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## TUHIN MURDER Will ensure punishment of those involved Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will do everything possible to ensure that the killers of journalist Asaduzzaman Tuhin receive the exemplary punishment, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday.

While talking to reporters after a meeting of the core committee on law and order, he expected that the remaining accused will be arrested soon.

"As a nation, we have become intolerant. We have no patience. There has been social degradation," Jahangir said, adding, "In the past, people used to protest and resist any untoward incident. Now, even neighbours do not come forward in times of danger, nor do they protest."

On August 7, a group of miscreants killed Tuhin, 40, who worked as a staff



People shield their faces as they walk through dust-laden winds in the Shyampur area of the capital. Due to ongoing construction and road works, the air is thick with dust and pollutants. There are also factories in the area that contribute to the worsening air quality. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Dengue death toll hits 101 amid case surge

HELEMUL ALAM

The number of dengue deaths in the country has crossed 100 this year, painting an alarming picture of the outbreak.

Three more patients died yesterday, raising the death toll to 101 and total reported cases to 24,183, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the deaths, the highest, 45, were recorded in Dhaka South City Corporation areas, followed by 18 in Barishal division, 17 in Chattogram division, 11 in Dhaka North City Corporation, four each in Khulna and Rajshahi divisions, and one each in Mymensingh division and Dhaka division outside city corporation areas.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said while the number of dengue patients in Dhaka is lower this year, the death rate is higher.

He attributed this to a growing number of cases of Expanded Dengue Syndrome (EDS), a severe form of the disease involving critical damage to organs such as the liver, brain, heart, kidneys and central nervous system.

"These patients can deteriorate rapidly and die suddenly due to severe complications," Dr Ahsan said, adding that people with comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes, and chronic lung or kidney disease are especially vulnerable.

Many patients fail to recognise warning signs – severe abdominal pain, breathing difficulty, bleeding, extreme weakness, or a sharp drop in urination and platelet count – only seeking treatment when their condition is critical.

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## Govt reform plans left out indigenous people: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for the urgent formation of an Indigenous Reform Commission to ensure the due rights of indigenous peoples.

The event, titled "Challenges in Protecting the Land, Forests, and Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples: The Role of the Government and Civil Society", was jointly organised by ALRD, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, and 15 other organisations to mark International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

At the event, Khushi Kabir, chairperson of ALRD and coordinator of Nijera Kori, said after last year's mass uprising, various reform commissions were established to eliminate discrimination and promote reforms.

"But the indigenous people were left behind as usual. Opinions from many were collected, but indigenous people and women were excluded. Their perspectives were not reflected in the reform process," she said.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples
- Finalise, enact indigenous peoples rights act
- Set up separate ministry, land commission
- Appoint full minister from indigenous communities

## Govt strips 40 absconding police officers of medals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has revoked the Bangladesh Police Medal (BPM) and President's Police Medal (PPM) from 40 police officials.

The decision follows ongoing departmental action against these officials, who have been absconding from their posts since the fall of the Awami League government last year.

The home ministry disclosed the updates in a notification dated August 7, which was made public yesterday.

The list includes former DMP additional commissioner Mohammad Harun-Or Rashid, DIG Syed Nurul Islam, and additional DIGs Biplob Kumar Sarker and Proloy Kumar Joarder.

The notification said departmental procedures are ongoing to address the

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## JULY UPRISING AFTERMATH 1,300 firearms looted from police stations still missing

Shows data from police headquarters

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MUNTAKIM SAAD

More than 1,300 firearms and over 2,50,000 rounds of ammunition looted from police stations during the July uprising remain missing, with many reportedly now in the hands of criminals and being used in crimes across the country.

The Awami League government was overthrown in a student-led uprising on August 5 last year, following which 5,753 firearms and 6,51,609 rounds of ammunition were looted from various police stations and outposts, according to police

headquarters.

Police data updated on August 3 this year shows that despite a joint operation launched on September 4 last year, 1,375 firearms and 2,57,849 rounds of ammunition are still unaccounted for.

### AT A GLANCE

- Over 2.5 lakh rounds of ammunition also missing
- Police say many now in hands of criminals
- Govt offers rewards for info on looted firearms
- Experts question reward effectiveness after a year

Among the unrecovered weapons are rifles, SMGs, LMGs, 7.62x25mm pistols, 9x19mm pistols, shotguns, gas guns, teargas launchers, and 26mm signal pistols.

Amid the situation, the interim government yesterday announced rewards for information leading to the recovery of missing firearms.

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## RAMPURA SHOOTINGS ICT accepts charges against ex-DMP chief, four others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday accepted charges against five former police officials, including then Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner Habibur Rahman, over their alleged role in crimes against humanity in the capital's Rampura area during the 2024 July uprising.

The charges, pressed by the prosecution on three counts, involve the killing of two people and the shooting of two others in Rampura on July 19 last year.

A three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, also issued arrest warrants for four of the accused who remain on the run, and set August 17 for the next hearing.

Apart from Habibur, the accused are then additional deputy commissioner of DMP's Khilgaon division Rashedul Islam; then Rampura Police Station officer-in-charge Mashirur Rahman; then sub-inspector of the police station Tariqul Islam Bhuiyan; and then Rampura police outpost assistant sub-inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarker.

Only Chanchal is currently in custody. The allegations include murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, complicity, facilitation, abetment, incitement, failure to prevent or punish crimes, and command responsibility.

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## 2016 'MILITANT DRAMA' Complaint filed at ICT over retired major's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A complaint was lodged with the ICT Chief Prosecutor's Office yesterday over the 2016 killing of major (ret) Jahidul Islam – an incident described as a staged "militant drama".

Jahidul's widow, Jebun Nahar Islam, lodged the complaint accusing several senior police officials of killing her husband and forcibly disappearing her and her two daughters for over four months.

The accused are: Md AKM Shahidul Hoque, then inspector general of police; Md Monirul Islam, then chief of the Detective Branch; Md Asaduzzaman, then chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit; Md Masud Ahmed, then deputy commissioner of

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## CUSTODIAL DEATH Verdict delivery on appeals starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started delivering verdict on the appeals against a trial court verdict that sentenced three former police officers to life imprisonment and two others to seven years' jail sentence in the case filed for custodial death of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment-waste trader in the capital's Mirpur area, 11 years ago.

This is the first time the HC will deliver a judgement in a case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

The HC bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan began announcing the judgment at around 10:30am and continued till 4:10pm.

The HC fixed 10:30am today for resuming its delivery.

During delivery of verdict, the bench cited the lawyers' arguments and statements from all 24 witnesses yesterday, Advocate Abdur Razzak Razu, a defence lawyer, told The Daily Star.

Family members of the victim Jonny, including his brother Imtiaz Hossain Rocky and mother Khurshida Begum, were present in the courtroom.

A group of 25 to 26 police officers – including then sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station Zahidur Rahman allegedly raided a house during a wedding ceremony in Pallabi's Irani camp area and picked up Jonny, who was then 28, and his brother Imtiaz

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Jonny



On the 101st birth anniversary of SM Sultan yesterday, Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts came alive with a vibrant festival celebrating his legacy. Although Sultan's own paintings were absent, contemporary artists showcased works inspired by his powerful, realistic style. Organised by the Charupith Art Research Institute and its partners, the event included exhibitions, seminars, and film screenings, reaffirming Sultan's lasting impact on Bangladeshi art and culture.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED