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Couple found dead in their home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police yesterday recovered the bloodied bodies of a freedom fighter and his wife in Rangpur's Taraganj upazila.

The victims were identified as Jogesh Chandra Roy, 75, and Suvarna Roy, 65, said police.

Taraganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Faiyum Talukdar said their bodies were found at their house in Uttar Rahimapur village under Kursha union.

Locals said, this morning, as repeated calls went unanswered, neighbours climbed into the house using a ladder and discovered Jogesh's body in the dining room and his wife's body in the kitchen. The main door of the house was locked from the inside.

Police suspect that the

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Severe tailbacks formed on one side of Mirpur Road yesterday after mobile phone traders and employees blocked the Shyamoli-Agargaon Link Road to press home their six-point demand, causing immense suffering to commuters. The photo was taken near Shishu Hospital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Corruption persists despite the end of authoritarian rule

Says TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the fall of the authoritarian government on August 5, people expected corruption to come down, but it continues in different forms, said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

Regarding whether graft levels have increased or declined, he said TIB is still analysing comparative data. "We cannot conclude now. But we can say corruption is continuing."

"We saw signs of corruption from the afternoon of August 5. Those who misuse political and governance space for personal benefit are still active. We have also noticed corruption inside different sections of the government. It is worrying. The interim government had the chance to take a stronger stand against graft, but they have failed. There is no way to deny it."

Iftekharuzzaman made the remarks during a question-and-answer session following TIB's recommendations for preparing election

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Transparency International
Bangladesh

JULY UPRISING VICTIMS Families await closure as CID exhumes bodies DNA matching to follow before handover or reburial

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

For the past year and a half, 60-year-old Rasheda Begum visited the Rayerbazar graveyard every Thursday. As she stood near the rows of unnamed graves, she prayed for the souls of the 114 unidentified victims of the July uprising.

One of those graves, she believes, holds the body of her son.

Yesterday, Rasheda returned with a flicker of hope that her son's grave might finally be found, as the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) began the exhumation of the 114 bodies to collect DNA samples for identification.

CID officials, their forensic team, and specialists from the Dhaka Medical College forensic unit reached the graveyard around 9:00am to oversee the exhumation work, as family members of missing victims watched silently.

Argentine forensic anthropologist Luis Fondibridier was also present during the process, and a temporary forensic lab was set up on the grounds.

Amid the crowd of hopeful victim families, Rasheda was seen clinging to a photo of her son Soheli Rana, 35.

"My son Soheli went to Shyampur on July 18 last year to join the protests. He never came back. After 34 days, I visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital and learned that he had been buried here [Rayerbazar] as an unidentified body," she told this correspondent as tears streamed down her face.

"Today [yesterday], the CID is exhuming the bodies for DNA testing. I hope my son's grave will finally be identified."

Standing next to Rasheda was 19-year-old Raiyan Hossain, silently weeping, but with the hope to find his father Rafiqul Islam's body. "My father left our Gopibagh residence for Isha prayers around 8:00pm on July 19. He said he would be back soon...."

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ACC launches probe into Abdul Hamid Allegations include causing 'loss of Tk 24cr to state'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has launched an investigation against former president Abdul Hamid over allegations that he caused a loss of Tk 24 crore to the state through spending on decoration and beautification in Dhaka's Nikunja-1 area.

He is also accused of acquiring illegal assets.

Md Akhter Hossain, director general (Prevention) of the anti-graft watchdog, confirmed the development to the media yesterday.

He said the ACC never considers a person's identity when opening an inquiry. "The main issue is the objectivity of the allegations," he added.

A three-storey house

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River erosion now a major cause of migration

BIDS study finds it caused over 27% families to completely relocate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slow-onset shocks like river erosion are now a major driver of full household migration in coastal areas, with 27.41 percent of complete relocations linked to erosion, according to new research by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Erosion and drought are now influencing mobility in ways sudden disasters often do not, said Azreen Karim, senior research fellow of BIDS, while presenting the study titled "How do farm and non farm occupational experiences influence responses to climate events?" at the Annual BIDS Conference on Development 2025.

The research drew on 403 coastal households and seven focus group discussions under a broader project on climate-induced migration and gender.

It identified three types of movement: full migration, when entire households relocate; partial migration, when some members move; and mixed migration, where both patterns occur.

While floods and cyclones commonly trigger temporary or partial movement, river erosion alone accounted for 74 full migrations and 77 partial migrations.

Floods, by contrast, accounted for 40.8 percent of partial migrations.

The study showed some families chose to remain at destination sites due to NGO support or loss of housing at origin, while others preferred to return because of high living costs or the need to stay close to extended family.

Another study presented at the conference examined why the haor region remains among the country's most climate-vulnerable areas.

In his paper titled "Living with floods: Livelihood vulnerability and adaptation in wetlands of Bangladesh", BIDS Research Director Mohammad Yunus said households continue to face repeated climatic and economic shocks despite higher income and increased asset ownership.

The researchers constructed a vulnerability index from 32 haors across seven districts based on exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity.

Households inside the haor recorded higher exposure and sensitivity and lower adaptive capacity than households in adjacent areas, Yunus said.

While the overall gap was not large, it reflected how structural exposure to flash floods and monsoon flooding continues to undermine resilience.

The per-capita income, fertiliser use, crop-market participation and income from open-

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Erosion and drought are now influencing mobility in ways sudden disasters often do not.



With winter setting in, the water level of the Kirtankhola has dropped significantly, leaving the adjoining canal in Barishal city's Rasulpur area dried out and reduced to a narrow, sludge-filled strip. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'Imran Khan not a security threat' PTI deplores 'ridiculous' allegations

DAWN ONLINE

The PTI emphatically deplored "ridiculous" remarks by the Pakistan military spokesperson against ex-premier Imran Khan, saying he was "not a security threat", and lamented the weakening of democracy in the country following the passage of recent constitutional amendments.

In a press conference on Friday, ISPR Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry assailed Imran for creating and spreading an "anti-army" rhetoric, stating that such narratives were now out of the realm of politics and had become a "national security threat".

Responding to the DG ISPR's accusations in a press conference on Saturday evening at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said: "Do not drive away the people of Pakistan, they stand with Imran Khan and the PTI. Imran Khan is not a national security threat. He has kept the people united."



Nightclub fire kills 25 in Goa

Six hurt; authorities order probe

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Indian authorities ordered an investigation and offered compensation to victims yesterday after a fire ripped through a nightclub in the western state of Goa, killing 25.

"I have ordered a magisterial inquiry into the entire incident to identify the cause and fix responsibility" for the fire in the village of Arpora, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant posted on X, saying six injured people were in stable condition and receiving medical care.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had spoken to Sawant and offered condolences to the bereaved families. Modi posted on X that his office would offer compensation of up to 200,000 rupees (\$2,200) to each family of the victims and 50,000 rupees to the injured.

Police were alerted to the blaze at the Birch by Romeo Lane club at 12:04 am on Saturday, Goa's police chief told the ANI news agency.

The authorities worked through the night to bring the fire under control, and all the bodies have been recovered, ANI reported.