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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION




DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2026

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXVI NO. 191 | SRABAN 22, 1433 BS | www.thedailystar.net | SAFAR 22, 1448 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS CAMPUS: TK 15.00



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# Protect unity against fascism, avoid distractions

## Says Tarique after inaugurating July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday vowed transparent and impartial trials for those accused of atrocities during the anti-fascist movement, warning that attempts to destabilise post-fascist Bangladesh could pave the way for the return of the ousted authoritarian forces.

Addressing a discussion titled "July-36" after inaugurating the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum on the second anniversary of the uprising, he said his government believes justice for every crime is essential to uphold the rule of law.

Paying tribute to those who died during the July uprising and the 16-year struggle to restore democracy, the prime minister said the mass uprising belonged to no individual, group or political party, and that the museum should preserve not only the memory of the July-August 2024 uprising but also the broader history of Bangladesh's democratic movements.

Tarique also pledged to build a self-reliant, prosperous, secure and democratic Bangladesh envisioned by the martyrs, guided by the BNP's 31-point election manifesto and the July National Charter, reported UNB and BSS.



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visits the July Uprising Memorial Museum in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on July Uprising Day yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

> **The museum will inspire future generations to uphold the spirit of the July uprising and build a better nation.**
>
> PROF MUHAMMAD YUNUS

- PM vows transparent trials for July atrocities
- Warns against moves that can help return of authoritarian forces
- Govt to name institutions after anti-fascist movement martyrs

He also warned against creating unnecessary controversies that could undermine the unity of anti-fascist forces.

"In a Bangladesh freed from fascism, some are trying to create unnecessary issues and destabilise the country. We need to consider whether, knowingly or unknowingly, such actions are facilitating the return of the defeated, deposed and fugitive authoritarian forces," he said.

The prime minister also said the government has decided to name at least one institution in each victim's locality after every person killed during the anti-fascist movement over the past 17 years and the July uprising.

Earlier, after inaugurating the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, formerly Gono Bhaban, Tarique toured galleries depicting the July 2024 mass uprising, the role of students and ordinary people, Bangladesh's political developments, and the 16-year autocratic rule of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

A prayer was offered after the inauguration. The museum will open to the public tomorrow.

On August 5, 2024, Hasina fled to India as protesters breached security barricades and entered Gono Bhaban, then the prime minister's official residence. The complex was later vandalised.

The interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus later decided to convert it into a museum to preserve photographs, documents and artefacts related to the uprising and its historical significance.

Accompanying the prime minister, Prof Yunus described the museum as a bridge between Bangladesh's past and future.

"The museum will inspire future generations to uphold the spirit of the July uprising and build a better nation," he said, adding that it would help the nation rediscover its democratic ideals whenever it lost its way.

Tarique said his government has begun implementing the BNP's 31-point election manifesto and the July charter to rebuild the state and fulfil the aspirations of those who sacrificed their lives.

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# Big oil firms make $93b in war profit

STAR REPORT

The world's eight largest listed oil producers posted combined profits of roughly $93 billion in the three months to the end of June, as the US-Israeli military strikes on Iran disrupted fossil-fuel supply and pushed benchmark crude above $126 a barrel.

The windfall war profits have reignited calls for oil and gas supermajors such as Saudi Aramco and BP to pay for the environmental damage caused by "cashing in on human misery" and fund a rapid transition to renewable energy, according to a report published by The Guardian on Tuesday.

The companies have used the biggest disruption of fossil fuel supplies in the market's history to almost double their combined

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# FSRU fragility exposing gas supply vulnerabilities

## Every disruption at floating terminals spirals into national gas crisis



ASIFUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh's floating LNG terminals have repeatedly exposed the fragility of the country's gas supply.

Each disruption -- whether caused by technical faults, maintenance or cyclones -- has sharply reduced supplies, forcing power cuts, scaled back industrial production, long queues at CNG stations and dwindling pipeline gas at households.

The latest shutdown of Excelerate Energy's floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) at Maheshkhali has once again underscored this vulnerability.

The July incident cut roughly 450 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd), or half the LNG supply, from the national grid, worsening an already severe deficit.

Electricity shortages exceeded 3,000MW at times, industries faced critically low gas pressure, CNG stations struggled to refuel

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- Domestic gas production fell from **27.2**bcm in FY19 to **19.6**bcm in FY25
- LNG imports rose from **3.28**bcm in FY19 to **7.9**8bcm in FY25
- Expert warns import dependence increases financial, price, production vulnerabilities
- Suggests boosting exploration, efficiency, conservation
- Recommends investing in coal, renewables

HASINA'S MEDIA EVENT

# 'Detrimental' to Dhaka-Delhi ties reset

## Says foreign ministry; Hasina reiterates plans for Dec return

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India allowing ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina to interact openly with the media in Delhi was deeply hurtful to Bangladeshis and detrimental to the development of harmonious ties between Bangladesh and India, the government said last night.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "Bangladesh is outraged that the absconding convicted genocider [sic] Sheikh Hasina was allowed this evening to engage in live interaction with the media in New Delhi where she and her henchmen launched venomous vitriol against the State of Bangladesh and her people."

It also questioned the timing of the event.

"On a day when the people of Bangladesh are observing the second anniversary of the July Revolution, this interaction by Sheikh Hasina on Indian soil stands as an affront to the sovereignty of Bangladesh and a grievous insult to the martyrs of the July Revolution," the statement said.

"Dhaka deeply regrets that in spite of concerns conveyed apriori to the Government of India about the likely ramifications of this event on the reset of our bilateral relations, this public event was permitted to be held," read the statement.

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# Chhatra Dal, Shibir clashes continue

## At least 19 hurt

STAR REPORT

Clashes erupted once again between activists of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir in several districts yesterday.

In some places, Chhatra Dal activists, along with BNP men, were also accused of attacking activists of Students Against Discrimination and Jatiya Chhatra Shakti.

Just the day before, dozens of people, including student leaders and journalists, were injured in clashes at Jagannath University, Alia Madrasa, Dhaka College, and Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur.

No cases have been filed over the incidents as of yesterday, police said.

At Barishal University, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between Chhatra Dal and Shibir activists over a procession marking July Uprising Day.

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Supporters of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir, armed with sticks and bamboo poles, clash on the road in front of Dak Bangla in Narayanganj city's Chashara yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SAURAV HOSSAIN SIAM

# US, Iran having 'very good' talks

## Says Trump, warns Tehran to open Hormuz or get 'hit very hard'

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump said his administration had "very good discussions" with Iran during all-day negotiations on Tuesday, fuelling expectations of an imminent end to the five-month conflict.

Oil prices fell and stocks jumped in Asian trade yesterday after Wall Street hit record highs on hopes that a deal could soon be reached to restore traffic through the blockaded Strait of Hormuz.

- 'Positive' Oman talks over Hormuz continuing: Iran
- Houthis attack Saudi Arabia tanker in the Red Sea
- Israeli strikes hit south Lebanon after evacuation warning

"They had an all-day negotiation," Trump told Fox News' "@ Night" show. The Strait of Hormuz "is going to be open very soon," Trump added. "If they back out again, they are going to get hit really hard."

Trump has often threatened massive strikes if Tehran did not reach an agreement and then cited progress in talks that have so far failed to end hostilities.

Axios, citing two regional sources and a US official, reported the US and Iran are closing in on an interim agreement to reopen the strait with the agreement of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

# Lightning strikes kill 14 in India's Jharkhand

**REUTERS,** *Bhubaneswar*

Lightning strikes killed at least 14 people in India's mineral-rich eastern state of Jharkhand, police said, the latest deaths linked to annual monsoon rains that unleashed floods and landslides elsewhere.

Farm workers amid crops in open fields accounted for most of the 10 dead in the state's Giridih district, police said. Tuesday's lightning strikes - a common feature of monsoon rainstorms - also injured at least seven, they added.

Yesterday, India's weather office forecast widespread rainfall in the state over the next few days.

Jharkhand saw more than 200 deaths in 2025, mainly attributed to "lightning associated with thunderstorms", the India Meterological Department said in January.

This year's torrential rains brought intense floods in India's rugged northeastern state of Assam, killing nearly 90, while 15 died in the southern state of Kerala, where rains displaced thousands from their homes.



**Residents carry the corrugated tin roof of a salvaged house in Paschim Harinchara village of Khuniagachh union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon after severe erosion by the Teesta devoured a nearby homestead. One of two tin-shed houses was washed away, while locals managed to save the other.** PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

# Shakib's Magura home vandalised after he joined Hasina's media event in Delhi

**STAR REPORT**

Unidentified people last night attempted to set fire to the Magura home of former Bangladesh cricket captain and former lawmaker Shakib Al Hasan, police said.

The incident took place around 9:00pm at the house in Keshab Mor area of the town, said Md Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station.

"Several miscreants threw brick chips at the house and vandalised windows. They also tried to set the house on fire," the OC told The Daily Star.

The OC said it was not immediately known who were involved in the incident. Police were deployed around the house following the incident, he added.

The incident occurred hours after former Magura-1 MP Shakib virtually joined a media interaction addressed by ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina. The event was hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia in New Delhi yesterday evening.

# S Korean students held over US military base break-in bid

**AFP,** *Seoul*

A group of eight South Korean student protestors were in detention and under investigation yesterday after trying to break into a US air base, police and the American military said.

The Korean Progressive University Student Union posted social media images of its Tuesday demonstration outside the Osan Air Base, about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Seoul.

Members gathered outside the main hub of the US Air Force in South Korea, arguing the US military's presence in the southern city of Gwangju could complicate Seoul's major chipmaking project planned there.

# Detrimental

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The foreign ministry also accused Hasina of denying the United Nations' findings on the killing of civilians, including children, during the July-August 2024 uprising, saying the people of Bangladesh had rejected such attempts.

"Upholding the spirit of the July Revolution, our people have firmly resolved that our nation will never again go back to the dark days of fascism and that Bangladesh will never be a client state. Convicted mass murderer Hasina and her mafia enterprise will never have a place in the polity of Bangladesh."

The statement said that Dhaka wants to maintain a constructive, mutually beneficial, and forward-looking ties with New Delhi based on sovereign equality, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and national dignity.

It expressed regret that Bangladesh's repeated requests for Hasina's return under the 2013 Bangladesh-India Extradition Treaty had yet to receive a response.

Hasina, during the media interaction hosted by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia, said that the ban on the activities of her Awami League should be lifted and reiterated that she would return to Bangladesh in December.

# Protect unity against fascism

FROM PAGE 1

He said the parliamentary Special Committee on Constitutional Amendment has also begun work to implement the constitutional reforms endorsed in the referendum.

"By rebuilding the country, we will, InShaAllah, establish a self-reliant, prosperous, secure and democratic Bangladesh envisioned by the martyrs."

Highlighting his government's support for injured July fighters, Tarique recalled the more than 16 years of authoritarian rule, saying millions endured repression, persecution, attacks and politically motivated cases, forcing many from their homes.

"During the July-August mass uprising alone, thousands of students, people from all walks of life, women and children embraced martyrdom," he said, alleging that security forces even opened fire from helicopters on pro-democracy protesters.

He also alleged that enforced disappearances, killings and abductions had become routine under the Awami League-led regime, describing the period as one of the darkest chapters in the country's post-independence history.

"The brutality that persisted for more than one and a half decades can only be compared to the three-and-a-half years of misrule under the Awami League government after independence."

The prime minister commended the Bangladesh Army for standing by the people during the uprising, expressed condolences to the families of the martyrs and declared, "Bangladesh will never again become a subservient state."

The programme concluded with cultural performances featuring patriotic songs and recitations celebrating the spirit of the July uprising, patriotism and democratic values.

During the inauguration, Tarique also spoke with injured July fighter Mitu, who attended the ceremony directly from hospital while continuing treatment for injuries sustained during the uprising.

# US, Iran having 'very good' talks

FROM PAGE 1

However, Iranian state media, citing an informed source, said an agreement with Oman on the strait, which normally carries about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, will be delayed "as long as the United States continues to threaten Iran."

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmaeil Baghaei, said talks with Oman over transit through the strait were "positive and continuing", and were focused on establishing safe shipping lanes, the state media reported.

He added the route being negotiated was aimed at ensuring the sovereign rights and national security of both Iran and Oman. A proposed deal between Iran and Oman would give Tehran control over ships entering the Gulf through the strait, a senior Iranian source and two regional officials told Reuters.

Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed efforts to narrow differences between Washington and Tehran and improve the prospects for a lasting settlement during a phone call on Tuesday, Qatar's Emiri office said.

Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis said yesterday that they attacked a Saudi oil tanker off Yanbu, in the Red Sea, as the rebels pressed on with their declared maritime blockade of the kingdom. This was the eighth Saudi oil tanker targeted since the start of the blockade on July 22, a Houthi military spokesman said.

A separate projectile struck an Indian-flagged vessel near Yemen, causing it to capsize and sink, but all 14 seafarers on board were rescued, Indian officials said, in an attack Yemen blamed on the Houthis.

US Central Command (Centcom) said American forces have redirected 45 commercial vessels, disabled two and boarded two others are part of a naval blockade of Iran.

In a separate development, Lebanese official media said an Israeli attack on the country's south killed one person yesterday, as Israel announced it was carrying out strikes in retaliation for what it said was a Hezbollah ceasefire violation.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) said the Israeli strike "targeted the roof of a prayer area of the cemetery in the town of Tibnin", killing one person and wounding 11 others.

# Chhatra Dal, Shibir clashes continue

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The violence took place between 9:30am and 10:30am after Shibir brought out a procession. Both organisations blamed each other for the clash.

Ashik Ahmed, senior vice-president of Chhatra Dal's university unit, alleged that Shibir activists attacked Chhatra Dal members after they objected to outsiders joining the procession, leaving five or six activists injured.

Shibir's university unit General Secretary Zakaria Islam Babu rejected the allegation, claiming Chhatra Dal activists attacked their procession near the vice-chancellor's gate, injuring at least five Shibir activists.

Additional police were deployed on the campus after the clash.

In Narayanganj, at least five people were injured in clashes between local units of the two student groups around 12:15pm on Allama Iqbal Road next to Government Tolaram College in Chashara following a July Uprising Day programme, said Additional Superintendent of Police Md Hasinuzzaman.

Police and witnesses said tensions escalated after leaders of the rival groups exchanged provocative remarks during the programme. The confrontation later spilled onto the road, triggering a chase and counter-chase before police dispersed the groups and restored order about an hour and a half later.

Shibir's Narayanganj city unit President Amit Hasan alleged that Chhatra Dal activists attacked Shibir members inside the college, leaving three leaders injured.

Chhatra Dal's Tolaram College unit President Monir Hossain Zia denied the allegation, claiming Shibir activists launched the first attack after Chhatra Dal members protested against their provocative speeches and that two of their activists were injured.

Police said no one has been detained or arrested.

"We will analyse CCTV footage and take legal action against those involved in the violence," Hasinuzzaman said.

In Shariatpur, Sadar upazila unit BNP General Secretary Mahbub Morshed Tipu allegedly assaulted two people at a reception for the families of the martyrs and the July fighters at the municipal auditorium.

The victims are Imran Al Nazir and Zakir Hossain Mintu, former convener and joint convenor of the district unit of Students Against Discrimination.

Tipu said the duo previously made derogatory comments against Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and his family members. "That is why the two persons were removed from the programme."

In the capital, two leaders of Chhatra Shakti and several other activists were allegedly attacked by Chhatra Dal while attending a July Uprising Day programme at Government Titumir College.

At Alia Madrasa in Bakshibazar, Shibir activists alleged that they were barred from entering their residential hall.

Police said they were maintaining a cautious stance to ensure law and order and taking necessary steps after assessing the situation.

DMP Lalbagh Division Deputy Commissioner Talebur Rahman said no cases were filed over the violence as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, Shibir held a gathering protesting what it described as attacks by Chhatra Dal activists on several educational institutions.

The programme began at the Central Shaheed Minar around 9:00am, and participants later marched to the Raju Bhashkorjo at Dhaka University, where the rally concluded.

Speaking at the gathering, Dhaka South Jamaat Ameer and Chapainawabganj-3 MP Nurul Islam Bulbul claimed that the BNP and Chhatra Dal were following the same path as the Awami League and Chhatra League.

Shibir President Nurul Islam Saddam alleged that the government had failed to ensure timely justice for the July killings and claimed attempts were being made to restore hall occupation, "gonoroom" and "guest room" culture on university campuses.

# FSRU fragility exposing gas supply vulnerabilities

FROM PAGE 1

vehicles, and households in many areas received inadequate supplies.

Engineers are expected to restart one of the FSRU's two boilers, potentially restoring 200-250MMcfd, according to Md Salahuddin, managing director of Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd.

Even then, national gas supply will remain far below demand, with around 2,400MMcfd available against a requirement of roughly 3,800MMcfd.

