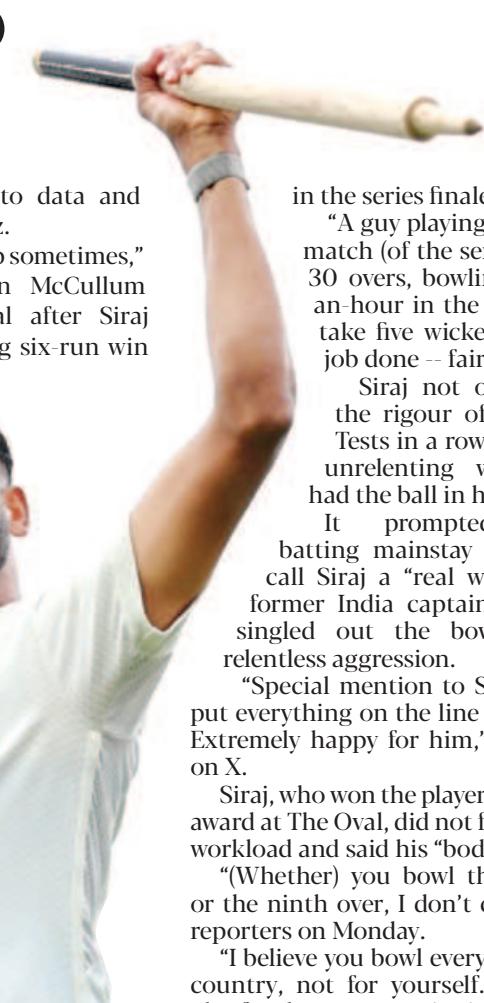
"Of course, the big challenge is to win the title again, and it is the most difficult thing so, (I will) try and just create chances and also work against the ball. "I can also run a lot so, (I will) bring this to the team, and then with the ball, I can make the team better and bring my teammates into better situations."

Liverpool face FA Cup winners Crystal Palace in the season-opening Community Shield on Sunday and kick off their Premier League title defence at home to Bournemouth on August 15.

Germany international Wirtz said he was relishing the challenge.

"There are some differences to Germany, but I think there is also something I can learn and make me better. So, I am really looking forward to it," he said.

"It's more intense and more physical, every player is really strong, really fast. That is what everybody is telling me."



From sidekick to showstopper

REUTERS

Mohammed Siraj landed in England as Jasprit Bumrah's trusted sidekick and then produced a stellar display across five gruelling Tests to prove that he possesses both the heart and the craft to lead India's pace battery.

India arrived with a depleted attack after veteran seamer Mohammed Shami was deemed unfit for the tour and pace spearhead Bumrah available only for three of the five Tests.

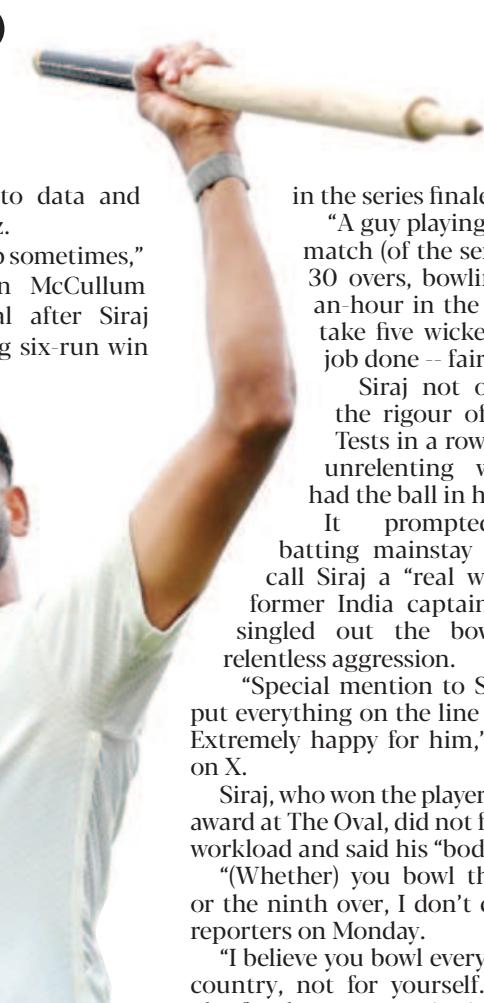
It meant Siraj had to shoulder a bigger responsibility and the 31-year-old responded with a lion-hearted effort -- playing all five Tests and finishing the series as its highest wicket-taker.

Thanks to his never-say-die attitude, India drew the series 2-2, winning in Birmingham and at the Oval -- matches that Bumrah sat out.

Siraj bowled a staggering 185 odd overs in the series claiming 23 wickets and drawing 283 false shots -- edges

or misses -- according to data and analytics provider CricViz.

"You got to tip your cap sometimes," England coach Brendon McCullum told Test Match Special after Siraj fashioned India's thrilling six-run win



in the series finale on Monday.

"A guy playing his fifth Test match (of the series), bowling 30 overs, bowling 90 miles-an-hour in the 30th over to take five wickets to get the job done -- fair play."

Siraj not only survived the rigour of playing five Tests in a row but was also unrelenting whenever he had the ball in his hand.

It prompted England batting mainstay Joe Root to call Siraj a "real warrior" while former India captain Virat Kohli singled out the bowler for his relentless aggression.

"Special mention to Siraj who will put everything on the line for the team. Extremely happy for him," Kohli wrote on X.

Siraj, who won the player of the match award at The Oval, did not fuss about his workload and said his "body is fine".

"(Whether) you bowl the sixth over or the ninth over, I don't care," he told reporters on Monday.

"I believe you bowl every ball for your country, not for yourself. (When) you play for the country, give it everything."

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Bangladesh allow
dictatorship to rise
Says Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the people of Bangladesh will enjoy August 5 as a public holiday every year, celebrating what he called the end of fascist rule in Bangladesh.

"Exactly one year ago from today, on this day in 2024, fascist [Hasina] fled the country. The nation was freed from the grip of a monster. For the freedom-loving, democracy-loving people, this day is one of joys and victories. The interim government has declared this day as July Mass Uprising Day. From now on, people will enjoy this day every year as a public holiday."

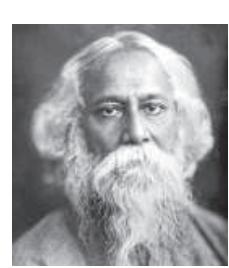
The BNP leader made the remarks in a video message posted on Facebook yesterday, marking the first anniversary of the July uprising.

A fugitive autocrat had established a reign of terror in 21st-century Bangladesh, where enforced disappearances, killings, abductions, attacks, false cases, torture and oppression became common and a



SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Tagore's
84th death
anniv today



STAR REPORT

Today is the 84th death anniversary of Biswakabi Rabindranath Tagore.

According to the Gregorian calendar, Rabindranath died at the age of 80 on August 7 in 1941. But his death anniversary is observed in Bangladesh on Sraban 22 of the Bangla calendar.

The youngest of 13 surviving children of Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi, Rabindranath was born on the 25th of the Bangla month of Baishakh 1268 (May 7, 1861) at the Jorasanko mansion in Calcutta.

The "Bard of Bengal" composed over 2,000 songs, which created a separate genre known as

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Schedule for
polls likely in
December

Says Election
Commissioner
Masud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' remarks on the election date and issuing a letter to the Election Commission in this regard, an election commissioner last night said the EC is prepared to hold the national parliamentary election in February and the schedule could be announced in December.

Speaking to The Daily Star around 9:00pm, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmehal Masud said, "We are prepared to hold the 13th national parliamentary election in the first half of February, before the upcoming Ramadan."

His comments came as an immediate reaction to the chief adviser's announcement regarding

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Childhood buried in trash

An alarming number of minors are working in waste management

TANGILA TASnim

For the past decade, 18-year-old Raza has been wading through garbage to help his family survive.

Working at the Secondary Transfer Station (STS) in Ward-10, covering Arambagh, Fakirapool, and the Ideal School area, of Dhaka South City Corporation, he never attended school, having begun collecting and transferring waste when he was just eight.

"My father died long ago. I had to take up work to support my family... That's why I never got the chance to study," he told The Daily Star.

Robin, 18, from the Rayerbazar slums in Mohammadpur, splits his time between two STS sites in Wards 17 and 15, which cover Kalabagan and Dhamondi. He dropped out in fifth grade, forced to choose work over education.

"I wanted to continue studying, but my family couldn't afford it. If I had a chance, I'd complete my education."

His mother, preferring anonymity, said, "I'm ill and don't have the means to pay for his education. My Robin works hard to support us and buy my medicine."

The Daily Star found children working in almost all STS facilities visited across Dhaka. STS is where solid waste is temporarily stored before being moved to landfills.

At five locations, at least a dozen minors were found on duty, most without proper safety gear.

At the Kalabagan STS (Ward 17), shift

in-charge Jahangir Alam admitted to employing children.

"This site has about 20 to 30 child workers. Most are from the Rayerbazar slums. They work hard but earn very little."

They typically earn Tk 33 to 35 per

Child population (aged 5-17) in Bangladesh: 39.964 million

3.537 million of them economically active

1.776 million involved in child labour

1.068 million engaged in hazardous work

DATA SOURCE: BBS

hour, sometimes even less.

However, not all officials were forthcoming.

Mozammel, the shift supervisor at Ward-27's STS, covering East and West Razabazar, Indira Road, Farmgate, Monipuripara, the parliament area, and Sech Bhaban, denied the presence of underage workers.

"We don't hire children. I know they should be in school. If they come looking for work, I try to help them with money."

