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A New Saga ...



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Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus addresses the nation on the occasion of July Mass Upsurge Day at the state guest house Jamuna on August 5, 2025



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Resignation of the then PM

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Editorial

People of Bangladesh have spent long one year with new dawn and hope after the fall of the autocratic government. Many things have been changed in the meantime with an aim to bring many new changes in the coming days. Everything comes to normalcy with the span of time as well.

The near history of Bangladesh's emergence says, whenever any oppressive, tyrant or autocratic ruler assumed power, our valiant youth forces played heroic role to suppress the anomaly. Even the history of Moses (As), Firaun and Karbala says the same, we can relate. Time may elapse our memory of July upsurge, but the spirit, the united struggle, the sacrifice, the goodwill, the struggle for truth and justice, the patriotism will remain ever after. July upsurge is a reminder in the path of history ultimately only the good prevails. It is a message to the tyrants of all time. It is also a message of relief to the people who always struggle for truth and justice.

The graffiti, drawn on the street walls during July movement will fade over time but only the historical feedback would give its permanence.

Beside the articles on the above-mentioned aspects, the article 'Cinema and the mind: A Journey within' has been incorporated in this issue which gives a glimpse to walk in another alley inside our mind.

Along with other articles, news on major national events is our regular item to focus on the significant news facts.

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Political Legacy of July-Upsurge

Faruk Wasif

The earth takes one year to revolve around the sun. We also have crossed a whole year since the 36th July of 2024. But have we been able to tread this path by keeping the July fighters and martyrs at the centre? Even in September last year, many corpses of those martyrs were lying unclaimed. This number was over 120. The inevitable question therefore comes to one's mind: Would the July Upsurge of the masses itself turn out to be unclaimed at a juncture of time?

Two things can be hazardous for the inheritors of July. These are: capturing its ownership, or making it heirless. This catastrophic damage was done with regard to the history and spirit of the liberation war. The Awami League had immediately seized the ownership of the liberation war in 1972. However, seizing the ownership of history is one of the fundamental traits of fascism. The result was lethal. The ordinary freedom fighters belonging to ordinary households then



During the movement, one of the key leaders of the student movement against discrimination Nahid Islam was expressing his views towards the protesters



The women participations in the July movement was spontaneous

moved away after losing all hope. An opportunity was thereby created for a class of liberation-war merchants for grabbing the achievements unduly. It is therefore urgent for the Bangladesh that was reborn last July to remain alert about it.

We have seen in 1971 how the Bangladesh Revolution was renamed as liberation war. It then became independence war, and lastly the independence struggle. An incident of victory does not automatically become a revolution. It is termed a revolution only when the fight continues even after the triumph is visible, the goals of the struggle are achieved one after another, and fundamental changes are brought about in the condition of the country and its people through sustained endeavours and efforts. The July phenomenon is now passing through many ups and downs; it is keeping itself alive by tackling multifarious enemies at different bends. Sometimes, surviving by holding one's head high is victory. History would laugh if this survival is called a success.

Games are also being played centring on the narratives about July. I am apprehensive that the game itself may turn into dust if it is overplayed. Many people like me were embarrassed after watching a documentary via an international media outlet on the July killings. We certainly felt reassured by witnessing evidence of the liability of fugitive murderer Sheikh Hasina in the genocide. Side by side, we were embarrassed when a student-leader belonging to a July group of students and masses was presented as the spokesperson of the July Uprising. The contribution of that student-leader and his organization was not at all small; rather, they contributed to many aspects of resistance. However, those who were visible before the nation at that time as the backbone of the uprising – in launching the movement and making it popular – why were they omitted?

The Awami League and their foreign mentors have repeatedly tried to say that the July Mass-Uprising was a rightist conspiracy. But question can be raised: Who

were absent from that upsurge? In fact, the rightists, the leftists and the centrists – all were present in it. The majority were those who did not care about this doctrine-based labelling. The main student-leaders of the July movement did not belong to any political structure; they also did not give any doctrinaire shape to their views. So, can they be called rightists? Or, is it okay if the main political party of the country is labelled as rightist? It should be remembered that just as among the student-leaders, those who led that party and faced repression during fascist rule were formerly leftists. The madrasa students were also present in that movement in huge numbers, similar to the boys and girls of the private universities. The sky has many colours. But considering only one colour or trend by omitting other colours implies a biased approach. Similarly, viewing a fragment as the whole also displays a serious problem in outlook, which is jokingly termed as elephant-blind.

