

Shooting of Hadi a bid to derail polls

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A fallen and fugitive group has for a long time distorted the history of Bangladesh's independence and the Liberation War for its own interests and attempted to politicise history, he said.

“As a continuation of this attempt, the defeated forces of the Liberation War are now trying to establish a new history of victory,” he added.

“To counter the defeated group, our Victory Day pledge should not be the politics of revenge or hostility; rather, it should be the establishment of a self-reliant, prosperous, and democratic Bangladesh with the aim of delivering the fruits of victory to every household,” he said.

“From the time Bangladesh gained independence until today, whenever the country's democracy has faced threats, we have seen that the country's independence and sovereignty have also faced threats. At every turn in history, this truth has been proven, whether on 7 November 7, 1975 or on August 5 2024,” he said.

He said attempts to intimidate freedom-loving and democracy-seeking people would fail.

Every movement, including 1971, November 7, 1975, and the anti-autocracy movement of the nineties, had proven that the people's victory could not be stopped when they were united, he said.

About the upcoming election, Tarique said, “This is no ordinary election; it is more complex and important than any previous elections. The aspirations, interests, and potential of the present and future generations, and above all, the question of Bangladesh's sovereignty, are linked to this election.”

Presiding over the event, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said if the party was voted to power, it would ensure the security of the “July fighters” who took part in the July-August movement.

BNP Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas, Nazrul Islam Khan, Moyeen Khan, Salahuddin Ahmed, Hafizuddin Ahmed and others also spoke at the event.

‘Clarify your remarks on Hadi’

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otherwise, the nation will decide for itself. It will be one of the two.”

Referring to calls for the CEC's resignation, he said: “Many are demanding his resignation today. We would ask them not to resign, but to prove that they are capable of performing their duties. If they fail to do so, remember that August 5 will come again.”

“If '24 had not happened, the Chief Election Commissioner who made this statement from such a responsible position would not be here today. If '24 had not happened, many of those serving in the current interim government would have been in jail. So '24 is not just a part of our history; it is a part of our hearts. Respecting '24 means respecting Bangladesh and its people. I humbly

3 advisers must go

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Second, within 48 hours, area-based combing operations must be launched against leaders and activists of the Awami League. All “terrorists” linked to the organisation must be arrested and illegal weapons recovered.

Third, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina must be brought back to the country to execute the verdict against her for crimes against humanity. Diplomatic relations with India must be reviewed and not normalised until the accused are repatriated.

“If the demands are not met immediately and no visible improvement in the law and order situation is seen, the home affairs adviser, law adviser, and foreign affairs adviser must resign,” said the Ducsu VP.

According to sources, Chief Adviser's Special Assistant Md Khoda Bakhsh Chowdhury and other senior officials were present at the meeting and assured the delegation that the demands would be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Chhatra Shakti, the student wing of the National Citizen Party (NCP), blocked the Shahbagh intersection yesterday.

Protesters there demanded the resignation of the home adviser for failing to maintain law and order.

The demonstration brought vehicular movement in Shahbagh and surrounding areas to a standstill, reports UNB.

request everyone to respect '71, and in the same way, to respect '24 as well.

“If we are elected with the love of the people of this country, we will build a united nation by including everyone. We will invite all to join us in forming the government,” he added.

The goals and objectives of the Liberation War have still not been realised, said Rafiqul Islam Khan, assistant secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami.

“Those who were in power changed their own fortunes, but the fortunes of the people did not change.”

He also called for the resignation of the home affairs adviser over the attack on Osman Hadi.

The discussion was chaired by Jamaat's Dhaka South Ameer Nurul Islam Bulbul.

Abu Bakar Majumdar, convenor of the NCP's student wing, said, “We demand the immediate arrest of the attackers who assaulted Hadi.”

On Friday, a day after the schedule for the 13th national parliamentary election was announced, Hadi, an aspirant for the Dhaka-8 constituency, was shot in the head in the capital's Puranapaltan area, leaving him critically injured.

He was flown to Singapore yesterday for better treatment.

Australia mourns

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set up for Ahmed with just over AS\$1,000,000 (\$665,100) raised in a few hours. Billionaire hedge fund manager Bill Ackman was the largest donor, contributing AS\$99,999 and sharing the fundraiser on his X account.

US President Donald Trump called Ahmed “a very, very brave person” who saved many lives. Chris Minns, the premier of New South Wales state where Sydney is located, has hailed him “a genuine hero” and said the video was “the most unbelievable scene I've ever seen”.

