











PHOTO: PMO, MEHEDI HASAN

National Revolution and Solidarity Day was observed across the country yesterday through various programmes, including discussions, rallies, cultural events, award distribution ceremonies and special prayers. *Clockwise from top left*, Prime Minister and BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman releases baloons at the Army Stadium in the capital's Banani area, marking the historic day. The premier pays floral tributes at the graves of his parents -- party founder Ziaur Rahman and former chairperson Khaleda Zia. A special display marking the day at the Army Stadium. Rock legend James performs at a concert on Manik Mia Avenue. A gathering of village police at the National Parade Ground.

National Revolution and Solidarity Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Revolution and Solidarity Day-2026 was observed across the country with various programmes, including discussions, rallies, cultural events, award distribution ceremonies, and special prayers highlighting the historic significance of November 7, 1975.

Marking the day, district administrations, political parties, and socio-cultural organisations organised events across the country.

Those who had attempted to undermine the country in the past would not succeed in suppressing pro-democracy people this time either. The people would resist such conspiracies just as they had done before.

PRIME MINISTER TARIQUE RAHMAN

The ruling BNP brought out a procession in front of its central office in Nayapaltan yesterday. Prime Minister and party Chairman Tarique Rahman joined it on foot alongside party leaders and activists.

Before the rally began, he called for unity to protect the country's independence, sovereignty, and democracy, warning that conspiracies are once again underway to destabilise Bangladesh and bring back the system of "dummy" elections.

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Successive regimes used the constitution to retain power

Say speakers at Star Itihas Adda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While Bangladesh's constitution was progressive in recognising people's rights, its highly centralised power structure created opportunities for authoritarian rule, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They said successive governments had used constitutional provisions and amendments to consolidate power rather than strengthen democratic accountability.

The speakers called for reforms reflecting people's aspirations without departing from the ideals of the Liberation War.

They were speaking at the 36th edition of The Daily Star's Itihas Adda, titled "Constitutional History of Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

Firoz Ahmed, a former member of the Constitution Reform Commission, said the 1972 constitution was far ahead of its time in recognising rights, having emerged from the struggle against Pakistan's authoritarian state structure. Yet its provisions and drafting process had left power heavily concentrated.



Discussants at the 36th edition of The Daily Star's Itihas Adda, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

"In terms of its power structure and functioning, the same constitution is highly authoritarian," he said.

Firoz said members of the constituent assembly faced restrictions on proposing changes independently or voting against their parties. The assembly also did not function as a parliament, depriving elected representatives of an opportunity to hold the government accountable.

Questioning why a fresh election was not held after independence to form the constituent assembly, he noted that the Liberation War had transformed people's aspirations, while some political groups had stayed out of the 1970 polls.

A new election could have allowed broader political participation in constitution-making, he said.

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IN BRIEF

Dip sent to jail in Tahsif murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Ahmed Shahriar Reza Dip to jail after 10 days' remand in a murder case filed over the death of former Bangladesh Air Force officer KM Tahsif Souri.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Monirul Islam passed the order after police sought his detention in jail, said a court employee.

According to the police, Dip provided several important pieces of information regarding the incident during remand, which are being kept confidential and being verified in the interest of the investigation.



KM TAHSIF SOURI

On October 31, Tahsif's father, KM Eneyetul Karim, filed the case against unknown persons with Uttarkhan Police Station, alleging that his son had been murdered and his body was dumped in the river.

Later in the day, Dip was arrested and placed on a four-day remand in the case. He was placed on another two rounds of three-day remand on November 3 and 5, respectively.

Another arrestee in the case, Tahsif's female friend, is now in jail custody after being placed on two rounds of remand on November 1 and 4.

See business potential, not disability: speakers

Banks urged to ease access to loans for entrepreneurs with disabilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People with disabilities should be recognised as entrepreneurs rather than recipients of charity and given access to loans and institutional support to become economically self-reliant, speakers said at a workshop yesterday.

They called for easier access to financing, simplified banking procedures and changes in social attitudes to ensure their economic inclusion.

The workshop, titled "Workshop on Economic Empowerment of People with Disabilities", was organised by Rotary Club of Dhaka North at BRAC Centre Inn in Mohakhali.

Moderating the event, Professor Afsan Chowdhury of BRAC University said many people with disabilities were turning to entrepreneurship after facing barriers and harassment in the job market.

However, a lack of bank loans and institutional support often prevented them from expanding their businesses.

He said banks should assess their business potential on commercial merit rather than treat lending to them as charity or corporate social responsibility.

He also called for clear guidelines on loan applications, required documents and banking policies, while urging the media to help change negative social attitudes.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North President Habibullah N Karim said people with disabilities needed financial assistance, technical expertise, advisory services and institutional support to participate in the mainstream economy.

- Business potential should outweigh disability
- Call for simpler banking procedures
- Institutional and technical support essential
- Negative social attitudes remain a barrier

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

An artist repaints a defaced graffiti of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore on the boundary wall of Khulna Railway Station yesterday, a day after it was smeared with black ink and anti-Tagore posters were put up. The mural, part of a series commissioned by Khulna City Corporation ahead of the prime minister's visit to the city on Thursday, depicts eminent personalities and the region's cultural heritage along the Shibbari-railway station road. Police have reportedly begun efforts to identify those involved in the incident.