July was not linked to any doctrine. Rather, attempts to hoist the flag of doctrine-based approach or conflict were made in subsequent days. And those were not a part of the mainstream narratives of July. July would not carry the legacy of those fallacious assaults.

Badrudin Umar speaks the truth most of the time. His insights regarding the July Uprising are also exceptional. He describes the July Mass-Upsurge in Bangladesh as more widespread than all other historic movements and uprisings in this subcontinent. He said, its strength and expanse surpassed even the mass-upsurge of 1969 against the military rule of Ayub Khan during the Pakistani era. This success belongs to the masses, but the student-leadership must be saluted for acting as the guide of the common people.

This nation and land also deserve a felicitation. About 95 percent of this country's



This pictures actually shows the response of the government towards the student protesters



People from all walks of life joined the movement to protest against the unjust killing of the protesters

population speak the same language. The religious faith of 90 percent citizens of this country is the same. Even those who are not Muslims despite being Bangalis share almost similar basic philosophy of life, family values, food-habit, and economic processes. That is why the people of flat terrains and coastal belts of Bangladesh embrace death together and fight collectively. For us, this is a huge cultural capital. Its humane expression as observed during the July Uprising amazed the bearers of fascism and its allies to their own peril. That is why, they are unable to understand the new Bangladesh. For this reason, they will commit further mistakes and remain vulnerable to more attrition.

The martyrs of the language movement can be counted with two fingers. The number of deaths during the last three months of the urban-centred mass-upsurge of 1990 did not cross the figure of 50. No notable martyrdoms had taken place then with the exception of Dr. Milon and Jehad during the previous week prior to Ershad's fall. But the number of deaths during the last 14 days of July and the first 5 days of August 2024 crossed 15 hundred; and the number of wounded was over 20 thousand. It showed the degree of valour and self-sacrificing attitude that our children displayed while combating a monster! During all previous movements of political parties, the agitators at least took up some improvised rifles and cocktails for confronting the police. But this time, unarmed protesters like Abu Sayed, gentle souls like Mugdho, innocents like Ria Gope, sentimental boys like Wasim, marginalised ones like Torua, and beloved children like Farhan had to embrace martyrdom. This kind of epic-like supreme sacrifices by rickshaw-peddlers and workers alike are not witnessed except during war situations. One picture showed three teenagers advancing cautiously in an alleyway. The police and gun-wielding activists of Chhatra League were at the alley's end. But those freedom fighters did not turn back. They did not surrender their lane or campus to those monsters. They perished, but did not give up even an inch of their soil.



The clashes between the then government and the student protesters drew attention not only in the country but also in the international arena

We shall have to keep on telling these stories after wiping our tears. The 180 million people of Bangladesh have 180 stories regarding this monsoon revolution. The authorities must listen to all these stories. The martyrs must not be allowed to be forgotten. A revolutionary decision has been taken for converting the Ganobhaban into a museum of monsoon revolution. But this museum should not exhibit mere memories, or showcase only pictures and bullet-cartridges. It should depict a history that was alive; it should become an investigative researcher of the genocide that was committed; it should play the part of an ever-vigilant sentinel of the martyrs, and the guardsman of history.



A student protester of July movement was trying to evade arrest, his university teacher was also trying to save him



The supreme sacrifice of Abu Sayeed, Mugdho reminds us of about the duty towards our motherland

We knew that the government, the students and masses, and the struggling political parties would be made to remain busy in many ways. Ditches of distrust would be dug around all the parties and groups. Many smokescreens would be created for diverting attention from the main issue – the restructuring of the state and the uprooting of fascism. So be it. But whenever the fear of losing our way emerges, whenever our feet get entangled in the trap of divisiveness, whenever our progress becomes stuck in the quicksand of greed, we should remember the boy who lost his feet, that brother who lost his eye, or those martyrs who now sleep in graves



The July upsurge upholds the united efforts against torture, unjust killing and after all autocracy



Conflict developed between the liberal segments and the allies of fascism

like the paddy-seeds of revolution. There is no room for making any mistake, and there is absolutely no scope for forgetting!

