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GREEN FACTORY AWARD 2025



Couple found dead in their home

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Latmonirhat

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 Utar 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

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 Fondibrider 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 Sohel Rana, 35.

"My son Sohel 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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'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."



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

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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IFTEKHARUZZAMAN
executive director of
Transparency International
Bangladesh

Shaukat Mahmood held in anti-terror case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested Shaukat Mahmood, a senior journalist and secretary general of Janata Party Bangladesh, in Dhaka's Malibagh yesterday in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Enayet Karim Chowdhury, a US citizen of Bangladeshi origin, is also accused in the case with Ramna Police Station, said Shafiqul Islam, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch.

"Investigators found Shaukat Mahmood's involvement during the investigation," Shafiqul told The Daily Star.



Shaukat, a former president of Jatiya Press Club, had previously served as vice-chairman of BNP, which expelled him in March 2023 for alleged involvement in anti-party activities.

Janata Party Bangladesh (People's Party Bangladesh) was launched under the leadership of noted actor and road safety activist Ilias Kanchan in April this year with Shaukat as its secretary general.

Enayet was arrested on September 13 under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from Dhaka's Minto Road.

On September 14, Sub-Inspector Azizul Hakim of Ramna Police Station filed the case against the 55-year-old Enayet.

According to the case statement, "During primary interrogation, Enayet confessed that he came to Bangladesh as an agent of a foreign intelligence agency to overthrow the present interim government. This claim was initially supported by data found in the seized mobile phones in his possession."

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.