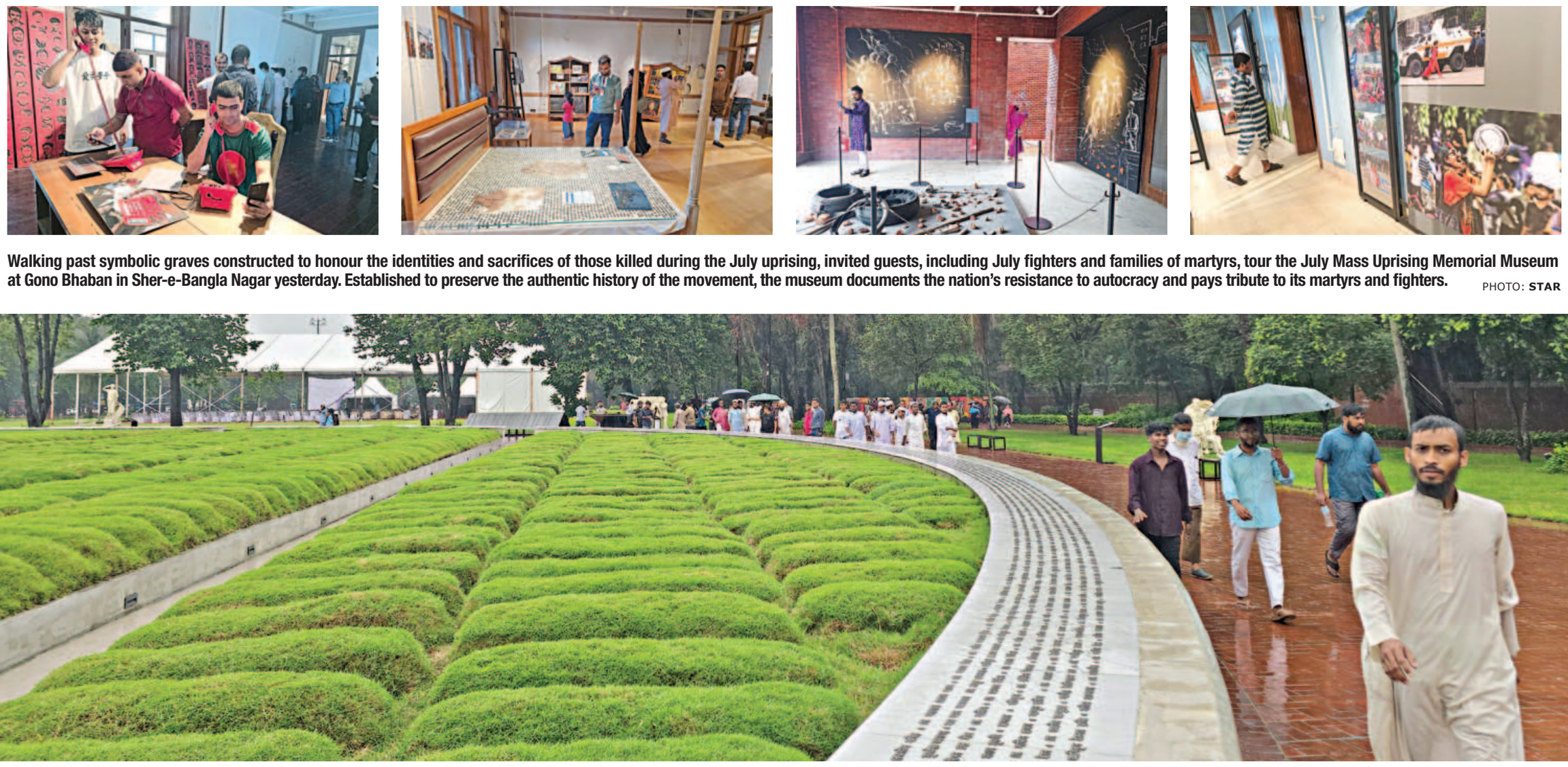
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Walking past symbolic graves constructed to honour the identities and sacrifices of those killed during the July uprising, invited guests, including July fighters and families of martyrs, tour the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum at Gono Bhaban in 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".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

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

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