Major cities including Berlin, London and New York step up security around Hanukkah events following the attack.

Police gave no details of their firearms, but videos from the scene showed the men firing weapons that appeared to be a bolt-action rifle and a shotgun.

Prosecution seeks death for Hasina over life term

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reporters that the July uprising crimes amounted to serious human rights violations and heinous offences, deserving capital punishment, while the massive and deadly scale of attacks on unarmed civilians left no scope for lesser sentences.

“The law requires disposal of appeals within 60 days, and we expect that the matter will be resolved within that timeframe.”

In another development, the prosecution yesterday began arguments in a case against former Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner Habibur Rahman and seven of his subordinates over the killings of six people in the capital's Chankharpul area on August 5 during the July uprising.

The prosecution said Habibur had ordered police to open fire on unarmed protesters. At this stage,

the tribunal asked whether the commissioner's order was to open fire from a kneeling position.

The prosecution confirmed, saying, “Yes, he ordered that.” However, commissioner Habibur failed to take any action against his subordinates who disobeyed his orders. Instead, he awarded police officers for suppressing the student movement.

Concluding their arguments, prosecutors stated that beyond all reasonable doubt, they had proved the case against the eight accused and sought the highest punishment for them.

The other accused in the case are Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, then DMP joint commissioner; Sha Alam Mohammad Akhtarul Islam, former additional deputy commissioner; Mohammad Imrul, former assistant commissioner of Ramna zone

of DMP; Arshad Hossain, former inspector (operation) at Shahbagh Police Station; and constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam.

Arshad, Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul are currently in jail, while the others remain absconding.

The tribunal set December 18 for the defence to place its arguments.

Meanwhile, two prosecution witnesses yesterday testified before the ICT-2 against Hasanul Haq Inu, former minister and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal president, in a case linked to the July uprising.

Besides, two other prosecution witnesses gave their depositions before the same tribunal against Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and three other party leaders in a case filed over the killings of six people in Kushtia.

‘I don’t know what mistake I’ve made’

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“I have been doing this for two decades. My job is not to bow down to anyone... I spoke out during Khaleda Zia's time, and I continued to speak out during the Awami League's time. I have spoken during Dr Yunus' time as well, and I will continue to do so,” he said in a packed courtroom.

“If anyone wants to tag me as a puppet of a particular party, that is their problem,” the journalist added.

Anis continued, “I express all my views on Facebook; nothing is undisclosed. I have spoken about the attack on Yunus's [chief adviser's] house. But I explained why I said it – the attack on [Dhanmondi] 32 is a politics of revenge. It will repeat. I said that.”

“I do not know what mistake I have made here. I have no links with anyone. If Dr Yunus wants, he can turn the whole of Bangladesh into a prison -- he can do so,” he added.

After hearing from both sides, the magistrate rejected Anis' bail petition and put him on remand.

Yesterday, Arian Ahmed, a central organiser of the July Revolutionary Alliance, filed the case with Uttara West Police Station under the Anti-

Terrorism Act against journalist Anis, actress Meher Afroz Shaon, Maria Kispotta, and Imtu Ratish.

On Sunday evening, Anis was picked up from a gym in Dhanmondi and taken to the DB office on Minto Road. He has worked at several media outlets, including print and electronic media. In recent times, he has drawn attention for his active presence on television talk shows.

According to the case statement, the five accused, including Anis, were under the patronage of the Awami League before August 5 last year. Since the July uprising, they have allegedly been spreading propaganda through social media and talk show appearances to facilitate the return of the AL.

The complainant mentioned that on the night of December 14, while at home, Arian Ahmed noticed on his mobile phone that the journalist had made several posts from his verified Facebook account and, during talk shows, warned that attacks would be carried out on the July Smriti Museum, Dr Muhammad Yunus' residence, and Grameen Bank.

The statement also says that Maria Kispotta, Meher Afroz Shaon,

and Imtu Ratish posted from their personal Facebook accounts in an attempt to rehabilitate the Awami League.

Such posts have allegedly inspired activists of the banned organisations Chhatra League and Jubo League to engage in conspiracies and terrorist activities aimed at destabilising the state and damaging state infrastructure, the statement added.

UN urges release of 10,000 arbitrarily detained in Eritrea

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday called for the unconditional release of the estimated 10,000 people arbitrarily detained in Eritrea, including politicians, journalists and students.

The Horn of Africa country has been ruled with an iron fist by President Isaias Afwerki, 79, since independence from Ethiopia in 1993, and ranks near the bottom of every rights indicator.