**FROM SUPPLEMENT TO LIFELINE**

Bangladesh began importing LNG in 2018 through Excelerate Energy's FSRU as domestic gas production started to decline and demand continued to rise. Summit Group's FSRU began operations in April 2019.

At the time, imported LNG was intended to supplement domestic production. But as local output steadily declined, it evolved into a critical pillar of the country's gas supply, leaving Bangladesh increasingly exposed whenever an LNG terminal goes offline.

Domestic gas production fell from around 27.2 billion cubic metres (bcm) in FY2018-19 to 19.6bcm in FY2024-25 -- a decline of around 28 percent over seven years.

During the same period, LNG imports increased 143 percent from 3.28bcm to 7.98bcm, while domestic production slipped further to 14.84bcm in the first 10 months of FY2025-26.

The country has experienced similar disruptions repeatedly. Cyclone Mocha forced both FSRUs at Maheshkhali to disconnect as a precaution in May 2023, temporarily shutting down Bangladesh's entire LNG regasification capacity.

In early 2024, statutory maintenance at the two terminals, carried out at different times, again tightened gas supplies.

The most prolonged disruption came after Cyclone Remal damaged Summit's FSRU in May 2024, reducing the country's regasification capacity to around 600MMcfd from roughly 1,100MMcfd for nearly four months before the terminal resumed operations following repeated repair attempts.

The impact was particularly severe on the power sector. Bangladesh Power Development Board data showed that more than 4,000MW of generation capacity sat idle in August 2024 because of gas shortages.

Against this backdrop, the government on July 28 approved in principle the fast-tracking of a third FSRU at Kutubjom in Cox's Bazar under a government-to-government arrangement with China National Energy Engineering and Construction Co.

The proposed terminal is expected to add another 550-600MMcfd of regasification capacity. The government is also pursuing a land-based LNG terminal at Matarbari.

**MOUNTING VULNERABILITIES**

Prof M Tamim, former dean of Buet's Faculty of Chemical and Materials Engineering, said LNG was initially conceived as a short-term solution, but gradually became embedded in the country's long-term gas supply strategy.

"If we cannot increase our own supply and have to depend on imports, we will face financial, production and price vulnerabilities," he told The Daily Star.

Those vulnerabilities are already becoming more pronounced.

Petrobangla's LNG import bill rose from Tk 16,505 crore in FY2020-21 to around Tk 59,000 crore in FY2025-26, while Bangladesh has become increasingly exposed to international LNG prices, shipping disruptions and geopolitical developments.

That exposure has already materialised this year.

The US-Israeli war on Iran disrupted LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, prompting QatarEnergy to halve its scheduled LNG deliveries to Bangladesh for 2026.

Bangladesh, which received about 60 percent of its LNG imports from Qatar last year, has since sought alternative supplies, including increased purchases from the spot market.

Data from Kpler, an analytics platform, in July showed Bangladesh has imported 35 spot LNG cargoes since the conflict began to compensate for the disruption to long-term supplies.

The episode highlighted Bangladesh's dual vulnerability.

While an FSRU failure can restrict the country's ability to receive and regasify LNG, geopolitical disruptions can simultaneously reduce supplies and make replacement cargoes more expensive.

A similar challenge emerged in 2022, when Bangladesh was unable to buy spot LNG for several months after international prices surged following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Prices climbed to around $60 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), compared with the roughly $10-12/mmBtu range that had prevailed before the crisis, demonstrating that Bangladesh cannot always rely on the spot market when long-term supplies are disrupted.

**NO SINGLE FIX**

A third FSRU would reduce the impact of future technical failures by ensuring that the loss of a single terminal accounts for a smaller share of Bangladesh's regasification capacity.

But experts say additional regasification capacity cannot guarantee access to affordable LNG or reverse the long-term decline in domestic gas production.

The additional terminal should be viewed as a temporary bridge rather than a substitute for domestic exploration and production, said Prof Tamim, currently vice-chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

"Another FSRU could be justified as a short-term measure because Bangladesh cannot increase domestic gas production quickly enough to address its immediate supply shortage," he said.

To reduce the exposure to vulnerabilities, Bangladesh must simultaneously pursue domestic gas exploration, coal, renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation to strengthen its long-term energy security, Prof Tamim said.

"There is no single solution," he added.

# Big oil firms make $93b in war profit

FROM PAGE 1

profits from just under $50 billion in the same period last year, with campaigners warning that millions of households are left paying the price in higher bills and climate chaos.

The data suggests the eight oil companies -- Aramco, BP, Shell, Equinor, TotalEnergies, Eni, Chevron, and ExxonMobil -- made more than $700,000 of profit every minute over the spring quarter.

Their market valuations were swelling by about $600 billion to above $3 trillion.

The biggest oil profits in the spring quarter were raked in by Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company, Aramco, which reported a 34 percent increase in its quarterly net income to more than $33 billion, even as its infrastructure was damaged by drone and missile strikes from Iranian and Houthi forces.

Aramco's fossil fuel production has made it responsible for more carbon emissions than any company in history, according to the database Carbon Majors, followed by Chevron and ExxonMobil and with Shell and BP in the top 10. Saudi Arabia has for decades led successful efforts to block and delay international climate action.

On Tuesday, BP became one of the last big oil companies to publish its results for the April to June period, reporting quarterly profits of $5.73 billion – the highest since the first year of Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine and more than double the $2.5 billion of the previous three months.

Patrick Galey, the lead on fossil fuels at Global Witness, told the British newspaper: "While wildfires threaten communities across the world, drought bites and energy costs spiral, ordinary families are paying the price for big oil's prioritisation of shareholder wealth over a livable planet. It's time to make oil giants pay up to repair the climate breakdown they're driving. Think how many fire and flood defences we could build, or how many solar panels we could install, if big oil paid their fair share in taxes."

BP's new chief executive, Meg O'Neill, defended the company's profits by saying it was "focused on the things we can do to try to help address the situation" such as reliably producing more of the oil products that were in short supply.

The company has been cutting the amount it spends on green energy since it dropped its environmental ambitions in a "fundamental reset" early last year, reducing its annual energy transition budget from $5bn to $1.5bn-$2bn.

Shell last week reported its second highest quarterly profits ever as its net income jumped to $9.84 billion, despite producing less gas from its Qatar gas plant due to billions of dollars' worth of damage caused by the war. Equinor's profits climbed to $3.2 billion in the same period, up from $1.8 billion in the spring quarter last year.

In the US, the profits reported by Chevron and ExxonMobil provoked criticism from Donald Trump. The US president accused the pair of "making too much money" from his war on Iran and warned that they would be made to return profits to the public as he nears the November midterm elections with flagging approval ratings.

Chevron reported net income of $12.2 billion for the second quarter, a more than fivefold increase on the same period last year. ExxonMobil reported a profit of $14.5 billion, double what it made in the same period a year ago and its highest quarterly profit since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Walking past symbolic graves constructed to honour the sacrifices of those killed during the July uprising, invited guests, including July fighters and families of martyrs, tour the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. Established to preserve the authentic history of the movement, the museum documents the nation's resistance to autocracy and pays tribute to its martyrs and fighters. PHOTO: STAR

# The spirit of July lives on

## Calls for justice, unity and accountability echo nationwide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh observed July Mass Uprising Day 2026 across the country yesterday, marking two years since the student-led uprising that led to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government.

The day was observed under the theme "Building the Nation in the Spirit of July, Bangladesh First", with wreath-laying ceremonies, rallies, discussions, cultural programmes, special prayers and receptions for the families of those martyred and injured in the uprising.

Government institutions, political parties, educational establishments and socio-cultural groups organised events across the country to commemorate the martyrs of the movement.

Speaking at a discussion and reception for the families of July martyrs at the Barishal District Shilpakala Academy, Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon called on people to work together to build



an equitable, accountable and humane state inspired by the spirit of the July uprising.

He also urged people to instil the ideals of the historic movement in every citizen and called for unity and vigilance so that the sacrifices made during the movement were not undermined.

At a separate programme in Sylhet, Commerce, Industries, Textiles and Jute Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir urged people to remain patient as the government worked to stabilise the country's energy sector, which he said had been left reeling after 17 years of mismanagement.

BNP leaders also observed the day through various programmes.

Speaking after visiting a photo exhibition in Gulshan on the July uprising and political movements over the past 17 years, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi described ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina as the "worst and most despicable fascist in history".

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## 'We must never again become a client state'

### Says Khalilur

UNB, *Dhaka*



Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman yesterday said Bangladesh must never again become a "client state".

He described the country's post-July uprising diplomatic approach as one that puts "Bangladesh First" while safeguarding its sovereignty amid an increasingly complex global order.

Speaking as the chief guest at a programme marking the July Mass Uprising Day at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital, he said one of the central achievements of the July movement was the determination to ensure that Bangladesh would no longer be dependent on or dictated by external powers.

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## Partisan narratives limiting space for opposition

### Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam yesterday said partisan narratives or visions of history presented at national events narrow the space for opposition and other political parties to participate.

He said such occasions should be inclusive and present an accurate account of history so that everyone feels equally represented.

Nahid made the remarks while addressing participants of an essay-writing and drawing competition organised by the Parliament Secretariat at the Jatiya Sangsad to mark July Mass Uprising Day.

Referring to an incident at another programme attended by the president

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## Rohingya child killed in Cox's Bazar landslide

### Heavy rain disrupts traffic on Marine Drive



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Cox's Bazar*

Torrential rain triggered landslides in Cox's Bazar yesterday, killing a seven-year-old Rohingya child at a refugee camp in Ukhiya and disrupting traffic on Marine Drive.

The child, identified as Nunushi, was killed when a mass of earth collapsed on him at Block F-5 of Camp 13 in Tajnimarkhola under Palongkhali union around noon.

According to local sources, continuous rainfall since the previous night had weakened the hillside before a section of it suddenly gave way, burying the child under the soil. He died on the spot.

Riaz Uddin Ahmed, acting commanding officer of the 8th Armed Police Battalion (APBn), said, "APBn members rushed to the site immediately

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Five more die with measles-like symptoms

UNB, *Dhaka*

Five patients died with measles-like symptoms in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, bringing the country's combined tally of confirmed and suspected measles-related deaths to 854 this year.

According to the DGHS, all the latest fatalities were suspected measles deaths.

With the latest update, the number of suspected measles deaths has risen to 758, while the number of laboratory-confirmed measles deaths remained at 96. A total of 959 new suspected measles cases were reported during the period, bringing the total number of suspected cases nationwide to 1,32,905.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Miles performing at the "Concert for Democracy 2026" at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday.

# A chorus for July

## Music, memory and solidarity fill Suhrawardy Udyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



As Bangladesh marked the second anniversary of July Mass Uprising Day, thousands gathered at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday for an evening of music.

Despite persistent monsoon rain, the audience remained in the open as the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and the Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) presented "Concert for Democracy 2026".

The evening began with performances by Re Re, Lalon, Aseis and Highway, followed by some of the country's most influential rock bands, including Miles, Warfaze, Different Touch, Souls and Ashes.

Their performances turned the sprawling grounds into a chorus of familiar anthems, with the audience singing along despite the unabated rain.

For many in attendance, the music revived memories of the July Mass Uprising two years ago and the spirit of August 5, 2024, when people from all walks of life poured into the streets.

The audience once again found common ground through songs celebrating courage, hope and solidarity.

More than a musical showcase, the concert was part of the nationwide celebrations of July Mass Uprising Day, showing how music and public gatherings continue to commemorate one of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Mahbub Ali Khan's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today marks the 42nd death anniversary of Rear Admiral Mahbub Ali Khan, former chief of naval staff and minister for communications and agriculture.

Different programmes have been arranged by Bangladesh Navy to observe the anniversary, including placing wreaths at his grave beside the Naval Headquarters, recitation from the Holy Quran, Quran Khawani, special prayers and distribution of food among underprivileged people, says a press release.

Additional Quran Khatam and doa mahfils will be held at Mahbub Bhaban, Surovi -- the philanthropic organisation founded by Begum Mahbub Ali Khan in 1979 -- as well as at mosques, madrasas and orphanages in Dhaka, Sylhet, Bogura and Jamalpur.

Programmes featuring Quran recitations, special prayers, remembrance meetings and charitable activities will also be held in Saudi Arabia, the UK, the US, Malaysia, China, South Korea, Singapore and the Maldives.

## M Aminul Islam no more

CITY DESK



M Aminul Islam (Dulu), former high commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada, passed away on August 2.

Born in Jhutigram village in Gopalganj, Aminul studied and briefly taught Economics at Dhaka University before joining the PFS batch in 1967.

Later, he went on to serve at Bangladesh Missions in Malaysia, Germany, Japan, Bhutan, India, Canada and Libya, before retiring in 2001 as the Bangladesh high commissioner to Canada.

He left behind his wife Nasreen, daughters Nitalie, Bitalie and Kajalie, grandchildren Amaala and Marzuq, and a host of family, friends and well-wishers to mourn his demise.

A doa mahfil will be held after Asr prayers on Friday at the family residence.



PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

**A boy roller-skates through heavy rain in the Dhaka University area yesterday as a midday downpour brings relief from a prolonged spell of exhausting weather. The fun, however, could end in an accident, as he is wearing no helmet, knee pads or other protective gear.**

# A bridge still beyond reach

### 25,000 residents face hardship as project drags on in Ctg's Fatikchhari

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

The long-awaited Panchpukuria-Siddhashram bridge over the Halda river in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila remains incomplete even though the stipulated deadline expired last month.

As a result, around 25,000 residents of Suabil union and parts of Nazirhat Municipality continue to endure prolonged travel difficulties.

During the dry season, locals cross the river using a makeshift bamboo footbridge. In the monsoon, when the structure becomes submerged, boats are the only means of crossing.

With the bridge still under construction, there is currently no vehicular crossing over the river at the point, forcing motorists to use an alternative route.

Residents must instead travel at least 10 kilometres more using an alternative route, making the journey time-consuming and costly.

"We thought the bridge would finally end our suffering. Now it seems the wait has no end," said Mohammad Selim, a grocery shop owner.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that although the bridge's piers had been built, major work, including girder installation, deck slab construction, approach roads, and river protection, remained incomplete.

Tarekul Islam, a student from Suabil union, said crossing the river by boat to attend classes becomes highly risky during the monsoon, particularly due to flash floods and hilly runoff. Travelling by vehicle using the alternative route is also costly, he added.

"A good chunk of our profit is spent on transport costs. Traders who come to purchase directly from us also offer lower prices, as they have to travel the longer route. We have been suffering for years because there is no bridge," said Ratan Das, a local farmer.

The 240-metre bridge is being built by the Local Government Engineering Department under the Important Bridges on Rural Roads Project (Phase-I) at a cost of Tk 46.30 crore. Contractor firm Taher Brothers is implementing the project.

The work order was issued on January 21, 2024, with a deadline of July 20, 2026. However, only 55 percent of the work has been completed so far, according to the upazila engineer's office.

Project manager Md Shahin blamed delays in land acquisition, flash floods, and monsoon runoff for the slow progress.

"We have applied for a one-year extension and hope to complete the bridge in 2027," he said.

Contacted, Junaed Absar Chowdhury, upazila engineer of LGED in Fatikchhari, said completing the construction within the scheduled time had been difficult due to natural causes.





**Consultancy Opportunities**

**International Labour Organization (ILO)** Dhaka is inviting applications from interested consultants for Preparation of Evidence-Based Research Study on below topics with Priority to Supporting Policy and Practice in Bangladesh, ILO CO Dhaka/LAWC/ADWIB.

1. Strategic OSH Monitoring for SME Value Chains
2. Impact of Wage Compensation and Inequality on Exposure to OSH Hazards: Evidence from the Labour Force Survey
3. Ergonomic Risks in Selected Workplace Sectors and Basic Remedial Measures.
4. Impact of Heat Stress Across Different Sectors in Bangladesh
5. Chemical Safety and Waste Management in the Tannery Sector: Implications for Occupational Disease.
6. OSH Policy and Implementation: A Gap Analysis

The Terms of Reference (ToR) can be reviewed from the ***United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)*** at

1. https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/309638 Jagger ref: RfX_9047
2. https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/309639 Jagger ref: RfX_9049
3. https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/309640 Jagger ref: RfX_9052
4. https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/309641 Jagger ref: RfX_9051
5. https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/309643 Jagger ref: RfX_9048
6. https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/309644 Jagger ref: RfX_9050

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Wednesday, August 12, 2026**, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

**PRAYER TIMING**
**AUGUST 6**

| | Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AZAN | 4-20 | 12-45 | 5-00 | 6-47 | 8-15 |
| JAMAAT | 4-55 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 6-50 | 8-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ**
গাজীপুর
https://gda.gov.bd

নম্বর: ২৫.১২.৩৩০০.০০০.০০১.০০.০০০১.২৪-৩৪৩

তারিখঃ ২০ শ্রাবণ ১৪৩৩ / ০৪ আগস্ট ২০২৬

**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (জিডিএ) এর আওতাভুক্ত এলাকার সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ইমারত নির্মাণ বিধিমালা এবং বাংলাদেশ ন্যাশনাল বিল্ডিং কোড (BNBC)-২০২০ অনুযায়ী ইমারত নির্মাণ আবেদনের সঙ্গে স্থাপত্য নকশার (Architectural Design) পাশাপাশি নির্ধারিত স্কেলে এবং কোড অনুসরণপূর্বক কাঠামোগত (Structural Design), ইলেকট্রিক্যাল (Electrical Design), মেকানিক্যাল (Mechanical Design) এবং প্লাম্বিং (Plumbing Design) নকশা জমা প্রদান বাধ্যতামূলক।

এমতাবস্থায়, ভবন নির্মাণের পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে ইমারত নির্মাণ আবেদনের সঙ্গে স্থাপত্য নকশার পাশাপাশি নির্ধারিত স্কেলে এবং কোড অনুসরণপূর্বক যথাযথ নিয়মে বিশেষজ্ঞ কারিগরি ব্যক্তির স্বাক্ষরসমেত কাঠামোগত, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল, মেকানিক্যাল, এবং প্লাম্বিং নকশা জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

০৪/০৮/২০২৬
(মোঃ মেহেদী হাসান)
সচিব
গাজীপুর উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, গাজীপুর।
ফোন: +৮৮০২২২৪৪২৪০৪৮
ই-মেইল: secretary@gda.gov.bd

GD-1904

## The spirit of July lives

FROM PAGE 3

Rizvi also alleged that the former AL government was marked by authoritarian rule, corruption, bank fraud, stock market irregularities and the looting of state property, and that it remained in power through force and electoral manipulation.

At a rally organised by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at Jatiya Press Club, journalist leaders demanded speedy justice for those responsible for the killings during the July uprising, rehabilitation of the injured and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators to prevent any future misuse of state power.

The Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat organised a children's drawing competition, while Dhaka University laid the foundation stone of the July Memorial on its campus.

The Ziaur Rahman Foundation also paid tribute to the martyrs, describing their sacrifices as a lasting symbol of the nation's struggle for democracy, justice and human rights.

Educational, cultural, public and religious institutions observed the day through various programmes, including special prayers for the martyrs and the decoration of government buildings and public spaces with national flags and banners.

Museums and children's recreational facilities offered free entry, while hospitals, prisons and welfare institutions served special meals to mark the occasion.

Similar commemorative events were held across the country.

Political leaders, lawmakers, local administrations, freedom fighters, representatives of July fighters and families of the martyrs joined the programmes, stressing the importance of safeguarding democracy, justice and national unity.

## We must never

FROM PAGE 3

"From the very beginning, the biggest aspect of our government's foreign policy has been 'Bangladesh First'. We will never go back to that client state, never again," Khalilur said.

He said the foreign ministry has a frontline role in ensuring that Bangladesh never returns to such a position.

The foreign minister, however, cautioned that Bangladesh must navigate an increasingly uncertain international environment marked by challenges to multilateralism and the erosion of the post-World War II rules-based order.

"We are in a complex international and regional situation. We see multilateralism increasingly facing big challenges... We have to navigate through this complex regional and global reality," he added.

## Former Jamaat leader held over Tk 400cr fraud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested Abdul Wahed, 55, former ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami's Madarganj upazila unit in Jamalpur, in connection with multiple cases over the alleged embezzlement of nearly Tk 400 crore from customers of Al Aqaba Multipurpose Cooperative Society.

Wahed, a director of the cooperative, is a warrant-listed accused in a case filed with Madarganj Model Police Station on May 4, 2025. He faces a total of eight cases over allegations of fraud and embezzlement involving the cooperative's customers, Rab said.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-14 team raided the bypass area of Jamalpur Sadar on Tuesday and arrested him, according to a press release issued by the elite force yesterday.

Wahed was later handed over to Madarganj Model Police Station, and the Jamalpur Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court sent him to jail, confirmed the police station's OC Snehashish Roy.

According to police, the cooperative has deposits worth Tk 391.58 crore from 12,661 customers.

Jamalpur Jamaat Secretary Abdul Awal confirmed that Wahed had previously served as ameer of the party's Madarganj upazila unit. He was later expelled for violating party discipline.

## Salahuddin Tanvir sent to jail over posts on PM

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogura*

A Bogura court yesterday sent Gazi Salahuddin Tanvir, the recently suspended joint member secretary of the National Citizen Party, to jail in a case filed over making derogatory remarks about the prime minister on social media.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Mehedi Hasan of the Bogura Sadar Cognisance Court passed the order after police produced him before the court showing him arrested in the case.

Earlier around 5:30am, police arrested Tanvir in Dhaka's Manipur, said OC Ibrahim Ali of Bogura Sadar Police Station.

On August 2, Maftun Ahmed Khan Rubel, president of Bogura Sadar upazila BNP unit, filed the case against Tanvir under the Cyber Security Act 2026 with Bogura Sadar Police Station.

According to the case statement, on July 29, Tanvir, then an NCP central leader, made a Facebook post about the recent attacks in Sylhet that allegedly defamed the PM. Tanvir made another provocative Facebook post shortly afterwards, it added.

On July 31, NCP relieved Tanvir of his party post and issued him a show-cause notice over the posts.

## DB arrests former Gazipur lawmaker Akhtaruzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DB arrested former Gazipur-5 MP Akhtaruzzaman from the capital's Baridhara area last night.

A team from the Detective Branch of DMP arrested the 73-year-old former Awami League lawmaker around 9:30pm, DMP Additional Commissioner (DB) Mohammad Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star.

"He is involved in activities linked to the banned organisation. We have intelligence information regarding his involvement," Shafiqul said.

He added that Akhtaruzzaman is accused in a murder case related to the July uprising.

## Man dies after falling from Dhaka building

UNB, *Dhaka*

A man died after falling from the rooftop of a three-storey building in Dhaka's Mohammadpur yesterday morning. The incident happened in Chandrima Model Town.

The deceased is Md Suruj Sheikh, 40, of Tangail. He was a security guard in the building. Suruj was watering plants on the rooftop around 9:00am when he accidentally fell, said his nephew Md Babu.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Inspector Md Faruk, in-charge of DMCH police camp, said the body has been kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy.

## A chorus for July

FROM PAGE 3

most significant moments in the country's recent history.

Minister for Cultural Affairs Nitai Roy Chowdhury attended the programme as chief guest.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Ali Newaz Mahmud Khayam was present as special guest, alongside Zahed Ur Rahman, prime minister's adviser on Information and Broadcasting and Cultural Affairs.

## Rohingya child killed

FROM PAGE 3

after the landslide and joined locals in the rescue operation. Families living in high-risk areas have been advised to remain alert and relocate to safer places if necessary."

Meanwhile, two landslides struck Marine Drive in the Darianagar area around 10:00am and noon, halting traffic.

A team of army personnel reached the site and cleared the debris.

The Cox's Bazar Meteorological Office recorded 121mm of rainfall in the 24 hours till yesterday and forecast that rain was likely to continue for another three to four days.



Israeli forces take part in a raid in Qalandia refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. Mohammad Aslan, spokesman for the committee that runs the affairs of Qalandia camp, said the Israeli army had arrested at least 20 people and took up positions on the roofs of a number of houses inside the camp. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Won't repatriate Myanmar refugees if lives are at risk

### Says Malaysia govt spokesman

**AFP,** *Kuala Lumpur*

Malaysia will not send 5,000 refugees back to Myanmar if authorities conclude their lives would be at risk, a government spokesman said Wednesday, while preparations continued for the potential repatriation.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced last week that Myanmar had agreed to take back 5,000 members of the persecuted Rohingya minority, in a rare repatriation push that has prompted concern from rights groups.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, without specifying the refugees' ethnicity, told a news briefing that "Malaysia, as a responsible country, will not send them back if they would either be persecuted or their lives would be threatened".

"The junta government in Myanmar is ready to receive them, but we will examine what the criteria are. And if appropriate, we will implement" the repatriation plan, he said.

"We cannot send them back if their lives are threatened. So there are several matters that are being looked into by the foreign ministry." Myanmar authorities have made no public comment on the plan.

Malaysia hosts over 215,000 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the UN refugee agency, including more than 126,000 Rohingyas from Myanmar.

META ERRORS

## Zuckerberg apologises to India govt

**REUTERS**

Meta Platforms' Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg has apologised to the Indian government over child sexual abuse material on the company's platforms and for operational errors, local television channels reported yesterday.

Zuckerberg apologised for the presence of the material, as well as deepfake content and operational lapses on Meta's platforms, financial news publication Moneycontrol reported, citing sources.

The publication added the apology was conveyed during a meeting between Meta executives and Indian government officials on Tuesday.

Meta, whose major social media apps include Facebook and Instagram, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In July, the Indian government ordered Meta to remove advertisements and content promoting child sexual abuse material on Instagram, the BBC reported.

The government also sought an explanation from Meta within seven days on how advertisements containing such material were allowed on the platform, the report added.

# Russian missile, drone barrage on Kyiv kills 17

## Warehouses, logistics centres of major retailers destroyed; 40 hurt; Ukraine fails to down single missile

**AGENCIES**

Russia fired dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukraine's capital Kyiv and the surrounding region yesterday, killing at least 17 people and destroying warehouses and logistics centres of major retailers, Ukrainian officials said.

Multiple explosions ripped through the area during the night, and fires lit up the dark skies over the Ukrainian capital, which has come under missile attack every three to four days in recent weeks as Russia has escalated its air war.

President Volodymyr Zelensky warned that Ukraine's lack of missile defences had once again cost lives and urged Ukraine's foreign allies to replenish its supplies of interceptors.

**Alarm at German airport after drone found near Ukrainian plane, mid-air incident**

Ukrainian defences downed nearly 90 percent of 115 drones launched by Russia but failed to intercept a single one of the 24 ballistic missiles and four Zircon cruise missiles, the air force said. More than 40 people were injured in the attack, reports Reuters.

The main targets were warehouses, infrastructure and a railway station, Zelensky said, adding that a brewing company, construction materials warehouses and other civilian logistics facilities were destroyed.



"Ballistic missile interceptors could have saved the lives of those killed today," Zelensky said.

"It is very important that our partners understand that delays in supplying them, or an unwillingness to provide anti-ballistic systems, lead directly to such horrific casualties and destruction."

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had struck seven logistics centres in Kyiv and the surrounding region, accusing them of being used to store or distribute dual-use goods and drone components.

Both Russia and Ukraine deny targeting civilians in the war triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Meanwhile, German police deployed a bomb disposal robot at an airport overnight after a drone was found on the tarmac near a Ukrainian cargo plane, sparking alarm and forcing the diversion of numerous flights, reports AFP.

One aircraft that had to abort its scheduled landing at Leipzig-Halle airport then collided mid-air with an unknown object nearby but later landed safely elsewhere, a government spokesman said.

Bild daily reported that the drone found on the tarmac of the eastern German airport carried explosives and a detonator -- but police did not confirm this report to AFP, saying the investigation was ongoing.

STRONG EL NINO

## 49m more may face acute hunger: WFP

**REUTERS,** *Geneva*

A powerful El Niño weather event could push an additional nearly 49 million people into acute food insecurity across some of the world's most vulnerable regions by the end of next year, the World Food Programme (WFP) said yesterday.

The UN agency said in a report that there was an 81 percent chance of a very strong El Niño event, with sea surface temperatures at their warmest levels since at least 1982 and potentially making it the strongest such event since 1950.

El Niño alters global weather patterns and is often associated with drought in Southern Africa, delayed monsoons in parts of Asia and erratic rainfall elsewhere.

"These are events that in the past have triggered large-scale hunger," Jean-Martin Bauer, director of WFP's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Service, told reporters.

Based on an analysis of 45 countries, WFP estimates that the number of people facing acute food insecurity could rise by almost 49 million to a total of 274 million people, an increase of 22 percent, relative to the baseline population already experiencing crisis-level food insecurity or worse.

US STATE OF MICHIGAN

## Progressive El-Sayed wins primary in jolt to Democrats

**REUTERS**

The Democratic Party's progressive wing scored a high-profile victory when Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's US Senate primary, US media projected yesterday, giving its anti-establishment message a boost ahead of November's midterm elections.

El-Sayed, whose message focused on healthcare, the economy and an end to unconditional military aid to Israel, was the first progressive to win a statewide primary in a state that President Donald Trump carried in 2024.



Tuesday's vote, billed as a defining test of the party's direction, became an election-night cliffhanger before US media projected early yesterday that El-Sayed had narrowly prevailed over US Representative Haley Stevens, a moderate supported by Democratic leaders and pro-Israel groups.

The race served as a battleground between progressives and moderates over support for Israel, an issue that has played out in primaries nationwide this year. But unlike contests in liberal bastions, this was a statewide race in a Midwestern swing state for a seat Democrats must win if they have any hopes of securing a Senate majority in November.

Stevens benefited from tens of millions of dollars in spending by a pro-Israel super PAC, and her supporters argued she was the more electable candidate in the general election, when she will face Republican Mike Rogers, a former US representative.

Analysts had said one significant factor in El-Sayed's favor was that Michigan is home to some of the country's largest Arab American communities, where hostility to Israel runs deep.

DIPLOMATIC DISPUTE

## US revokes visa of Brazilian envoy to Washington

**AFP,** *Washington*

The United States has revoked the visa of Brazil's ambassador, a State Department official said Tuesday, in a mounting diplomatic row just months before elections in Latin America's largest nation.

The move would be reversed, the official said on customary condition of anonymity, if Brazil granted its approval of President Donald Trump's nominee to be ambassador Brasilia.

Trump nominated Daniel Perez, a prominent Florida Republican, as the new ambassador to Brazil in early June.

While the nomination still requires confirmation by the US Senate, he would not be able to take up the post until Brazil gives approval.

"We think the government of Brazil owes us a prompt and positive answer to our request," the official said.

Brazil's envoy, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, was however not being declared persona non grata and forced to leave the United States, the official clarified.

Brasilia responded swiftly and condemned the US move as an escalation of a diplomatic standoff.

"Today's decision is not an isolated incident. It is part of a deliberate escalation of hostile measures against Brazil, motivated by ideological reasons," the office of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said in a statement.

The latest spat comes just months before Brazil holds a presidential election in October, with leftist incumbent Lula facing a challenge from right-wing candidate Flavio Bolsonaro.




A firefighting helicopter makes a drop on the Gann Fire near Angels Camp in Calaveras County, California, US on Tuesday. Evacuation orders have been issued as California fire crews try to control the blaze, which has rapidly grown to 3,000 acres. PHOTO: REUTERS

TRUMP SECURITY

## Armed man arrested at LA golf course

**AFP,** *Los Angeles*

An armed man was arrested at President Donald Trump's golf course in Los Angeles two days before the US leader's visit on Tuesday, the local sheriff's office said.

The suspect, identified as 38-year-old Jeanine John Taele from nearby Downey, California, was arrested on Sunday afternoon at the golf course in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Plainclothes federal agents spotted him "walking throughout the golf course grounds taking photographs and videos and appearing to monitor security-planning activities".

Trump arrived by helicopter at the golf club Tuesday evening to attend a fundraising dinner.

During the suspect's detention, deputies recovered a 16-round magazine containing hollow-point ammunition from the pants pocket.

The Daily Star
FOUNDER EDITOR: **LATE S. M. ALI**

# Campus violence a betrayal of July spirit

## BNP and Jamaat must rein in their student fronts

It is deeply disappointing to see an escalation of violent clashes between members of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir, making us apprehensive that the old days of regular campus violence during Sheikh Hasina's regime have returned.

After a clash between JCD and Shibir members at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur left several injured the day before, violence spread to educational institutions in Dhaka and Barishal. So far, more than 90 people, including student leaders and journalists, have been injured at Begum Rokeya University, Jagannath University (JnU), Dhaka College, and Government Madrasah-e-Alia in Bakshibazar. Ironically, these clashes occurred during July uprising commemoration programmes.

The video footage and images are evidence of the anarchic situation—activists wielding sharp weapons, iron rods, and bamboo sticks can be seen attacking each other with abandon, leaving ordinary students in fear and uncertainty about attending classes or taking exams.

The violence was worst at JnU, with around 70 people injured. The clashes started when representatives of JnU Central Students Union (JnUCSU) and members of Inquilab Mancha attempted to enter the university's auditorium during a documentary screening. Their demands were all for better housing and medical facilities for the students. However, there was no good reason to interrupt the university's programme. JCD tried to keep them out, but why did it turn into a violent clash? It is unthinkable that the violence even spread to National Medical College Hospital, where injured students were receiving treatment. Student leaders, journalists, patients and attendants were injured.

Clearly, these groups affiliated with the two major parties—namely Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP—are not interested in education or improving campus life for all students. Rather, they are too immersed in turf battles and who will get "control" of the campus. During the July movement, one of the biggest triumphs of the general students at many universities, including Dhaka University, was to rid the campus of Chhatra League, which used to wield unfettered power and terrorised any student deemed to have crossed their path. Haven't Shibir and Chhatra Dal learnt anything from that bitter experience?

While members of both student fronts are solely responsible for their belligerent actions, their parent parties cannot absolve themselves of blame. Both Jamaat and the BNP must rein in their student organisations and make it known that violence will not be tolerated. The BNP, being the ruling party, must take all steps to maintain peace on campus. Jamaat must make sure its student wing members do not engage in provocative acts such as having banners that insult our Liberation War or witch hunts to catch "Chhatra League" members.

The respective administrations need to be in control and not act like passive spectators they were during the Awami League era. We expect strict administrative action against all those who have participated in this violence. Ordinary students must go back to their campuses free of fear and intimidation.

# Agri support must reach small farmers

## Poor income level of marginal farmers must encourage policy redesign

It is shocking to learn that more than half our farmers—people whose labour and sweat provide the food on our plates—earn less than Tk 34,000 a year, an amount 10 times lower than our current per capita gross national income. According to a new survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 53.65 percent of all food producers in the country operate on a small scale, earning Tk 33,639 on average annually, whereas the rest of the farmers, who are large-scale agri-producers, earn Tk 1,29,956 on average—almost four times higher.

This income disparity reflects decades of agricultural policies and subsidies that have often failed to benefit small-scale producers who constitute, as per BBS definition, the bottom 40 percent of food growers across the country in terms of land area, livestock holdings and annual agricultural revenue. In fact, a World Bank study published in June found that the top 20 percent of farming landholders receive about half of all fertiliser subsidies, while the bottom 40 percent get only 15 percent. Ironically, the majority of our agriculture budget is spent on fertilisers. Despite such subsidy support, farmers are leaving this profession, which is increasingly becoming unprofitable because of unpredictable weather patterns, frequent natural disasters, price volatility of agricultural inputs in the international market, loss of agricultural land, limited market access, and weak post-harvest management.

The current government has taken several initiatives to support farmers, such as introducing the Farmers' Card, waiving agricultural loans up to Tk 10,000 with interest, and slightly increasing the agricultural budget. However, the allocation as a percent of the total budget has declined by more than five percentage points over the last 15 years. ADP implementation in this sector has also been slow. This is where the government should divert its attention and heed expert recommendations. Measures can include mechanisation of agriculture, ensuring fair prices, strengthening post-harvest management by establishing strong cold storage chains, removing or shrinking the layers of middlemen, syndicates and extortion, and making credit more accessible for small-scale farmers.

The government's plan to introduce crop insurance to protect farmers from loss caused by natural disasters is a welcome step. But the insurance must not be designed in a way that makes it difficult for marginalised farmers to reap its benefits. Policymakers cannot continue to overlook the woes of the small-scale food producers or allow the corporatisation of the sector to reach a point where food becomes an oligarchic tool.

### CORRIGENDUM

On August 4, 2026, we published an article titled "For women, a degree must build a vision, not just a biodata," in which the author's name was incorrectly spelled. The correct spelling is "Shimu Akter." We apologise for the unintended error.

# Public universities must not fall back into partisan control



**Anu Muhammad**
*is former professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University.*

ANU MUHAMMAD

Universities in Bangladesh, especially the public ones, are facing a new kind of crisis. During the Awami League government's rule, universities were turned into instruments of authoritarian domination and violence. Vice-chancellors were appointed on the basis of partisan loyalty rather than academic merit, while student dormitories became hubs of intimidation and violence perpetrated by ruling party goons. Intellectual inquiry, academic freedom, and the overall learning environment were severely damaged. We saw the most extreme consequences of this phenomenon in July and August 2024, when universities became the sites of brutal attacks as well as fierce resistance.

In the aftermath of the mass uprising, it was expected that the way universities had been governed so far would change. Instead, there is now growing disappointment and concern.

If universities cannot function properly, and teachers and students cannot concentrate on teaching, research and the pursuit of knowledge, then the country's intellectual growth, political maturity, and democratic development suffer. We witnessed this decline under the previous regime. Unfortunately, some of those patterns still remain.

One of the most urgent concerns is the VC appointment. After the uprising, it was expected that VCs would be appointed based on their academic contributions, teaching record, research, administrative ability, and independence, through a transparent and accountable appointment process. All public universities were expected to do so under a common framework.

Instead, many recent appointments appear to reflect the same old patterns. VCs have been appointed at a number of universities following the national election, and in some cases, their credibility as teachers, researchers or administrators is questionable. There has been no consistent institutional process for appointments. Decisions appear to have come from above. There are also allegations that money may be influencing these appointments. If true, t his is deeply alarming. Removing existing teachers and creating vacancies could also open the door to ill-motivated recruitment.

Another disturbing development is the growing influence of vested interest groups. Recent events at Dhaka University are particularly worrying: disciplinary action has been taken against several teachers, while a section of teachers aligned with the ruling party has allegedly prepared a list of 231 teachers who had reportedly opposed the July uprising, demanding action against them. This indicates another attempt to turn the university into a partisan institution, and the justification of this move must be examined carefully.

During the uprising, students were violently attacked by the ruling Awami League and its affiliated organisations. Some university administrators and teachers played deeply reprehensible or even criminal roles in this crackdown. So anyone found to have participated in such attacks must be held accountable. But accountability must follow due process. Allegations must be properly investigated. Those accused must be given an opportunity to defend themselves, and decisions must be made through a transparent and impartial process. Two years after the uprising, it cannot be acceptable to suddenly prepare a list of teachers, harass them or declare them unwelcome on campus without proper investigation.

Other public universities are seeing similar developments. In certain cases, some student groups have declared teachers they don't like unwelcome on the campus. That is not the role of a student group. If students have complaints, they should convey them to the university authorities through proper channels. The allegations should then be investigated and action taken according to the established rules.

At universities, freedom of opinion is highly important. Simply because someone did not support the July uprising, or supports the Awami League, does not make that person unfit to remain at a university. Universities must include people with different political views, and freedom of expression is essential to academic life.

Some of the universities where these incidents are occurring are governed by the 1973 university orders. The Dhaka University Order, for instance, protects teachers' right to political participation and expression. But academic freedom does not depend only on this order. Without the freedom to think, question and express ideas, teaching and research cannot exist. Some opinions may be wrong or even harmful. Those should be confronted through argument, evidence and scholarship, not administrative punishment. A person may oppose the July uprising, disagree with it, or hold critical views about it. That position may be objectionable to many, but it is not, by itself, a punishable offence. It belongs to the realm of political, social and ideological debate. Only by maintaining this distinction can universities preserve an environment where scholarship can flourish irrespective of political opinion.

Today, there are teachers who are unable to go to their classes. Some are afraid to enter their campuses. A university teacher develops expertise through years of teaching and research. If fear and intimidation keep teachers from teaching, conducting research or entering their workplace, the resulting damage goes beyond the individual: students are deprived of education, and the country suffers an intellectual loss.

There is also the issue of development funds. A number of public universities receive large allocations for infrastructure projects. These funds may be one of the reasons groups with vested interests are so eager to grab administrative positions in universities. Under the previous regime, powerful networks reportedly grew around these allocations. Contractors, sections of the administration, and a small number of teachers and even student leaders allegedly benefited from commissions, inflated costs, unnecessary projects, and irregular procurement. There are signs that this pattern still prevails. If power changes hands but the same corrupt system is preserved, universities will continue to decline. The crisis in education and knowledge production will remain unresolved.

The government must restore universities as functioning institutions. From VC appointments to the wider administrative structure, there must be safeguards against coercion, political patronage, and financial corruption. Transparency and accountability must guide the entire process.

There are also concerns that new student groups on the campuses have started to behave like their predecessors from the Awami League era. Recent reports of intimidation and violence must be taken seriously. Preventing the rise of another student group resorting to mob violence is a crucial responsibility of the government. If it refuses to patronise such groups of students and teachers and ensures that they receive no administrative protection, universities will have a better chance of functioning as they should: as places of learning, critical inquiry, and free intellectual exchange.




VISUAL: **ANWAR SOHEL**

# *Our garments cannot come at the cost of our rivers*



**Samim Rahman Bhuiyan**
*is a researcher at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). He can be reached at bsamimrahman@gmail.com.*

SAMIM RAHMAN BHUIYAN

Bangladesh's garment industry has transformed the country's economy, but one part of that success rarely appears in export statistics. It is the unfortunate environmental costs borne by the country's rivers. International buyers benefit from low production costs, while weak environmental enforcement allows part of those costs to be shifted onto Bangladesh's rivers and surrounding communities, and this is the hidden environmental subsidy behind cheap fashion.

This is not an argument against the garment industry, but an argument for recognising its unseen environmental costs. According to the World Bank, Bangladesh's ready-made garment industry accounts for nearly 80 percent of the country's export earnings. The same report also identifies the sector as the country's largest source of industrial water pollution. Over 7,000 factories in the greater Dhaka region dump over 2.4 billion liters of untreated effluents into nearby water bodies every day. This does not mean that all factories pollute equally, but they do suggest that the current regulatory system has struggled to prevent widespread pollution.

Many multinational fashion brands publicly commit to ambitious sustainability goals such as "carbon neutrality", "circular fashion", or "net-zero supply chains." Yet, the physical and institutional distance between global brands and their production sites often allows environmental costs to remain disconnected from corporate sustainability reports. However, it would be a gross mistake to pin the blame entirely on others. The Department of Environment remains constrained by limited staffing, lack of financial resources, and enforcement capacity, while political and economic forces tend to hamper its enforcement process. The real question is whether effluent treatment plants operate consistently and effectively. The problem is therefore not simply the absence of environmental laws but their inconsistent implementation.

Bangladesh now has 273 LEED-certified green garment factories—factories recognised for their commitment to sustainable building practices and reduced environmental impact—which indicates that there has been some progress. But green buildings alone cannot restore polluted rivers. Green certifications alone do not automatically guarantee that wet processing, dyeing, washing, and wastewater discharge are being managed across the entire production chain. For decades, Bangladesh's industrialisation has treated environmental protection as something to address after economic growth rather than alongside it. Even though this model generates short-term economic gains, in the long run, it creates a lot of environmental and public health liabilities. The human cost is also larger than the language of "environmental degradation" suggests. The Lancet Commission's Bangladesh brief estimated that pollution in air, water, and soil was responsible for 26.6 percent of all deaths in Bangladesh. This does not mean the garment industry alone is responsible for that burden, but it shows that environmental pollution is simultaneously an environmental, public health, poverty, and justice issue. The people bearing these costs are the farmers who can no longer irrigate with river water, garment workers whose lungs have absorbed years of textile dust, and children in riverside slums whose developmental delays will never appear in a corporate ESG (environmental, social, and governance) disclosure. They simply exist in the geography of someone else's profit margin.

This matters for Bangladesh's international credibility as well. We rightly speak on global platforms as a victim of climate injustice, but credibility becomes harder to sustain when we tolerate preventable pollution at home in the name of export growth. Bangladesh cannot ask the world to recognise environmental justice while ignoring the environmental injustice suffered by its own river communities. We cannot be simultaneously the world's climate conscience and its pollution convenience.

So, now the question is what has to change? "The polluter pays" framework must become real rather than theoretical. If the cost of treating waste exceeds the expected penalty for illegal discharge, pollution becomes the economically rational decision. So, the government should raise the fines for polluters substantially, publish the names of those who violate the laws, and make the monitoring data available to the public. This issue is becoming increasingly urgent because environmental compliance is evolving from a domestic regulatory concern into a condition for maintaining access to international markets. "Made in Bangladesh" must mean dignity, skill, and strength. However, it should not mean that the final price of a shirt is kept low because the real cost has been transferred to a river. The Buriganga should not be a balance sheet, the Turag must not be a dumping ground, and the Karnaphuli should not be collateral damage in an export strategy.

**The Daily Star** Reg. No. DA 781
**EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Mahfuz Anam** Printed by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd at Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, editor@thedailystar.net
**Registered & Head Offices:** The Daily Star Centre 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Phone: 09610222222
**Newsroom:** Fax- 58156306 reporting@thedailystar.net
**Advertisement:** 01711623910 advertisement@thedailystar.net GPO Box: 3257
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thedailystar.net bangla.thedailystar.net/

# Two years after July, who do we trust?



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KAZI ASM NURUL HUDA

Two years have passed since those transformative days of the July Uprising. But even now, public debates continue to revolve around constitutional reform, transitional justice, institutional restructuring, and other reform issues. These questions, though important for the country's democratic future, reveal a common assumption: that the significance of July can be understood primarily through changes in authority, in terms of who governs, who exercises power, and which institutions should be reformed. This assumption is understandable but incomplete, as it treats the July uprising primarily as a political event reshaping or redistributing power while overlooking its equally significant role in redistributing public credibility.

This becomes clear when we reflect on the nature of our disagreements over the past two years. People do not just disagree about reforms, elections, or the conduct of political parties. They increasingly disagree about whose account of events deserves to be believed. Student leaders, political parties, journalists, civil society organisations, victims' families, and government officials often offer competing interpretations of what the movement demanded, where the country stands today, and where it should be heading. The disagreement, therefore, is no longer confined to political choices or policy preferences. It increasingly concerns whose interpretation deserves credibility.

Unless we understand how July transformed the relationship between political authority and public credibility—and how that transformation continues to shape Bangladesh's democratic life—we are likely to misunderstand both the achievement of the uprising and the challenges that have followed.

During the 2024 uprising itself, official narratives competed with smartphone footage, eyewitness testimony, independent reporting, and information circulating through countless informal networks. Rather than depending exclusively on institutional explanations, citizens increasingly relied on what they themselves witnessed and on evidence documented by thousands of ordinary people. Official statements often contradicted almost immediately by visual evidence, while many claims gained public acceptance not because they came from recognised authorities but because they could be independently examined and verified.

This experience helped change, perhaps permanently, how public credibility is earned, shifting it from an outcome of an institutional environment dominated by governments, newspapers, universities, courts, and other established institutions to one in which perceived credibility could also emerge from outside those traditional structures. This transformation exposed an important distinction between political authority and public credibility. Political authority concerns the legal power to govern, whereas public credibility concerns whether citizens regard a person or institution as worthy of their trust.



**'Over the past two years, debates over constitutional reform, transitional justice, commissions of inquiry, the timing of elections, and even the "ownership" of July have increasingly become disputes over credibility.'**
FILE PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Perhaps one of July's most enduring legacies is that Bangladeshis are now less willing to accept claims simply because they originate from positions of authority.

Democracies become stronger when governments recognise that official authority alone cannot secure public trust. The ability of ordinary citizens to document abuses, question official narratives, and demand justification from those exercising power represents an important expansion of democratic accountability.

However, this achievement has also created a new challenge. The decline of unquestioned authority does not automatically produce trustworthy public institutions. Instead, it creates a more demanding public sphere in which people's credibility itself becomes the object of political contestation.

Over the past two years, debates over constitutional reform, transitional justice, commissions of inquiry, the timing of elections, and even the "ownership" of July have increasingly become disputes over credibility. Social media usage has broadened democratic participation, but it is also used to accelerate the circulation of rumours, selective evidence, and politically convenient narratives. The challenge is no longer simply to distribute political power more fairly, but to cultivate institutions capable of earning public trust in this new democratic environment.

A certain temptation naturally follows this transformation. Once citizens lose confidence in inherited authority, they begin to suspect that every institution is simply another political actor in disguise: the government may be assumed to manipulate information, political parties to exploit July for political advantage, journalists to be partisan, universities to be ideologically compromised, and courts to deliver judgment according to political loyalties rather than legal principle. Such scepticism is understandable in a society emerging from authoritarian rule, and some of it is undoubtedly healthy. Democracies require citizens who question authority rather than submit to it uncritically. But scepticism and cynicism are not the same thing. A democracy cannot function if citizens conclude that no institution is capable of earning their credibility under any circumstances.

This is why the unfinished work of July 2024 extends beyond constitutional reform or institutional changes. Bangladesh also faces the more difficult task of restoring confidence in the judiciary, universities, the media, and public commissions, all of whose authority must rest not on inherited status or political loyalty, but on demonstrable integrity. Their credibility cannot be demanded and must instead be earned through institutional independence, professional competence, transparency, and a visible commitment to truth rather than political allegiance.

The responsibility to achieve this, however, does not belong to the institutions alone. It also belongs to citizens.

If we scrutinise only the claims of our political opponents while accepting those of our preferred leaders (without comparable examination), we have not strengthened democratic citizenship but merely redirected our political loyalties. The spirit of July is preserved by commemorating and also by sustaining the habits of public reasoning that gave the uprising much of its moral force.

Before asking who has inherited July politically, we should ask a more fundamental question: who is building the conditions under which July's democratic aspirations can endure? The enduring significance of July lies not only in changing who governs Bangladesh, but also in transforming the standards by which authority is evaluated. Whether that transformation ultimately strengthens democracy in Bangladesh will be contingent on whether we succeed in building a public culture in which credibility is earned through evidence, integrity, and accountability rather than assumed through office, ideology, or "historical entitlement."

# *How do we prevent the next wave of research retractions?*



**Dr Md. Abdur Razzak**
*is professor of electrical and electronic engineering and director of Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at Independent University, Bangladesh.*

MD. ABDUR RAZZAK

Early in my research career, in a laboratory in Japan, I gave my supervisor a set of results I was proud of. He asked me to run the whole experiment again. This wasn't because he doubted my honesty, but because, as he said, "A result you cannot reproduce is not yet a result." I was annoyed. But it turned out I had been wrong about one of my measurements. That experience of being asked to be careful is not an insult but a way of learning to respect the work—and it has stayed with me for 25 years now.

I was reminded of the memory because academia in Bangladesh is suffering a difficult period. Recently, an investigation by *Prothom Alo* revealed that a large number of papers by researchers at our universities have been withdrawn from international journals due to issues such as fabricated data, plagiarism, fake peer review, and even papers brought from commercial "mills." The number of retractions—at least 325, by the Bangla daily's estimate, between 2019 and 2026—is worrying, and the first reaction has been to ask who should be punished. That is a fair question. But as both an active researcher and someone involved in quality assurance at my university, I find it more useful to ask this instead: what will trigger the next wave of retractions, and are we ready to prevent it?

In my perspective, that next wave is already visible: the undisclosed use of artificial intelligence (AI) in research. AI is now part of how research is done, from literature review and data analysis to coding and language editing. When used openly and responsibly, it can be a legitimate and useful tool, and there is no point pretending researchers will stop using it. The danger is not AI itself; it is the undisclosed use of AI tools. Journals around the world have already begun retracting papers for undisclosed AI-generated content, false citations that no real source supports, and for results no human author can actually stand behind. A researcher who lets a model produce text, data, or references and then presents it as entirely their own is committing a new version of an old offence, and more and more are being caught doing it. Within a year or two, this may well be a leading cause of retraction in our field, which we should prepare for.

The university I work at has just adopted a policy on the responsible use of AI. It does not ban AI, which would be both impractical and inconsistent with how research now works. Instead, it requires disclosure: a researcher must state which AI tools were used and for what purpose, personally verify everything the tools produce, and remain fully responsible for the final work. It says plainly that AI cannot be used to generate data or be listed as an author. In effect, it draws a clear line between using a tool and surrendering one's integrity. In effect, it also draws a line before the issue becomes big enough to prompt a retraction notice.

It started when the university brought in a formal plagiarism policy a year ago, enforced through a plagiarism-checking tool. Every research paper, thesis, class assignment, and capstone project is checked for originality, under an institution-wide subscription covering more than 12,000 students and over 500 faculty and staff members. The value of this is more cultural than technical. A student learns in their very first semester that their work will be checked, so that by the time they become a researcher, honesty is not a rule forced from outside but simply the way they have always worked.

Structure matters when institutional money is involved. When I apply for funding to publish a paper or attend a conference, the request does not go straight to a finance desk. It first passes my department's head and dean. It then goes to a school research committee, where internal and external experts look at the research—whether it holds up, not just whether the paperwork is in order. Only after that does it reach the central research office for a final review. Real resources are set aside to support researchers, but not a single taka moves until the work has passed through several independent and expert sets of eyes.

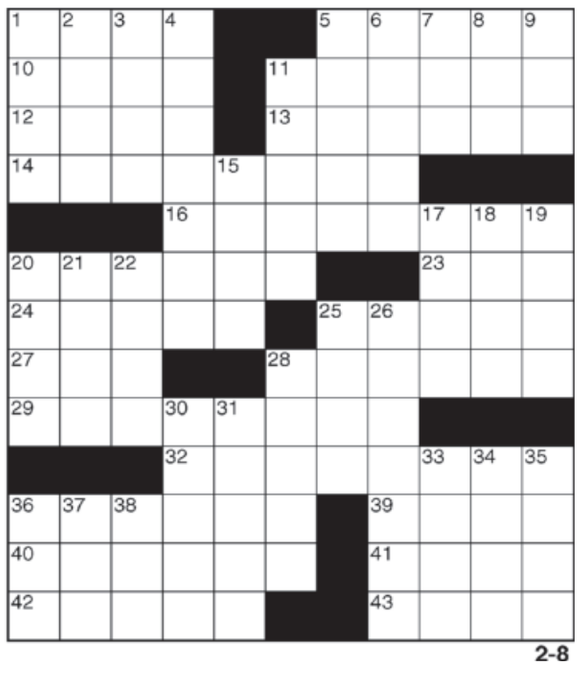
Even after an international journal has said yes, our own reviewers look at the work again. And I have had my own accepted papers sent back to me with tough, uncomfortable, but undeniably useful questions. As an author in a hurry, I have found this friction inconvenient; but I know that it is also essential. It is, I believe, the real reason some institutions come across misconduct so rarely. It is hardly that one university's researchers are more honest than another's. Clean records, in the end, are not due to luck; they are the expected result of structure.

I do not write this from outside the problem. I write as a researcher whose own work is checked, and checked again, by his colleagues and his institution every time he publishes—and who, after 25 years, has learned to be grateful for it. The retractions troubling us today could have been prevented, so can the ones coming tomorrow, but only if we build the safeguards now, while there is still time to get ahead of retractions altogether.

## CROSSWORD
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**
1 Full range
5 Tart fruits
10 Except for
11 Riddle question
12 Clumsy ones
13 Link
14 Some evergreens
16 Flippered fish-eaters
20 Read
23 Diamond club
24 Pop stars
25 Port-au-Prince's nation
27 "Knives Out" star de Armas
28 Horse restraint
29 Remote
32 One way to play
36 Spot for an X
39 __ avis
40 Vast expanses
41 Steel ingredient
42 Borscht base
43 Basilica part

**DOWN**
1 Since
2 Curbside cry
3 Finished
4 Piquant
5 Pumps, e.g.
6 Baggy
7 Sturdy wood
8 Outback bird
9 Tentative taste
11 Question of place
15 Tamblyn of "West Side Story"
17 Somewhat
18 Past due
19 Mix up
20 Singer Edith
21 Writer Ferber
22 Crowd sound
25 Slugger Aaron
26 Mali neighbor
28 Smarts
30 E's musical equivalent
31 Diving birds
33 Tombstone name
34 Debate group
35 Rational
36 Hope of comedy
37 One in the hand
38 Director Ang



2-8

**MONDAY'S** ANSWERS

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# Rabindranath is forever, he is indispensable: Anima Roy

**"We need to study him more consciously, think about him more deeply and continue researching his work," she said. "There is hardly any aspect of human life that he did not write about."**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For acclaimed Rabindra Sangeet exponent Anima Roy, Rabindranath Tagore is neither a literary icon preserved in textbooks nor a composer remembered only on commemorative occasions. He is, she says, a way of understanding life itself.

As the world marks the 85th death anniversary of the Nobel laureate on *Baishe Srabon* (August 6), the singer reflects on a lifelong relationship with the poet whose songs, she believes, continue to illuminate the moral and emotional landscape of Bengali life.

"Everything that I am is shaped by Rabindranath," she told The Daily Star. "If I think of my life as a whole, every part of it has been touched and influenced by him."

Raised in Keraniganj and the first in her family to study at the University of Dhaka, Roy chose Rabindra Sangeet not simply as a profession but as a lifelong discipline.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



VISUAL: DOWEL BISWAS

"I stayed with it, practised it and continue to practise it every day," she said. "Whatever I have achieved—whether as an artiste or as a human being—has come because I chose to walk the path of Rabindranath."

For the singer, Tagore's legacy extends far beyond music. "His creations make my days more beautiful," she said. "They shape the way I see life. Through his songs I have learned to recognise beauty in the simplest things—a paddy field, a patch of grass, the changing seasons. They teach us how to live."

That, she argues, is precisely why Tagore remains indispensable more than eight decades after his death.

"We often speak of celebrating Bengali identity," she said. "But young people need to know Rabindranath for a deeper reason. Through him, we learn to know ourselves."

The Rabindra Sangeet exponent believes Tagore should not be confined to ceremonial remembrance or annual observances.

"We need to study him more consciously, think about him more deeply and continue researching his work," she said. "There is hardly any aspect of human life that he did not write about."

She likens his place in society to something fundamental rather than ornamental. "Just as the body needs nourishment, the mind does too," she said. "For me, Rabindranath is that nourishment. Without him, our cultural life cannot remain healthy."

Among thousands of Rabindra Sangeet compositions, one continues to accompany her through every stage of life. "***Amar Mukti Aloy Aloy*** is especially close to my heart," she said. "Whenever I sing or listen to it, it fills me with strength. It is one of the most powerful songs I know."

As another *Srabon* rolls around, Roy returns to the thought that has sustained her through decades of music. For her, the truest tribute lies not in commemorating him once a year, but in continuing to read, sing, and live with his work.



## After Venice milestone, Rubaiyat Hossain's 'The Difficult Bride' heads for TIFF

After making history as the first Bangladeshi feature film to be selected for the Orizzonti section of the 83rd Venice International Film Festival, National Film Award-winning director Rubaiyat Hossain's ***The Difficult Bride*** has achieved another major milestone, earning a place in the official selection of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF).

The psychological horror film is set in contemporary Dhaka and explores beauty, womanhood, marriage, and social expectations through a supernatural lens. It stars newcomer Zaineen Chowdhury Karim in the lead role, alongside Azmeri Haque Badhan, Reekita Nondine Shimu, Sunerah Binte Kamal, Shatabdi Wadud, Saberi Alam, and Mohammed Bari.

The film will screen on September 16, 17, and 19. The 51st edition of TIFF runs from September 10 to 20.

## WHAT'S THE HAPS?

### 'Poetic Echoes with Monsoon Melodies'




Farhana Trina and Samia Ahsan bring together Bangla and French poetry and songs in a monsoon-themed recital at Alliance Française de Dhaka. Featuring works by Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Atul Prasad Sen, Charles Baudelaire, Paul Verlaine and Victor Hugo, the programme celebrates two literary traditions in conversation.

*Date:* **Saturday | August 8, 2026**
*Time:* **6:30 pm onwards**
*Venue:* **Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi**

# NEWS

## 'Another revolution is approaching'

FROM PAGE 12

within months of taking office.

Shafiqur alleged that his party and its allies were facing pressure, intimidation and inducements to compromise on their demand for implementation of the public mandate expressed through the referendum.

He said his party would not abandon the demand under any circumstances and would go to any length, even sacrificing their lives, to achieve it.

Expressing concern over recent developments in educational institutions, he said there were signs that the culture of fear and campus domination was returning to schools and universities, and urged students, teachers and staff members to remain vigilant.

Referring to the economy and public suffering, he alleged that the government was creating artificial gas shortages to justify price hikes, calling it a deception against the people.

Speaking at the rally, National Citizen Party Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari said, "History bears witness that Tarique Rahman will not remain in power. Tarique Rahman will not stay in power; his downfall has already begun."

Patwari said the "soldiers of July" could not be bought with "positions or money".

He urged party activists and supporters to remain alert and ensure their own safety.

"Make sure that Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal are not able to carry out any oppression against the people. If there is no electricity or gas anywhere, take your pots and pans and come out onto the streets," he said.

Speaking as a special guest, Liberal Democratic Party President Col (retd) Oli Ahmad said he had repeatedly urged the prime minister over the past several months not to create divisions.

"Do not create a situation that could mark the beginning of your downfall," he said.

The rally was presided over by Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish Ameer Mamunul Haque, who urged political parties to refrain from violence and warned that people would resist any return to "terror-based politics".

## NCP leaders walk out of state event on July

FROM PAGE 12

one-point and nine-point demands.

NCP Joint Member Secretary Mahin Sarkar, a former coordinator of the Students Against Discrimination, wrote on Facebook that the documentary portrayed Tarique as the person who announced the one-point demand.

He said Nahid, who had announced the demand despite grave risk, and Asif Mahmud, who had declared the "Long March to Dhaka", were not properly reflected in the documentary.

During the chaos, Minister Azam took the stage, appealed for calm and said any mistakes in the documentary would be corrected.

As order still could not be restored, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain took the microphone and rebuked the protesters, saying, "Have you come here to project yourselves?"

Addressing the slogans, Ishraque added, "What are you doing? What have you done for the martyrs' families? You have done nothing."

Azam then tried to calm Ishraque, while Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed took the microphone and asked those who wanted to speak to come to the stage and raise their objections.

NCP Member Secretary and MP Akhter Hossen then took the stage, urged the audience to remain calm, before announcing the party's decision to leave the programme.

After leaving the venue, Akhter told The Daily Star that the documentary deliberately failed to present a complete account of the uprising.

"There was no mention of the huge rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on August 3 or the announcement made there. Instead, an online speech by Tarique Rahman was shown as the declaration of the one-point demand.

"I was trying to restrain them when State Minister Ishraque Hossain made hostile remarks and his followers began behaving aggressively. I then announced our decision to walk out, and we left the event.

"Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan expressed regret over the documentary. However, I believe those responsible did this quite deliberately."

Tariqul Islam, president of Jatiya Jubo Shakti, NCP's youth wing, alleged that signs of the BNP's influence were evident throughout the programme.

He said neither the NCP nor any frontline leader of the uprising was shown in the documentary. Instead, an online speech by Tarique was used to represent him as the person who declared the one-point demand, he alleged.

"You may or may not give us space, but you cannot distort the history of July in this manner," he said.

Tariqul also claimed that supporters of Ishraque assaulted NCP leaders and tried to push Mahin away.

The allegations could not be independently verified. Ishraque could not be reached for comments.

In his formal address later at the programme, Ishraque said July belongs to the people and is not the property of any individual, party or group.

Minister Azam said, "Mistakes may be made -- by me, by the ministry or by you. We will correct those mistakes together."

Speaking at the event, acting president Hafiz said the disorder at a national programme organised to honour July fighters was unexpected, especially in front of foreign guests. "The way we were humiliated in front of foreign guests has deeply hurt me.

"There was no image of Abu Sayed, who is the image and symbol of this revolution. Without his image, this cannot be called a documentary."

He also criticised the documentary for not including BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, saying that some mistakes had certainly been made.

Apparently referring to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Hafiz said the person in the neighbouring country would be the happiest about the incident.

He also criticised the walkout, saying that everyone should have calmed down after the minister acknowledged the mistakes and apologised.

Salahuddin said no party or group could claim exclusive ownership of the uprising. "Why should we politicise July? If we start asking, 'Whose July is it?', then July will belong to none of us," he said.

"This path to liberation was not built in a day. It was built from 2009 to 2024. July belongs to all of us."

## Inside the museum of resistance

FROM PAGE 12

memories preserved there would allow future generations to remember the sacrifices that reshaped the nation's history.

Among the exhibits is the blood-soaked jersey worn by Abu Sayed, who stood before armed police moments before he was shot dead on July 16, 2024. Preserved beside it is the jersey of Wasim Akram, who was also killed the same day.

Abu Sayed's defiant stand before the police became the first spark that inspired the uprising and ultimately brought down the regime.

Nearby lies the wristwatch of Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdha. Although its hands no longer move, it seems to preserve the memory of the young man whose final words -- "Does anyone need water? Water?" -- became one of the defining moments of the July uprising.

Not far away stands the small bicycle of six-year-old Jabir Ibrahim. Beside it are photographs of Nafis's lifeless body hanging from a rickshaw and the blood-stained sleeveless vest worn by Sheikh Fahmin Jafar on the day he was killed.

According to the United Nations, over 1,400 people were killed and several thousand others injured during the July-August 2024 uprising that ended Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule.

The museum attempts to tell that story not through statistics alone, but through the possessions left behind by those who never came home.

Photographs of martyrs line the galleries, while outside, a memorial plaque bears the names of those who lost their lives during the movement.

Among the exhibits is perhaps the museum's most heartbreaking possession -- a handwritten letter left by martyr Anas before joining a protest march.

It reads, "Mother, I'm going to the procession. I could no longer hold myself back. I'm sorry, Abbu. I disobeyed you and left home. I couldn't remain indoors like a selfish person. If I don't return alive, don't grieve -- be proud. Please forgive me for every mistake I have made in my life. I love you all very much."

In one gallery, the mother of martyr Rajeeb stood silently before a glass case containing her son's treasured belongings before breaking down in tears.

Rajeeb, a young man from Lalmonirhat who was killed on August 5, had received the President's Scout Award in 2021. His flute, tabla, mobile phone, Scout scarf, crest, badges and personal cards are now preserved in the museum.

"My Rajeeb could play the flute and the tabla beautifully. He also recited the Holy Quran so well," she said through tears, struggling to look at the belongings she had once seen scattered around their home.

Elsewhere in the museum, Nusrat Jahan Laboni found herself reliving another painful chapter.

