

MY DHAKA

REHNUMA SHAHREEN

Lakes and parks

"One of my favourite spots is from the deck of Baridhara Lake," said Tasmiah an architect. "The spot is secluded by tall trees, almost invisible from the roads and apartment windows. And the view? Heavenly. Sitting on the wooden seat of the deck—I plug in my earphones, watch the raindrops falling on the lake as the



PHOTO: STAR

Muddy playgrounds

Kanon, a football enthusiast, said during his admission days, when nothing felt good, playing football in the rain at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Park was the only thing that made him feel alive. "I was a loser in exams, but a hero on the field. I can still score six-seven goals even in rain. You can't really know joy in this city until you've kicked a muddy football barefoot."

Chaity, another student, recalled, “TSC in the rain, swimming pool in the rain, shingara from Chhayanaut’s canteen during rainy evenings — it was all fun. I loved watching the rain from the Chhayanaut balcony.”

Rooftops and other escapes

Then there are the personal spots. The ones we don't post about. Rooftops,

"For me it's about the mental state I'm in," said Rafid. "Sometimes, I like to just sit at a random tea stall during rain and watch the shift -- how everything suddenly looks different. There's movement, but also stillness. The city sort of repositions itself."

Some people don't want to share their spots. And that's fair. Rain can be deeply private. It reminds people of lovers they haven't spoken to in years, or friends they don't call anymore. It asks you to remember things, even when you don't want to.



STAR REPORT

However, allegations of labour exploitation persist, both during recruitment and later by employers and agents.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The data requested includes each magistrate's full name, parents' names, permanent and present addresses, national ID number, passport number, and mobile phone number.

The three polls in question had drawn

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The home adviser told the meeting that the government believes the law and order situation is gradually improving, and if the trend continues, it will consider withdrawing the armed forces, added the meeting sources.

upcoming polls, was participated by the Special assistant to the chief adviser (for the home ministry), the principal secretary to the chief adviser, the senior secretary of the public administration ministry, the senior secretary of the home ministry, the finance secretary, the information

Agreeing with the observation, Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary of the public administration ministry,

The meeting also discussed withdrawing 21 DCs who were

He also instructed relevant officials to devise necessary strategies to maintain heightened vigilance regarding the possibility of a major political party boycotting the upcoming parliamentary elections.

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About delimitation of parliamentary constituencies, the CEC said, "A draft has been published. After receiving objections and holding hearings, we will make adjustments

Replying to another query, he said the Awami League as a whole cannot participate, since its political activities have been banned, but individuals may run as independent candidates and supporters can cast their votes.

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At a press briefing in the NCP's Banglamotor office, its Member Secretary Akhter Hossen said the declaration left out several pivotal national incidents and movements, thereby failed to provide a full historical narrative.

"The next national election should be held only after the July Charter and Declaration are fully implemented," Akhter added.

Muhammad Rezaul Karim said a decision has been made to elect the upper house of parliament through the PR system, but there has been no decision on how the members will be selected or what authority, scope, and status of the upper house will have.

Meanwhile, BNP called upon all other parties and people to come forward to ensure a successful

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the party

"BNP believes that the promises made by political parties in this declaration will begin the journey towards a new democratic Bangladesh. It will create a chance to build a truly progressive and prosperous Bangladesh based on equality, values, and justice."

Responding to queries on their objections about two "student-advisers", the BNP leader said, "The work of Prof Yunus shows that he won't do anything in the future that would make the election questionable."

In a statement, Gono Odhikar Parishad said they would boycott the July Declaration if the background of the July uprising is not included.

Party General Secretary Md Rashed Khan said, "The movement against discrimination of 2024 began in demand for reinstating the 2018 circular abolishing the quota system."

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India's national security adviser was in Moscow yesterday, media in New Delhi reported, coinciding with US envoy Steve Witkoff's visit.

Last week, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned China that continued Russian oil purchases could trigger new tariffs, as Washington prepares for the expiry of a US-China tariff ceasefire on August 12.

The increased duties place Indian exporters at a 30–35% disadvantage versus trade rivals in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Japan.

"We still have a window," said a senior Indian official, requesting anonymity. "The fact that the new tariffs take effect in 21 days signals the White House is open to talks."

Another official said there were no immediate plans for Modi or senior leaders to travel to Washington, nor were any retaliatory measures being considered.

A sharp drop in US-bound shipments could drag India's GDP growth below 6 percent this year, down from the central bank's 6.5 percent forecast, said Sakshi Gupta of HDFC Bank.