

## July fighters get legal

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Signed by the president under the powers granted by Article 93(l) of the Constitution, the ordinance is deemed to have come into effect retrospectively from July 1, 2024, and covers actions carried out during the movement from July to August 2024. The ordinance designates students and members of the general public who participated in the movement as "revolutionaries" (Ganabuthankari).

It states that all civil and criminal cases filed against participants for incidents occurring during the movement will be withdrawn, and that no such cases may be filed in the future. It also outlines procedures for disposing of pending cases.

If any case or legal proceeding is active against a participant, the relevant court will immediately withdraw it upon an application by the public prosecutor or a government-appointed lawyer, subject to certification by the government. Upon such application, the accused will be immediately discharged or acquitted. The ordinance draws a distinction between acts of "political resistance" and what it terms "criminal misuse of chaotic situations".

It states that during July and August 2024, taking defensive measures became inevitable to resist indiscriminate killings and armed attacks ordered by the then government.

Citing Article 46 of the Constitution, the ordinance notes that it is the duty of the state to protect those who took part in such resistance.

Article 46 provides that parliament may, by law, indemnify any person in the service of the Republic or any other person in respect of acts done in connection with the national liberation struggle or the maintenance or restoration of order, or validate any sentence, punishment, forfeiture or other act done in such context. However, the ordinance specifies that allegations of murder against any participant cannot be filed directly in court.

Instead, such complaints must be submitted to the National Human Rights Commission, which will conduct an investigation to determine the nature of the

act.

If the commission finds that the act constituted "political resistance", no legal action will proceed against the accused. The commission may, however, direct the government to provide compensation to the victim's family, and the ordinance states that such a decision cannot be challenged in any court.

If the investigation determines that the killing was committed for personal interest or amounted to a "criminal misuse" of the chaotic situation, the commission will submit a report to the relevant court. The court will then treat the report as a police report and initiate judicial proceedings.

The ordinance also imposes a specific condition regarding investigations. If the victim is a member of the police or any other disciplined force, no serving or former officer of that force may be assigned to investigate the matter. It further states that the government may formulate new rules as necessary to implement the objectives of the ordinance.



Md Selim sells the now rarely found kotkoti, a traditional sweet treat made from sugar and mustard oil, to children on the Band Road of Barishal city. The 75-year-old shapes them into toy ducks and sells each for Tk 10, earning a daily profit of about Tk 800.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Publish white paper

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TIB organised the programme marking the UN declared International Clean Energy Day 2026.

Yunus promotes the global vision of zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero carbon emissions. However, Iftekharuzzaman said after assuming office, the interim government has acted in ways that contradict his advocacy on these three fronts.

"As a UN member state, Bangladesh's interim government has failed to observe Clean Energy Day," he said.

He questioned whether the government has taken any initiative that a future elected government could carry forward.

Iftekharuzzaman criticised the interim government's draft Energy and Power Sector Master Plan (EPSMP 2025), saying the plan remains dependent on fossil fuels.

He alleged that the absence of a participatory approach is one of the defining features of the interim government's activities.

At the human chain, Ashna Islam, co-coordinator of TIB's Clean Energy Project, presented a concept paper on renewable energy and good governance for sustainable development.

In the paper, she placed several recommendations on behalf of TIB, including political parties' commitment to gradually phase out fossil fuel use and increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.

She also stressed the need to take opinions of civil society, neutral experts and relevant stakeholders before finalising the draft Energy and Power Sector Master Plan, and to adopt energy sector policies aimed at achieving a net-zero target.

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time, I want young leaders who can bring real change," he said.

In this constituency, the main contest is between BNP's Bobby Hajaj and Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis candidate Mamunul Haque, both of whom are campaigning actively.

Mamunul Haque, contesting with the "Rickshaw" symbol, is holding "Jagaron Padajatra" (awakening marches) in the constituency.

Bobby Hajaj, who recently resigned from the Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) to join the BNP, is campaigning with the "Sheaf of Paddy" symbol through exchange meetings and door-to-door visits.

Mamunul, contesting under the II-party alliance led by Jamaat-e-Islami, told The Daily Star that he is receiving an overwhelming response. "People of all ages are welcoming me. Students and professionals often ask for selfies, which I enjoy," he said.

He said his priorities include curbing extortion and drugs while rehabilitating teen gang members.

Claiming that the constituency has been represented by "outsiders" for decades, Mamunul said being "a son of the area" gives him an edge.

He added that there is no personal rivalry with Hajaj, as they often meet at social gatherings.

Hajaj said he joined the BNP due to changes in the RPO, which made contesting with the party symbol strategically necessary.

He said he plans to return to the NDM after the election. "I am receiving full cooperation from local BNP leaders and a positive response from voters," he said.

Md Yusuf, joint convenor of Dhaka City North BNP and chief coordinator of Hajaj's campaign, said the

party is fully backing him and expressed confidence of victory.

Hajaj described the contest against Mamunul as a "battle to protect democracy".

He identified terrorism, traffic congestion, drainage problems, and gas and water shortages as key local issues.

"I have already started work, including forming volunteer security cells, installing CCTVs, and developing a special app for residents," he said.

Also, traffic management training for students and canal-cleaning programmes have already begun, he added.

Both candidates outlined plans for the Geneva Camp.

Hajaj said preliminary discussions have started on permanent rehabilitation through alternative means, while Mamunul promised initiatives to ensure dignity and rehabilitation for camp residents.

The constituency has 4,08,791 voters -- an increase of 13,355 from the previous election. Of them, 2,09,812 are male, 1,98,971 are female, and eight are hijra.

Other candidates contesting for this constituency include Mizanur Rahman (Gono Odhikar Parishad), Md Shahabuddin (Bangladesh Minority Janata Party), Md Khalekuzzaman (BSD), Shahriar Iftekhar (Bangladesh Muslim League), Fatema Akter Munia (Insaniyat Biplob Bangladesh), and independent candidates Sohel Rana and Sheikh Md Rabiul Islam.

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