Her brother disappeared after he was allegedly picked up on December 4, 2013, and never returned.

Walking through Sheikh Hasina's bedroom, preserved largely as it was, Laboni struggled to reconcile the room's comfort with the suffering she associates with the ousted Awami League government's rule.

"Lying in this bed, sitting in this room, with a sane mind, deciding who to abduct today... she used to give those orders over the phone right from here, lying in this bed, in this room," she said after completing the tour.

She said the museum also displays menus used during Hasina's tenure, highlighting what she described as a stark contrast between the lifestyle inside Gono Bhaban and the hardships faced by ordinary people.

"She used to tell us to eat burgers made with jackfruit, but her own food list was enormous. Even the afternoon snacks filled pages," she said.

Laboni said she had earlier visited Aynaghar, the alleged secret detention facility whose existence came to light after the fall of the AL government.

"I tried to stay inside one of those tiny cells to understand what the victims had endured, but I could remain there for only a few minutes. Seeing the Aynaghar replica inside the museum brought all those memories back," she said.

Inside the museum, a replica of Aynaghar recreates the cramped, windowless cells where victims of enforced disappearance were allegedly held for months or even years, often blindfolded and subjected to torture.

Inside another display case sits a leather whip recovered from one of the alleged secret detention facilities run by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Large photographs depict blindfolded detainees with their hands and feet bound.

Busts of retired Major General Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former defence adviser to Sheikh Hasina, and relieved Major General Ziaul Ahsan are displayed alongside notes describing allegations surrounding enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings during the AL regime.

On the compound walls, colourful graffiti, slogans and murals painted by protesters after Gono Bhaban was stormed on August 5, 2024, remain largely untouched.

Inside the building, broken furniture, shattered glass and damaged walls have deliberately been left unrepaired, preserving the anger that swept through the residence after Hasina fled the country.

Visitors paused before the red telephones once used inside the prime minister's office and residence. As many lifted the receivers, they got to listen to various call records of Sheikh Hasina.

A large portrait of Buet student Abrar Fahad, who was beaten to death by Chhatra League activists in 2019, greets visitors near the entrance, while sculptures recall the 2009 BDR carnage and other painful chapters in the nation's history.

## Tagore's 85th death anniv today

FROM PAGE 12

He also wrote eight novels, 84 short stories, and numerous poems in his prolific literary career that spanned over almost seven decades.

Gitanjali, Gora, and Ghare-Baire are his best-known works.

Rabindranath became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.

His compositions were chosen by two countries as national anthems: Bangladesh's "Amar Shonar Bangla" and India's "Jana Gana Mana".

## July charter

FROM PAGE 12

have promised to implement the July National Charter to the letter."

"Would it be implemented if it went to the reform council? Would it not be implemented if it went to the constitutional amendment committee?" he asked.

Salahuddin said constitutional amendments were the prescribed legal mechanism for carrying out reforms.

"The constitutional procedure is to adopt an amendment. Every amendment is a reform," he said.

He added that terms such as reform commission, reform council and constitutional reform council were merely different labels.

"But what must come in practice is an amendment, and it must be adopted by parliament.

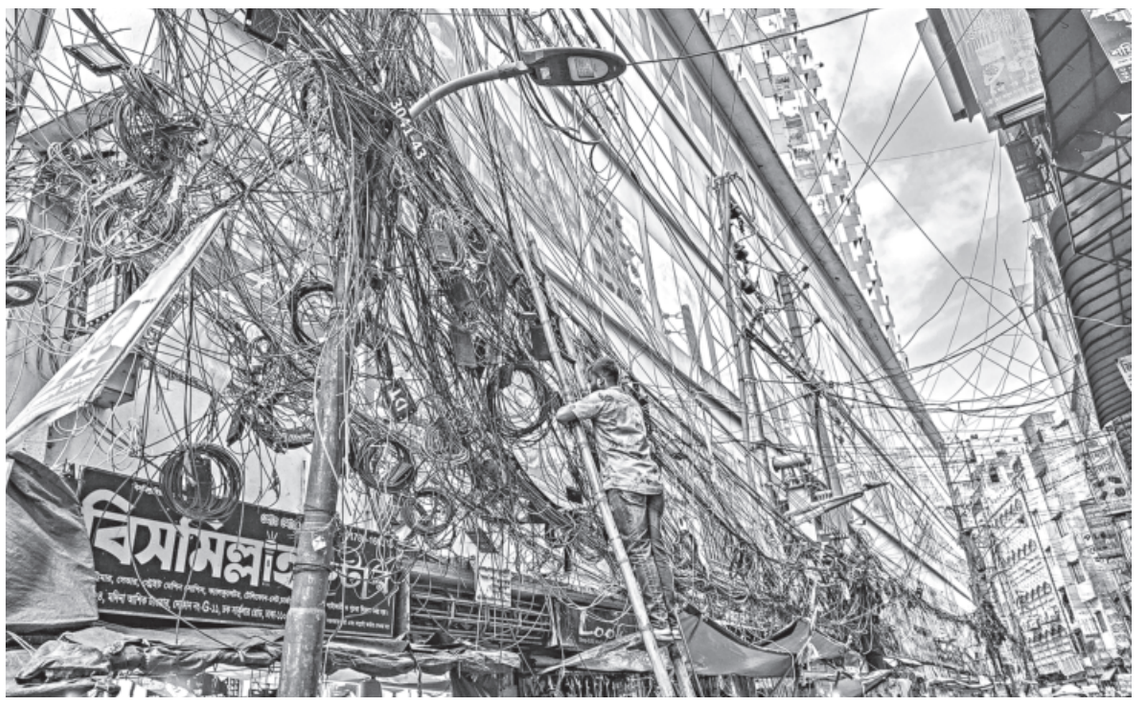
"It would be the 18th amendment to the constitution."

On July 13, parliament approved a proposal to form the 17-member special committee on constitutional amendments. The committee was initially constituted with 12 members, with five seats left vacant for the opposition.

Opposition MPs walked out of parliament in protest, rejecting the committee in principle and arguing that the reforms should instead be considered by the Constitution Reform Council envisaged in the July Charter Implementation Order.

The committee held its first meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on Tuesday, deciding to review the entire constitution with the July Charter at the centre of the process. Members also said the panel would consider relevant proposals from the BNP's election manifesto.

Salahuddin said the committee would consult different sections of society, including July fighters, journalists and lawyers, to understand their expectations. It would also seek opinions from constitutional experts and editors.



A technician carries out maintenance work on a tangle of internet and utility cables while standing on a bamboo ladder in Chawkbazar, Old Dhaka. Such dense overhead wiring, common across the capital, often causes short circuits and fires.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# Sand extraction continues despite lease suspension

### Locals accuse BNP leader of backing operation as erosion threatens homes, schools, cropland

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Patuakhali*

Sand extraction continues unabated along an erosion-prone stretch of the Tetulia river in Patuakhali's Bauphal allegedly with the backing of a local BNP leader, despite the government's suspension of quarry leases, locals say.

Residents said the operation, which runs from late at night through most of the day, was accelerating riverbank erosion and threatening croplands, educational institutions and settlements.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found four dredgers extracting sand near the confluence of the Tetulia and Kalaiya rivers, south of the Chandradwip ferry terminal. The sand was being stockpiled on floating bulk carriers before being transported elsewhere for sale.

Md Siddiq, operator of the bulk carrier Messrs Nawroz Shipping Lines, said they were extracting sand under an arrangement with Md Humayun Kabir, president of Bauphal Municipality BNP.

Tofazzal Hossain, who was supervising one of the dredgers, also said they were working on Humayun's instructions.

According to Tofazzal, they pay Tk 0.40 to Tk 0.50 per cubic foot of sand. Each bulk carrier carries around 2,500 cubic feet, and two to three carriers are filled daily.

Sources at the upazila land office said the District Sand Quarry Management Committee decided on May 21 to invite tenders for leasing the submerged quarry near Nimdi Launch Ghat, and a notice was issued on June 4.



However, the lease process for the Bauphal stretch of the river was later suspended on the directives of higher authorities after the area was identified as highly vulnerable to erosion.

Md Yunus Chowdhury, a resident, said several homes, a mosque and more than 200 acres of cropland had already been lost to the river.

Repeated attempts to contact Humayun Kabir were unsuccessful, and he did not respond to text messages.

His son, Md Imam Hossain, student affairs secretary of Bauphal Municipality BNP, claimed the family had legally extracted sand under a lease valid until June 30.

However, officials said the lease expired on April 13.

Bauphal BNP Convener Taslim Talukdar said he was unaware that the administration had banned sand extraction from that stretch of the river.

"If that is the case, then it is wrong. Such activities tarnish the party's image. We will look into the matter seriously," he said.

Acknowledging the sand extraction, Md Rakib, executive engineer of the Patuakhali Water Development Board, said most of the Tetulia river in Bauphal was highly erosion-prone and that sand extraction would worsen bank erosion.

Bauphal UNO Saleh Ahmed said no sand quarry lease had been issued for the Bauphal section of the Tetulia river.

"We are aware of the illegal extraction activities and will take stern action as soon as the weather improves," he said, adding that enforcement drives had been delayed by inclement weather.

## A mother's gift

FROM PAGE 12

difficult and freezer space ran out, she found another recipient through MilkShare. Today, she donates to two babies.

Launched earlier this year, MilkShare was founded after Jannatul Ferdousi, herself a first time mother, realised that while some women were discarding surplus breast milk, others were desperately searching for donors through Facebook and word of mouth.

The problem, she concluded, was not a shortage of willing donors but the lack of a trusted way to connect them.

MilkShare can be downloaded from the Google Play Store on any Android device. The app also offers guidance on breast milk pumping, storage, transport, hygiene and other essentials to help parents who are new to milk sharing.

The platform, however, is not a milk bank. It verifies users, connects donor mothers with recipient families and keeps records of those relationships. It prioritises nearby matches to reduce transport time, while families decide how the milk will be collected and transported and whether additional medical screening is needed.

Unlike a regulated human milk bank, it does not collect, pasteurise, laboratory-test or store breast milk.

Ferdousi said MilkShare is meant to bridge the gap between donor families and those in need, not to claim safeguards it cannot yet provide.

"Donors can upload health reports for recipient families to review with doctors," she said.

While Dr Raunak said donor milk can be invaluable for vulnerable newborns if donors are screened for infections such as HIV, hepatitis and herpes, and proper hygiene, storage and cold-chain transport are maintained, much of that responsibility currently falls on families.

Samia's family has travelled up to seven hours carrying insulated cooler bags packed with ice to collect frozen milk, usually returning with enough to last about two weeks.

In Bangladesh, however, the challenge extends beyond medical risks.

For Muslim families, breastfeeding another woman's child creates rada'ah, or milk kinship. Under Islamic jurisprudence, the donor becomes the child's "milk mother", while her biological children become the recipient's "milk siblings", permanently prohibiting marriage between them.

Ferdousi said this was not a complication to work around. Rather than allowing anonymous donations, MilkShare records the identities of donors, recipients and children connected through milk sharing.

"Where possible, we prioritise matching baby boys with boys and girls with girls, although this is not mandatory. We also encourage families to remain in contact."

MilkShare plans annual updates on the number of children in donor and recipient families to keep its records current. It also hopes to organise periodic gatherings for matched families to strengthen those lifelong bonds, Ferdousi said.

Mufti (research division) Maulana Muhammad Abdullah of the Islamic Foundation said such records are essential.

"Breast milk sharing cannot be allowed on a widespread or informal basis... The identities of both the donor and recipient, along with the milk-kinship relationship, must be preserved in a permanent and precise manner so that there is no confusion in the future."

He said such a system could be facilitated by a specialised institution if it were strongly regulated by the state and supervised by a Shariah committee. Verbal assurances alone, he warned, are inadequate because families may forget such relationships over time.

MilkShare has embedded scholarly opinions in the app and is collecting written fatwas as it refines its approach. Privacy is central to the platform: donors' phone numbers are not publicly displayed, personal and medical information is accessible only to authorised administrators, and users can request data deletion.

MilkShare currently has 276 registered users, including 63 donor mothers, 148 recipient families and 12 active matches.

But for families like Nahid's, the platform offers something greater than numbers: certainty.

His mother's milk is gone, but every few weeks another mother's gift arrives, nourishing his growth and creating bonds that may outlast the milk itself.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Bangladesh Police
Rapid Action Battalion-7
Patenga, Chattogram
www.rab.gov.bd

Memo no-7750/Acct/RAB-7/ Dt: 04 Aug 2026

**Invitation For e-Tender**

For financial year **2026-2027**, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal **(www.eprocure.gov.bd)** for the procurement of:

| SL | Tender ID No & Reference No | Description of Goods | Last selling Date & Time | Closing/ Opening Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1310809/ RAB-7/Acct Br/1 | Hygine Products | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 2. | 1310818/ RAB-7/Acct Br/2 | Medicine | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 3. | 1310811/ RAB-7/Acct Br/3 | Computers Items | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 4. | 1310812/ RAB-7/Acct Br/4 | Other Stationary items | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 5. | 1310820/ RAB-7/Acct Br/5 | Computer reapir | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 6. | 1310822/ RAB-7/Acct Br/6 | Other machinaries and equipment | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 7. | 1310813/ RAB-7/Acct Br/7 | Computer and related accessories | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 8. | 1310814/ RAB-7/Acct Br/8 | Furniture Purchase | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 9. | 1310817/ RAB-7/Acct Br/9 | Constractual Transportation cost | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 10. | 1310815/ RAB-7/Acct Br/10 | Cleaning Materials | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 11. | 1310816/ RAB-7/Acct Br/11 | Product freight and Transportation cost | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |
| 12. | 1310821/ RAB-7/Acct Br/13 | Water Vehicle | 16-Aug-2026 10:00 | 16-Aug-2026 12:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal **(www.eprocure.gov.bd)** is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk **(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)**

Tenderer having clarity requirements are requested to contact at 01777-710782 (Account Branch).

**MD HAFIZUR RAHMAN, PSC**
Lt Col
Commanding Officer
Rapid Action Battalion-7
Tel: 023-33300400

GD-1903

## Youth drowns while fleeing cops

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Netrokona*

A youth allegedly died by drowning after falling into a canal while trying to flee during an anti-drug drive by police in Netrokona on Tuesday afternoon.

The deceased is Sabbir Shekh, 19, a student of Abu Abbas Degree College and a resident of the Mechhuabazar area in Netrokona town.

Hafizul Islam, additional superintendent of police, said a Detective Branch team was conducting an anti-drug drive on the Netrokona-Amtala road when Sabbir and several other youths saw the police and attempted to flee.

They jumped into the nearby Harikhali canal. While the others swam ashore, Sabbir drowned, he said.

After locals rescued him, DB personnel took Sabbir to Netrokona 250-bed District Hospital. Resident Medical Officer Mazharul Amin said Sabbir was brought to the hospital around 4:30pm and was declared dead after an ECG examination.

"The exact cause of death will be known after the autopsy report," he added.

Sabbir's sister, Purnima Akter, claimed Sabbir did not know how to swim and was neither accused in any criminal case nor involved in criminal activities. She demanded an impartial investigation.

## Partisan narratives

FROM PAGE 3

earlier in the day, he said, "Unfortunately, some embarrassing incidents occurred today, even in the presence of the honourable president. We are all embarrassed by what happened."

He said the July uprising belongs to the people, and its credit should be returned to them.

Nahid said Bangladesh's post-uprising political culture must change. Political differences and criticism would remain, but everyone should stay united while observing national occasions and discussing national history, especially in the president's presence.

He said the country could repay part of its debt to the martyrs by implementing the aspirations reflected in the July Charter and referendum, establishing an accountable democracy, carrying out reforms, and completing the trials of those responsible for enforced disappearances and mass killings.

Later in the day, speaking at a programme organised by the Monsoon Cultural Alliance, Nahid expressed hope that Bangladesh would become a country free from discrimination and paid tribute to the martyrs and injured fighters of the uprising.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**
Bangladesh Police
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Lakshmipur
https://police.lakshmipur.gov.bd

Memo No:-OTM-4/LAK/2026-2027/2857/1st Part, Dated: 04, August, 2026

**Re-e-Tender Notice No-02/2026-2027 {NCT, OTM, Goods (Framework Agreement)}**

An Re-e- Tender has been invited for the following works through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 06 August, 2026, 12.00 AM only the Person/Organization registered by e-GP portal can visit (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for clear observation.

| SL | Tender ID No | Description of works | Last Selling Date & Time | Closing/Opening Date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1315508 | Procurement of Medicines and Antidotes for Lakshmipur District Police Hospital (MI Center) (Financial Budget Code-3252109) | 16-August-2026 16:00 | 17-August-2026 12:00 |
| 2. | 1315509 | Repair of Computer Related Accessories for Lakshmipur District Police (Financial Budget Code-3258103) | 16-August-2026 16:00 | 17-August-2026 12:00 |

This is an online Tender only where Re-e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

The fees for last downloading Re-e-Tender document from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited onilne thorugh any registered bank branches up to date & time.