The present youth populace of Bangladesh outnumbers the nation's 1971 population. A majority of these youths belong to the rising middle-class households. These highly educated first-generation youths carry our hope. The conflict is now between the rising middle-class and the established middle-class who were allies of fascism and autocracy. This conflict is between a pro-Bangladesh collective identify encompassing the liberal and non-communal segments versus the looters-mafias-murderers who espouse subcontinental fascism. This conflict is between the old and the new. Bangladesh has become more mature now compared to last July after emerging from the labour of a second birth. The struggle of Bangladesh is for justice and honour, freedom of life and speech. The meaning of sovereignty



This time the inherited struggle of Bangladesh is for justice and honour, freedom of speech and freedom of life



The strong unity of the people materialized the fall of the then autocratic Prime Minister

cannot be comprehended without the existence of a democratic and just society.

Therefore, there cannot be any compromise or reconciliation between the state-ambition of July and that of fascism. We should not become oblivious of our surroundings while keeping our attention fixed on the red eyes of the bull. We should not turn our friends into enemies. At the same time, the friction that is being generated due to political imbalances should be resolved properly. Usually, the victors in any mass movement or uprising rule the country. However, it is quite true that the July leadership was not the main political powerhouse then, nor is it even now. But if the major parties do not carry forward the true legacy of July, then serious problems would crop up in our political trajectory. July would then face the risk of becoming another revolution that was snatched away.

Bangladesh has caused a geo-political earthquake in South Asia. Unrealistic efforts may now be made to trigger a counter-tsunami. But the currents of blood do not flow backward. The path of democracy is what remains before Bangladesh. Bangladesh will advance on that path even if there are traps. But we must not downplay our national interest anymore while catering to partisan interests. We should not sell our homes and doors to quench the greed for a window of power. July must not be made an unclaimed phenomenon. That would be a betrayal with the supreme sacrifices made by thousands of martyrs. History has never pardoned any traitor at any juncture of time.

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July Uprising 2024: A Saga of a New Bangladesh

Md. Azgar Ali

Introduction

History gives meaning to the present. Through the knowledge of the past, we gain understanding of what is happening today. History has more than a utilitarian purpose; it is the record of the progress of man's endeavors and work, his ideas, visions, failures, and achievement. Therefore, in context, it is a set of behavior related to the elements of success and failure, influenced by historical events, which is more commonly seen in human society and the state. In this regard, historical causation of mass revolutions offer diverse perspectives on their causes, dynamics, and outcomes, suggesting that there is no single, universally applicable 'opinion' on the subject. The historical narratives of July/2024 Students—



The one point demand- fall of autocratic government introduces the saga of a new Bangladesh



Reform of illogical quota system was the initial demand of July upsurge

People's revolution in Bangladesh were able to create a sensational stir among the people of the society, directly and indirectly. They surrounded the ruling clique like an octopus in such a way that some themes and insights emerged from the repetition of history. The theory of causation in history has emerged as an inevitable truth in this Revolution. As Plato said "Everything that becomes or changes must do so owing to some cause, for nothing can come to be without a cause". There can be no event much there than a historical event which can happen without a cause and each cause in turn will have some effects as well. Several popular revolutions are well known throughout the social, economic, and political history of the people, living on our planet Earth, each with its own unique characteristics and lasting impact.

H i s t o r i c a l revolutions of different countries

Stories of revolutions become the stuff of poetry, stories, novels, and plays, and over the centuries they inspire other revolutions to happen somewhere someday. The American Revolution,



The movement started with a simple demand- no quota illogically

French Revolution, Chinese Communist Revolution, the People Power Revolution in the Philippines, and so on are such inspirations till date will remain so.

Facts, causes, and effects

The mass uprising of the students and the public in Bangladesh in July 2024 is considered as a milestone in the pages of history, just like revolutions in other countries took place around the world in the past. In this mass uprising, the inevitable



The student protesters observed various unique programs to protest

truth has spread as a step-by-step reaction to the emerging events. The Bangladesh Supreme Court has quashed the government's 2018 circular regarding quotas in the government job sector. In early June 2024, it began as a quota reform movement, led by Students against Discrimination, but suddenly it turned into a national mass uprising. It is unique as this movement was not born with the support of any political party, ideology, or any internationally supported force. Rather, the driving force behind this was none other than the students of this country, students from schools to higher education institutions, the youth, the unemployed, the general public, and even the hard-working daily wage earners. The power of this invisible movement, inspired by the call of a group of young people, studying in a university without a strong voice and leader, had such an impact that the country's long-term dictator of sixteen years had to leave. And from a historical perspective, this July 2024 mass uprising seems to reflect the prevailing 'causation' theory of history. It involves understanding the complex interplay between various factors, including social, economic, political, and cultural elements, which contribute to the unfolding of historical events. Still and all, it is noted that the proper political status of the



During the movement the aggrieved people were seen in a procession for the demand of justice, end of harassment and unjust law suit

chapters of the historical struggle of the people of Bangladesh, namely 1947, 1952, 1971, 1990 and 2024, is a prerequisite for doing politics in Bangladesh. In this case, the 'July Revolution' of 2024 was completely a different kind of projection from other political events. This can be called a historical event by the basic criteria of revolutions that took place on an international plane.