Yet during the visit, this correspondent found at least two underage boys sorting

waste at that very site.

Similar conditions were observed at the Paribagh, Shantinagar, and Wari STS facilities.

Many of the children working have migrated from outside Dhaka, like 13-year-old Shadhin, from Mymensingh's Sherpur, who works at the Ward-10 STS for Tk 6,000 a month. "I send some of the money home and keep the rest to buy food," he told this correspondent.

According to DSCC, there are currently 66 STS units under its jurisdiction, with approximately 5,000 workers engaged in waste collection and transfer. DNCC oversees 53 STS units with around 220 workers officially recruited. However, there is no official data on child workers, as they are informally employed.

Many STS operations are privately managed, and children often enter this hazardous work without contracts, legal protection, or recognition.

Sajjad Mahmud Sohel, director of operations in Ward-15 (Dhamondi), also acknowledged this reality. "In some cases, if a worker's parent falls ill or is absent, their children come in their place. Others are from families who simply cannot afford to educate them. These are poor families. While irregular, it does happen."

"If our inspectors find underage workers, we ask them to leave. We believe they should get education, but we cannot financially support them all."

According to the 2022 National Child Labour Survey, approximately 1,068

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Wearing only a pair of gumboots for protection, a minor boy working at the Halishahar Landfill in Chattogram city. The lack of safety gear exposes the child to a host of health risks.

PHOTO: FILE/RAJIB RAIHAN

'Waiting to see
the Bangladesh
my son died for'
Says Abu Sayed's mother

UNB, Dhaka

As the nation observed the first anniversary of the July uprising yesterday, the family of slain student Abu Sayed remained cloaked in quiet resilience -- still grieving, yet hopeful that his ultimate sacrifice will not go in vain.



His mother Manwara Begum and father Mokbul Hossain stood motionless beside their son's grave in Rangpur's Pirganj with their eyes brimming with tears.

"I'm waiting to see that Bangladesh my son sacrificed his life for -- a country where fascism never rises again, and there is no longer discrimination, violence or bloodshed," Manwara said.

"There's an ache in our hearts that words can't describe. We carry this grief in silence," she said.

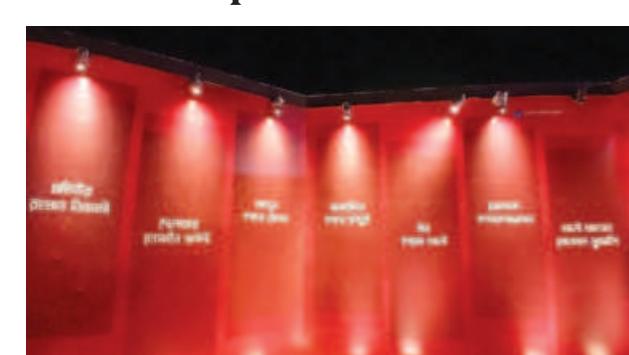
The killing of protester Sayed in police firing during the quota reform protests on July 16 last year fuelled the anti-

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SHIBIR'S EXHIBITION AT DU

War criminals' photos removed
after backlash

Student protesters call it an
'affront to spirit of Liberation War'



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Photos of convicted war criminals were removed from an exhibition organised by Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir at Dhaka University yesterday, following protests from students who called the display "an affront to the spirit of the Liberation War."

The university's proctorial team, led by Assistant Proctor and Associate Professor Rafiqul Islam, took down the images and took them to the proctor's office.

The action came after members of the Democratic Student Alliance, a coalition of left-leaning student organisations, and a group of general students protested upon seeing the photographs at the exhibition, which was being held in observance of the July uprising anniversary.

Protesters shouted slogans such as "Amar Mati, Amar Ma, Razakarer Hobe Na" (My land, my mother will never be

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India hits back at
Trump's threat

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's ruling party and main opposition yesterday condemned a threat by US President Donald Trump to raise tariffs on goods from India over its Russian oil purchases, in a show of political unity as a trade rift deepens with Washington.

Trump had already in July announced 25 percent tariffs on Indian imports, and US officials have cited a range of geopolitical issues standing in the way of a US-India trade accord.

Manish Tewari, a member of parliament and leader of the opposition Congress, said Trump's "disparaging remarks hurt the dignity and self-respect of Indians".

"The time has come to call out this constant bullying and hectoring," he added.

BJP Vice President Baijayant Jay Panda quoted Henry Kissinger - the most powerful US diplomat of the Cold War era - in a post on X: "To be an enemy of America can be dangerous, but to be a friend is fatal."

India's foreign ministry said the country was being unfairly singled out over its purchases of Russian oil, and highlighted continued trade between Moscow and both the United States and the European Union, despite the war in Ukraine.

"It is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia," it said in a statement issued late on Monday. "It is unjustified to single out India," the ministry said.

It said the EU conducted 67.5 billion euros (\$78.02 billion) in trade with Russia in 2024, including record imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) reaching 16.5

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