To submit Re-e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guideline are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

04.08.26
**Md. Abu Tareq**
BP-7908121563
Superintendent of Police, Lakshmipur
Phone-02334441033, Fax-02334441479
Email-splakshmipur@police.gov.bd

GD-1908

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BSCL

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/) for the procurement of the following services:

| S/N | Tender ID | Tender Name | Package No: | Tender Publication Date and time | Tender Document last selling Date and time | Tender Closing & Opening Date and time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01. | 1299125 | Procurement of Miscellaneous Works (Tiles and Glass fixation and water leakage treatment, Painting and Galvanization of all SS material, Boundary Barbed Wire repair & maintenance for both GS) | 14.39.0000.000.012.07.00 02.25.178(T) | 06-Aug-2026 Time: 10:00(AM) | 19-Aug-2026 Time: 16:00(PM) | 20-Aug-2026 Time: 12:20(PM) |
| 02. | 1307315 | Procurement of Miscellaneous Electrical and Electronic Items for BSCL | 14.39.0000.000.012.07.00 05.22.198(T) | 06-Aug-2026 Time: 10:00(AM) | 19-Aug-2026 Time: 16:00(PM) | 20-Aug-2026 Time: 12:20(PM) |

This is an Online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Signed)
Md. Golam Sarowar
General Manager (Admin & Procurement)
Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited.

GD-1902

REVIEW: SHORT STORY OF THE MONTH

# Anxiety, unmarriedness, and 'An Eye and a Leg'



ILLUSTRATION: **ALIZA RAHMAN**

**ALIZA RAHMAN**

Anxiety as an emotion is revelatory of not only individual fears, but structural ones. Faria Basher's "An Eye and a Leg" (*Granta*, 2025) touches upon a severe anxiety in Bangladeshi consciousness—that of the unmarried woman.

The unmarried woman in the current Bangladeshi landscape is an identity that fits uneasily into the preexisting slots, if at all. Discourse online and offline are rife with comparisons of women with inanimate objects that rot if left unconsumed. That the figure of the women is likened to these is not revelatory of the state of the women, but the ecosystem that marks her as such.

The rush to get women attached to a man, and subsequently the man's family and lifestyle, is clothed in statements that show concern, urgency, and for some, threats of perpetual loneliness and societal abandonment. But it may well be this very socially enforced anxiety, often bordering into paranoia, that is maybe the very thing being joked about here.

For one, the protagonist seems to be in a family without financial anxieties. She also has her own income from her music lessons, even if there is no indication that there is no connection to an institution. This freedom from financial constraint is of great importance if we consider that economic burdens loom large in the life of many people today when marriage comes into consideration. So, Basher's choice to have a narrator simply wake up sans one eyeball and eventually a leg that begins rotting, becomes the impetus behind her family frantically searching for a groom.

In contrast to the often arbitrary (but presented as catastrophic) reasons to get married, the surreal circumstances of the narrator's sudden disability becomes a genuine corporeal crisis, one that would actually lead to her death.

Thus, in the creation of this strange disorder that results from a lack of marriage, Basher gives a corporeal realism to the anxiety expressed at the state of women simply disengaging from marriage. In doing so, Basher situates the anxiety in a comparative lens which exposes the unfounded baseless nature of the anxiety directed toward young women who have nothing to lose from staying unmarried, unless of course the society disallows this through explicit and implicit tactics.

The narrator's condition comes in like a cosmic punishment. There appears to be no human source of her predicament. Yet, it is her unmarried state which is proffered as the reason for her illness, both by relatives who blame her parents, and medical professionals.

**I feel compelled here to say that of course happy marriages exist. Yet, it is necessary to also admit that marriage, at least in the form it continues to exist today, is not only a purposefully intense display of dominant heteropatriarchal norms, but a regulation mechanism that relies on women's continued commodification.**

The reactions to her grim prognosis mirrors the reactions women receive in real life, even when imminent untimely death is not an issue. And much like the fate of many Bangladeshi women, the once semi-independent narrator with a content life becomes forced to rely on a man to continue staying alive. In both the fictional and the real life case, the result is this: the woman's status in the current sociopolitical matrix is preserved and reproduced as she falls within the control of her husband.

Anxiety as an emotion has a high epistemological cachet. It is revelatory of where we believe lie the weaknesses of the structures we have come to be comfortable with. Any deviation from perceived norms causes not just the realisation that there is an arbitrariness to the rules we follow, but that they may be dismantled by human efforts. It also reveals, much to the discomfort of many, that their commonplace socially sanctioned anxiousness may not have a firm rational basis.

I feel compelled here to say that of course happy marriages exist. Yet, it is necessary to also admit that marriage, at least in the form it continues to exist today, is not only a purposefully intense display of dominant heteropatriarchal norms, but a regulation mechanism that relies on women's continued commodification. Basher's text, in being a story that simultaneously utilises corporeal horror and absurdity, reveals the psychological hold a custom such as marriage continues to have in contemporary Bangladesh, despite the many unpleasant angles it comes with.

In one of the most on-the-nose moments of the text, Basher's narrator is taken to the "marriage market", a place in a mall where women of varying ages and conditions are placed as products with a price tag on them. The narrator is priced at a discount, and sold to the third interested man.

This pricing of women has parallels in the material woman. The search for a serious partner often leads to a calculation of the self. Questions ranging from salary, status, education, age, physical attributes, and the like become variables that determine not only how much of a high valued partner one can get, but also the "furniture" a family can ask for.

In the text, the narrator's life with her husband, though not one of blind bliss, is one she can adjust to and feel a degree of contentment in, at least at the initial stages. It devolves, however, as many marriages do, with the husband being irritated at the minutest inconveniences, including even parts of the narrator that he had admired before. Her harmonium playing, which was one of the primary reasons for his interest in her, becomes one of the irritants, and the narrator eventually loses out on a source of income as she begins to revile the idea of having students over when her husband is so impatient.

The unhappiness at such a marriage causes the narrator to announce to her mother that she will leave, even if it means she will no longer be alive. That decision, however, never needs to be made as the husband (now former) brings in a new wife and asks her to leave. The story ends with the narrator leaving, her last words being "The next morning, and for the rest of my life, I stood on two legs, and looked at the world through fresh eyes."

The metaphorical and literal meanings are obvious, but the implications require analysis, for the text ends by including how the experience has very likely altered how she sees the world post-marriage and post-separation. It is these "fresh eyes" which are so lacking in society, for the psychic hold of marriage as an institution continues to distort thinking and disallow new ways of living. Should an outsider observe the urgency with which we enforce marriage by listening into our most vulnerable and intimate discussions, one would think there is a belief that marriage holds some sort of magical quality to it. History provides one answer for how it has come to be this way; mass anxiety's sociocultural permeation offers another. It thus makes sense why Basher's story of an absurd, near surreal circumstance makes way for an easier critique of an institution that continues to demand more of women who already shave off parts of themselves before they exit singlehood. The story can thus be seen as a commentary on anxiety as a mechanism for control.

Anxieties, much like the parties in a marriage, have rankings. Some are given the status of being absurd, while some are elevated to the rank of such importance that deviation from a path elicits fear so immense that it produces actions some individuals would not otherwise partake in. In the case of marriage, the anxiety ranks alongside events such as birth and death. This isn't surprising if we consider that much like some other cultures, we believe that of the things that can never be avoided, marriage is one of them. This unfortunately common belief leads to marriage being treated, even if it is not admitted, as some kind of magic. If we think with honesty for an instant, we will be able to conjure up the many times marriage is proffered as a solution for problems that require systemic support and funding, for the things marriage can supposedly cure include depression and anxiety to a person's drug addiction problem and violent behaviour. Maturity and betterment, they say, will come after. Marriage, however, must take place, even if body parts don't disappear in the middle of the night.

**Aliza Rahman** *is a writer and lecturer based in Dhaka.*

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

# Three realms, one unforgettable love story

## Review of 'Love Beyond Realms' (Zass Publishers, 2025) by Syderra Jaks

**NUSRAT HUQ**

This book has been categorised as a fantasy romance, but it has much wider dimensions than that. A heartfelt love story is at the book's core, and its unique feature is the blend of three realms that the characters inhabit. First, in the real world there is the seemingly simple office romance—this overlaps with a virtual romance in the computer gaming world, and finally, in the realm beyond is the romance of a soul who, even in death, perhaps transmigrates to another living soul and the love becomes eternal.

The reader is intrigued at how the three realms are fused into a plausible story, but that is just what the author has achieved. In the meticulously thought-out plot, you will marvel at how the three realms converge. As the plots multiply, the reader wonders how so many loose ends will ultimately be tied up.

The game 'Anima Sanctum' in the story is similar to an actual computer game called *World of Warcraft*—Eeciting, magical, adventurous, and yes, addictive. Game after game your partner and you save each other from death and since you play incognito and only have a game handle or ID, no one knows you. Your romance with an online unknown player can spill into your real life and cause you sleepless nights. How did you fall in love with a virtual person?

Other strengths in the book are the knowledge you gain of how private investigators work. They must have contacts in the police department, learn how to glean information from every possible source and how to avoid being caught from breaking the law themselves. We learn how stock market manipulation is a ploy to defeat your business rivals. The one upmanship in business rivalry is very enjoyable to read. We also learn about Blockchain technology—an advanced database mechanism that allows information sharing within a business network.

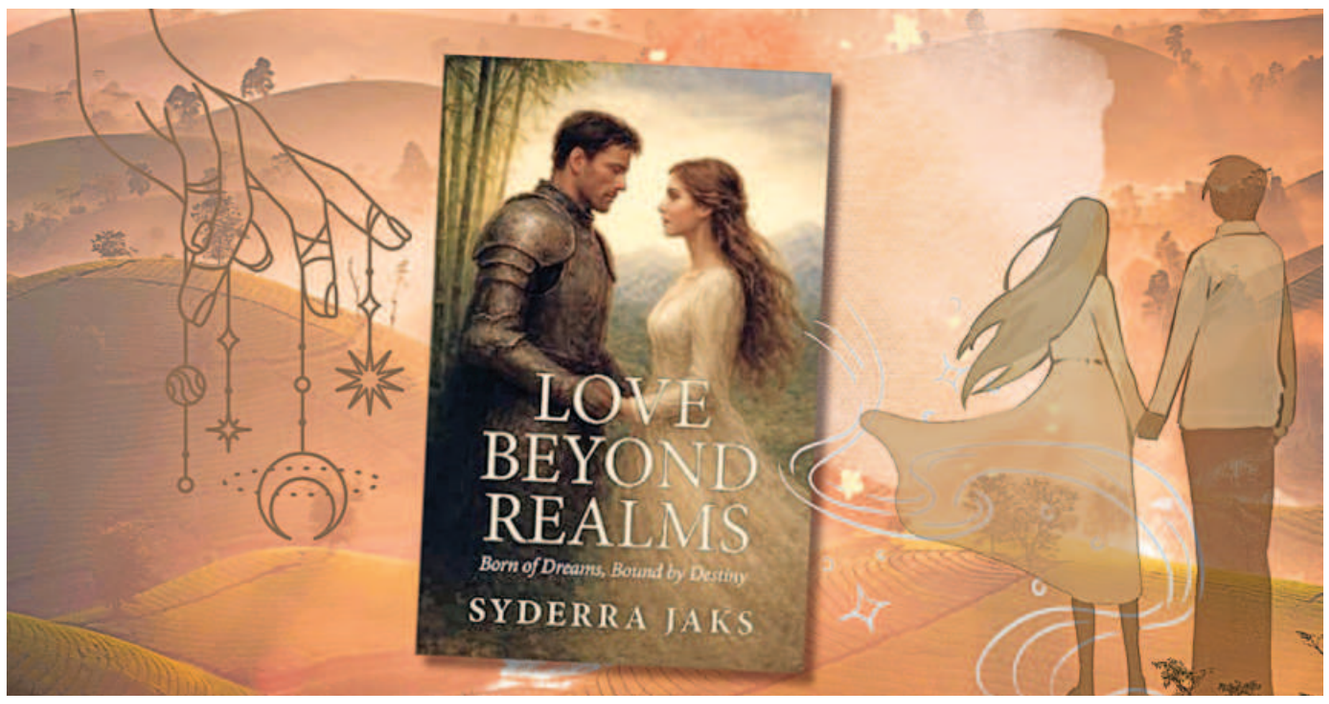



ILLUSTRATION: **MAHMUDA EMDAD**

The characterisation is strong, interesting and well-crafted. Where there are wealthy CEOs there are the proverbial gold-diggers. These are the fun elements in the book. Enjoying the smoked trout and Chardonnay is less important than who you dined with and why. The entire world wants to know who will be chosen to become the devastatingly handsome and obscenely rich CEO's bride! And if he is dining with another CEO, is there a merger or hostile takeover on the horizon? The conjectures are inevitable.

There are 44 chapters in the book and the title of each chapter is a testament to the writer's ability to hint at a mystery or even a solution to a mystery in the title. The 44 titles themselves are part of the book's elevated standard. Some titles appear simple like "The Orphanage" or "The Scarf" while others point to the mystery itself like "Subterfuge" or "The Invisible Bond".

The research to support the information in the book is thorough and extensive. The very first chapter which is about climbing the Himalayan range will immerse the reader into the snowy, magnificent yet treacherous range of the Himalayas. Fissures, crevasses, the rest step technique, jumaring, etc., transport us to the mountaineer's world.

Those of us who know little about video games will be drawn into the world of virtual reality. A shield to protect can be of chainmail or iron, but it can also be as delicate as gossamer silk. And when you see that the enemy has a katana, you wonder how you can possibly defend yourself. Is the game more about quick wit and strategy, game partnership, or about the superiority of your weapons? Are these factors applicable to modern warfare as well? Is it about diplomacy and strategy, or about the strength of your arsenal?

The couple we love most in the story are Fergus and Bellflower, an aged couple who run a small café where there is no menu, but you are served whatever Bellflower fancied to cook that day. Their sweetness and wisdom make them most lovable.

Finally we meet the mysterious millionairess and the author's skill when the story telling is at its peak. All the loose ends that keep you turning the pages come together brilliantly and we are left with a superb novel truly deserving of a very high rank in literary achievement.

**Nusrat Huq** *is a teacher in Sunbeams school and a member of TRC (The Reading Circle).*

Star
DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2026, SRABAN 22, 1433 BS

# SPORT

**What to WATCH**

**T SPORTS**
Futsal League
Army SC (Women) VS Sports Field Logistics (Women)
Live from 2:30 pm
Army SC (Men) VS Sports Field Logistics (Men)
Live from 4:45 pm
Dhaka Athletic Club (Women) VS IM10 FC (Women)
Live from 7:00 pm
Dhaka Athletic Club (Men) VS IM10 FC (Men)
Live from 9:15 pm
**TEN CRICKET**
The Hundred
Live from 11:30 pm

## Rishad snapped up by Eastern Cape

STAR SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh leg-spinner Rishad Hossain has earned his maiden SA20 call-up after defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape signed him ahead of the fifth edition of South Africa's franchise T20 league.

The three-time champions confirmed Rishad's signing on Wednesday as one of two overseas additions to their squad, alongside Australia all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, who will also make his first appearance in the tournament.

Rishad replaces Afghanistan spinner AM Ghazanfar in the Eastern Cape squad after establishing himself as one of Bangladesh's leading T20 bowlers over the past two years.

The 24-year-old enjoyed a breakthrough campaign at the 2024 T20 World Cup, finishing with 14 wickets, the joint-second highest tally in the tournament alongside Afghanistan star Rashid Khan. Since then, he has become a regular feature in Bangladesh's white-ball sides and has attracted growing interest from franchise leagues around the world.

The fifth SA20 season begins on January 17, with a mini-auction on October 7 to fill the remaining places across the six franchises.



**PREPARATION HINGES ON PRACTICE MATCH**

**"I think the practice match we have is going to be very important in terms of our preparation before the match. It will also help us a great deal in adapting to the conditions and getting accustomed to the pitch."**

**HASAN MAHMUD**

**Hasan Mahmud bowls during Bangladesh's final training session ahead of their three-day practice match against Cricket Australia XI. While much of the pre-series conversation has centred on how Bangladesh batters will cope with Australia's formidable pace attack, the onus will be equally on the Tigers' own fast-bowling unit. Despite the absence of Nahid Rana and Shoriful Islam, the visitors' pace attack for the series, comprising Ebadot Hossain, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Khaled Ahmed and Mushfik Hasan, will be keen to prove they can make an impact in the series.** PHOTO: BCB

## Alcaraz's US Open defence in doubt

REUTERS

Carlos Alcaraz's preparations for the US Open have suffered another setback after the Spaniard withdrew from the Cincinnati Open because of a persistent wrist injury, raising fresh doubts over whether he will be fit to defend his title at Flushing Meadows later this month.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion has not played since retiring during his second-round match at the Barcelona Open in April. Although the world number two had been targeting a return at the ATP Masters 1000 event in Cincinnati, organisers confirmed on Tuesday that he will miss the tournament.

Alcaraz has already been forced to skip both the French Open and Wimbledon while recovering from the injury. Recent videos of him practising had fuelled hopes of an imminent comeback, but his latest withdrawal leaves him running out of opportunities to regain match sharpness before the year's final Grand Slam.

The Winston-Salem Open, which begins on August 23, is now the Spaniard's last realistic chance to play competitive tennis before the US Open starts on August 30.

## Coach Sharmin's future under cloud despite results

SPORTS REPORTER

Despite guiding Bangladesh's top two shooters to career-best scores at the recent ISSF World Cups in Germany and China, former shooter-turned-coach Sharmin Akter allegedly fears losing her job with the Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) over testimony she gave before an enquiry committee.

Sharmin, the country's fourth shooter to win international honours after Kazi Sahana, Lovely Chowdhury Akhi and Sabrina Sultana, took up coaching in 2023 after ending her 22-year playing career.

Under the 2004 South Asian Games gold medallist, Rabbi Hasan Munna recorded a career-best 630.3 at July's ISSF World Cup in China, missing the men's 10m air rifle final by just 0.6 points. Rabbi had earlier improved from 624.8 in Baku in 2022 to 628 at May's Munich World Cup, while Robiul Islam Tomas also posted a career-best 627.8 in Munich.

Despite the steady improvement under Sharmin -- something even foreign coaches failed to achieve -- she is allegedly facing dismissal not because of performance, but because of her past testimony.

The uncertainty emerged after a new ad-hoc committee took charge last month. Sharmin is allegedly being targeted for refusing to testify against the previous ad-hoc committee during the interim government's tenure.

2010 SA Games gold medallist Sharmin Akter Ratna, current national shooter Kamrun Nahar Koly and another shooter had brought several allegations, including sexual harassment, against former joint secretary Sajjad Hossain. After Ratna filed an FIR, the National Sports Council formed an enquiry committee before which Sharmin testified that she had not witnessed any such incident.

Allegations have since emerged that Ratna, now joint secretary of the new ad-hoc committee, is trying to remove Sharmin from her coaching role "in an act of retaliation".

"It has been a furious approach which will ultimately harm the country's shooting ahead of the Asian Games. The appointment or termination of a coach must be evaluated on the basis of performance, not fury or revenge. The BSSF officials must give up their occupancy approach for the betterment of shooting," a former national coach, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star.

The former coach also alleged that a BSSF official compelled shooters to sign statements expressing a preference to train under foreign coaches instead of local coaches.

Another shooter, speaking on condition of anonymity, alleged that despite the Asian Games squad already being selected, special trials for the women's 10m air rifle and men's 10m air pistol were organised to make room for favoured shooters, although the originally selected athletes again finished on top.

Neither BSSF general secretary Shakif Shamim nor joint secretary Ratna responded to this correspondent's calls. It was learnt that State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Islam met federation officials yesterday to discuss several issues, including Sharmin's future.

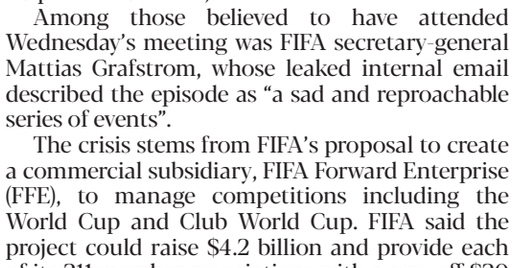


**Sharmin Akter with Rabbi Hasan Munna and Robiul Islam Tomas.**

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

## 'Infantino must go'

### Pressure mounts on FIFA boss



AFP, *Rabat*

FIFA president Gianni Infantino held emergency talks with senior FIFA officials in Morocco on Wednesday as pressure mounted over his abandoned plan to open the World Cup to private investment, with former Portugal captain Luis Figo becoming the latest high-profile figure to call for his resignation.

Infantino has faced growing criticism, including from within FIFA, since withdrawing the proposal last Saturday. Reports said he had sought backing from former players associated with FIFA's 'Legends' programme, but Figo instead delivered a scathing public rebuke.

"I could write 10,000 words on the problems at FIFA. But the solution needs only three: Infantino must go," Figo wrote in the Daily Mail.

"The man who would try to force through such major changes just to enrich himself and his friends is a relic of the game's past and should have no part in its future," he added.

Among those believed to have attended Wednesday's meeting was FIFA secretary-general Mattias Grafstrom, whose leaked internal email described the episode as "a sad and reproachable series of events".

The crisis stems from FIFA's proposal to create a commercial subsidiary, FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), to manage competitions including the World Cup and Club World Cup. FIFA said the project could raise $4.2 billion and provide each of its 211 member associations with a one-off $20 million payment while increasing future funding.

Instead, the proposal triggered fierce opposition. UEFA threatened to boycott future World Cups before Infantino withdrew the plan, branding it "a shabby, back-room, opaque deal" and declaring that the FIFA leadership had lost its confidence.

CONCACAF also criticised Infantino's leadership and called for "a comprehensive reckoning with this presidency".




PHOTO: AC MILAN INSTAGRAM

**A minute's silence was observed before kickoff of the pre-season friendly between AC Milan and Inter Milan at San Siro yesterday in memory of club and Italy great Franco Baresi. Baresi, who spent his entire 20-year playing career with Milan, died last week at the age of 66. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.**



**Former Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah waves to jubilant Trabzonspor fans after arriving in Istanbul on Wednesday ahead of completing his move to the Turkish club. The 34-year-old Egyptian is expected to undergo a medical before signing a two-year contract, with an option for a third season. Salah left Liverpool after nine trophy-laden years, having scored 257 goals in 442 appearances to become the third-highest scorer in the club's history.** PHOTO: REUTERS

## Qualities that make Guimaraes a perfect fit for Arsenal

STAR SPORTS DESK

After weeks of speculation, Arsenal yesterday have finally completed one of the standout signings of the summer, swooping for Newcastle United captain Bruno Guimaraes in a reported £75 million deal.

It is a statement signing. Having ended their 22-year wait for the Premier League title, Mikel Arteta made it clear Arsenal could not afford to stand still. Defending a championship is often harder than winning one, and if the Gunners are to establish themselves as England's dominant force, they needed players capable of immediately improving the starting XI.

Arteta has long favoured players already proven in the Premier League and few midfielders fit that profile better than Guimaraes. At 28, the Brazilian arrives at arguably the peak of his career, bringing a rare blend of technical quality, physicality and leadership.

Among midfielders across Europe's top five leagues, he ranks in the top 10 percent for deep progressions, progressive passes and through balls, while also sitting in the 94th percentile for ground duels won per 90 minutes.

There remains a tendency to view Guimaraes primarily as a combative midfielder, but that no longer tells the full story. He has evolved into Newcastle's complete midfielder, their all-in-one man.

Last season was the most productive of his career. He finished as Newcastle's leading Premier League scorer and assist provider with nine goals and five assists.

Under Eddie Howe, Guimaraes was increasingly deployed higher up the pitch, particularly in the inside-right channel, where his vision and willingness to play forward became one of Newcastle's main creative weapons. His influence extended to the international stage as well. Although Brazil



exited the 2026 World Cup in the last 16 against Norway, Guimaraes recorded four assists in five matches, bettered only by Michael Olise's seven.

That evolution makes him an ideal fit as one of Arsenal's advanced No. 8s. While Arsenal won the title, they occasionally struggled to break down organised low blocks from open play, relying instead on moments of brilliance and their outstanding threat from set-pieces.

Guimaraes offers exactly the qualities they sometimes lacked. He combines the passing range of a deep-lying playmaker with the imagination of a No. 10 and the energy of a box-to-box midfielder. Rather than simply recycling possession, he constantly looks to play forward, break defensive lines and accelerate attacks.

Despite missing six matches with a hamstring injury late last season, he still ranked among the Premier League's top five players for defensive line-breaking passes (46) and through balls (21). He also completed 998 passes under high-intensity pressure, more than any Newcastle player.

His work without the ball is equally impressive. Across each of his four full seasons at Newcastle, he finished either first or second for total duels won. Last season, his 6.1 successful duels per 90 minutes exceeded every Arsenal central midfielder, while his 1.6 tackles per 90 also ranked highest. Only Declan Rice narrowly bettered him for recoveries (5.2 to 5.0).

The Gunners played 63 matches in all competitions last season and injuries repeatedly stretched Arteta's squad. Since joining Newcastle in January 2022, Guimaraes has missed just 16 league games. His absence also exposed just how important he was to Howe's side. Newcastle won only two of the 16 league matches he missed. With Guimaraes, they won 52.3 percent of 153 matches and averaged 1.8 points per game. Without him, those numbers dropped to a 12.5 percent win rate and just 0.7 points per match, with the Magpies scoring fewer goals and conceding more.







# 'Another revolution is approaching'

## Says Jamaat ameer at 11-party rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday warned that "another inevitable revolution" was on the horizon and urged his supporters to prepare for it.

He made the remarks at a rally organised by the 11-party alliance at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram in Dhaka, marking the second anniversary of the July uprising.

Addressing the rally as chief guest, Shafiqur said, "Everything suggests that another inevitable revolution is approaching. I call upon all of you to prepare for that revolution."

He said that, just as people from all walks of life, from children to the elderly, had taken to the streets during the July movement in 2024, the nation would remain united in any future movement.

The Jamaat chief also accused the government of "betraying" the people

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This photograph shows fire and smoke rising from a warehouse destroyed during massive Russian ballistic missile and drone strikes on the outskirts of Kyiv early yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

### 'INACCURATE DOCUMENTARY'

# NCP leaders walk out of state event on July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party leaders walked out of a state-organised programme yesterday, alleging that a documentary screened at the event deliberately distorted the history of the July uprising.

They said the documentary failed to accurately present the chronology of the movement, omitted the August 3, 2024, rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, where then student leader Nahid Islam announced the one-point -- resignation of Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet.

The walkout took place during a reception and discussion for families of July martyrs and injured protesters at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital. Amid the chaos, several diplomats were also seen leaving the venue.

Acting president Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, who was at the event, said he was "deeply saddened, ashamed, and hurt" by the incident, while Liberation War Affairs Minister Ahmed Azam Khan said inconsistencies in the documentary would be corrected.

During the programme, as the documentary was being screened, NCP leaders and some injured protesters chanted "Bhua, Bhua" (fake, fake), disrupting the programme.

Video clips of the incident later circulated on social media, showing attendees protesting parts related to the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

# *Inside the museum of resistance*



PHOTO: STAR

STAR REPORT

A jersey soaked in blood. A watch frozen in time. A son's final letter to his mother.

Inside the newly opened July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum, these are not simply artefacts displayed behind glass. They are fragments of lives cut short -- each carrying a story of courage, grief and the dream of freeing the country from authoritarian rule.

As the museum opened yesterday at Gono Bhaban, once the official residence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, family members of martyrs and other visitors wandered through galleries where history seemed suspended between tragedy and triumph.

Inaugurating the museum exactly two years after the July uprising, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman unveiled its plaque, saying the

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# July charter will be fully implemented

## Says Salahuddin, urges opposition to join JS panel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday urged opposition parties to submit their nominees for the special parliamentary committee on constitutional amendments, assuring them that the July National Charter would be fully implemented.

"Come, let us sit together. You have been invited to the constitutional amendment committee, but you have not yet submitted names. We held the first meeting yesterday," he said.

He was speaking at a reception and discussion honouring the families of July uprising martyrs and injured protesters at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital.

Referring to Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar's call to implement the referendum verdict, Salahuddin said, "We

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

### WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

# A mother's gift, lifeline for another baby

## Digital app MilkShare connects donor mothers with babies in need across Bangladesh

NILIMA JAHAN

Just 18 days after he was born, Nahid Islam lost his mother.

A day after Eid-ul-Azha this year, Mst Nasima Islam woke up with severe chest pain. Her family rushed her from Munshiganj to a hospital in the capital, but by the time she arrived, doctors said there was nothing they could do.

Left with an 18-day-old baby, the family initially relied on infant formula. Doctors, however, urged them to find breast milk, saying it was especially important during the baby's first weeks.

They searched Facebook groups and reached out to personal contacts, relying on one donor after another. Some helped for weeks, others for days. Some lived too far away, while others withdrew after family members objected.

"We were constantly worried about who would donate next," said Samia Akter, the child's maternal cousin, whose family has been caring for him since Nasima's death.

They eventually found MilkShare, a new digital application connecting mothers with surplus breast milk to families in need. Now aged two months and 19 days, Nahid receives donated breast milk during the day and formula at night.

Nahid's situation is far from unique.

Milkshare
Safe Human Milk Sharing for Every Baby

Premature babies, newborns in intensive care units (NICUs), and infants whose mothers die or struggle to breastfeed often need donor milk. Yet Bangladesh has no fully operational human milk bank, leaving families largely dependent on relatives, neighbours and appeals on social media.

"When a baby is born prematurely, admitted to the NICU, or develops complications such as jaundice, doctors often want to feed the baby breast milk," said Dr Raunak Jahan, assistant professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital and a high-risk pregnancy specialist.

"But if the mother cannot produce enough milk, we often face a difficult situation because a formal milk banking system is not widely available in Bangladesh."

Meanwhile, many mothers produce more milk than their own babies can consume, including 26-year-old Sharmily Khan Eti.

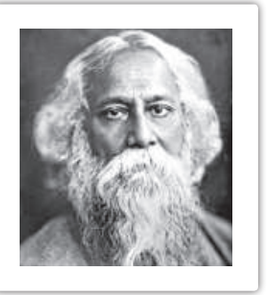
After giving birth to her second child, she continued expressing breast milk to maintain her milk supply. Soon, her freezer was filled with labelled bags that her bottle-refusing baby was unlikely to drink.

"I thought there are babies in ICUs, babies whose mothers have died, and babies whose mothers cannot produce enough milk," she said. "If I can give the milk to someone who needs it, why let it go to waste?"

With her family's support, Eti donated 21 bags of milk to Nahid before expressing another 15. As regular collection became

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

# Tagore's 85th death anniv today



STAR REPORT

Today is the 85th death anniversary of Biswakabi Rabindranath Tagore.

According to the Gregorian calendar, Rabindranath died at the age of 80 on August 7 in 1941. But his death anniversary is observed in Bangladesh on Sraban 22 of the Bangla calendar.

The youngest of 13 surviving children of Debendranath Tagore and Sarada Devi, Rabindranath was born on the 25th of the Bangla month of Baishakh 1268 (May 7, 1861) at the Jorasanko mansion in Calcutta.

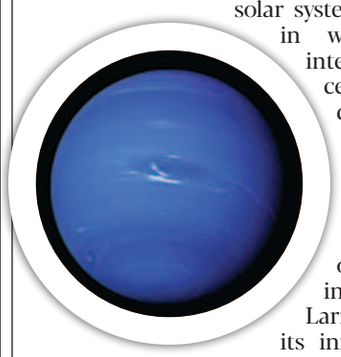
The "Bard of Bengal" composed over 2,000 songs, which created a separate genre known as "Rabindra Sangeet".

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

# Signs of ancient disaster for Neptune's moons found

REUTERS, *Washington*

New observations of some of Neptune's moons and rings are providing evidence of a catastrophe that occurred billions of years ago around the solar system's outermost planet in which a Pluto-sized interloper caused a celestial demolition derby.



Researchers used Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope to examine the composition of three of Neptune's small inner moons — Proteus, Larissa and Galatea — and its inner dusty rings, and detected clay minerals that one might expect to find deep inside certain worlds in the outer reaches of the solar system.

These magnesium-rich minerals are known to exist on the dwarf planet Ceres, which orbits in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, and in some meteorites.

"These minerals require prolonged contact between liquid water and rock to form," said planetary scientist Ryleigh Davis, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, San Diego, and lead author of the study published in the journal Science Advances.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Pedestrians make their way past an excavated section of the Sadarghat-Gabtoli-Beribandh Road beside Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital in Dhaka. The road has remained closed for more than three weeks after a Dhaka South City Corporation worker was killed and several others were injured during drainage improvement work. The closure of the busy street has caused widespread inconvenience.

# Taiwan begins drills as China pressure grows

AFP, *Taipei*

Taiwan's largest military drills of the year began yesterday as the island democracy attempts to prepare its population for a potential Chinese invasion.

The annual "Han Kuang" exercise, which runs from August 5-14, stages combat scenarios for troops and reservists to practise responding to an attack on the island, defence officials say.

Civilians will also be put through their paces during exercises that include a temporary slowdown of mobile internet speeds as well as air raid drills.

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to seize the island of 23 million people.

Beijing has ramped up military pressure on Taiwan in recent years, deploying fighter jets and warships around the island on an almost daily basis and carrying out large-scale drills.