As an attempt to stop the upsurge the key co-ordinators of the movement were forced to declare the relinquishment of the movement

The French Revolution began on July 14, 1789, with the storming of the Bastille and brought significant changes to the daily life of France. Where the general public's dissatisfaction with the absolute monarchy of King Louis XVI, as well as economic inequality and social injustice, arose and where the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen established freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Likewise, Bangladesh's 'July Revolution' of 2024 was a historic protest, where ordinary people, the working class, the young generation, and the middle class, regardless of gender, stood united against pervasive inequality. Fifty-three years after the independence of Bangladesh, an unprecedented revolution, led by the young student community, erupted across the country. This unprecedented event, started as a peaceful student protest against quota discrimination in government jobs eventually turned into a nationwide movement to oust Bangladesh's authoritarian Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This revolution has been described as the world's first 'Generation Z Revolution,' said analysts. This revolution was not limited to a political demand; rather, it was a rise in national consciousness against a socio-economic catastrophe. Moreover, this revolutionary movement included demands for fair distribution of the country's wealth, equal opportunities in education, independence of the judiciary, policies and for an end to totalitarian corruption in every machinery of the state. The nation witnessed at that time how quota and regional discrimination in government jobs, segregation in education,



A street during July 2024 movement days



July upsurge highlighted the students bravery against injustice

and the dominance of the rich in healthcare were dehumanizing the state on a daily basis. Besides, this revolution sent a message—not just a change in government, but also a change in the character of the state. It has been said that the work that our political leadership could not do even in the last 54 years, was established through the mass uprising of the students and the public in July 2024. Undoubtedly, the present youth of Bangladesh are very far-sighted, smart, aware and capable of providing leadership. They want a politics of unity and equality. This revolution of July 2024 was carried out with the dream of building a new Bangladesh, where there will be no state-sponsored corruption, murder, terrorism, disappearances,



A student was being questioned by the Law Enforcement Agency during the movement



The ultimate victory against the autocratic Prime Minister has been achieved by the people on 5 August 2024

harassment, persecution, discrimination and political vendetta; where there will be no politics of division and disunity. There will only be development, economic progress and social change in the country. There will be no political practices that hinder the progress and development of our national life. Poison of political division created a reality in the country where dissent, constructive criticism, or even the existence of alternative political consciousness was routinely denied. The former government's party Awami League started tagging politics by naming them 'pro-independence' and 'opposite'. Due to the divisive strategy of the Awami League, democracy has been curtailed and stifled. Moreover, freedom of the press and media, has been widely questioned. It goes without saying that the government and the state apparatus have always acted in a biased manner in protecting human rights. The July Revolution was a great awakening of the nation's conscience. July Revolution has shown us that there is a desire for change, and for that, reforms and a new social contract are inevitable.

The way forward and learning from the past

People of our country desire political leadership with moral values and self-identity, and sound democratic practices. If the people and political parties of the country fail to learn from the course of history, the bad and sinister trends of political history will continue to repeat themselves. The spirit of the July Revolution has to be remembered all through for the best of the country and its people.

Conclusion

There is no end in politics like as the situation on July 5, 2024 was unrealistic a few days ago that has become the reality today. Only time can shape the future that history reminds us again and again.

Md. Azgar Ali is a Poet, Researcher and Columnist



A Glimpse from the UN Report on July-August 2024 Mass Upsurge in Bangladesh

Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

rights violations and abuses alleged to have taken place during the mass movement. A team of human rights investigators, a forensics physician and a weapons expert were deployed for a few months in Bangladesh for the purpose from September 2024.

While releasing the report, the UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk said: “The brutal response was a calculated and well-coordinated strategy by the former Government to hold on to power in the face of mass opposition. There are reasonable grounds to believe, hundreds of extrajudicial killings, extensive arbitrary arrests and detentions, and torture, were carried out with the knowledge, coordination, and direction of the political leadership and senior security officials as part of a strategy to suppress the protests.” The protests unified millions of Bangladeshi from diverse backgrounds, who demanded concrete socio-economic cum political reforms for ridding the country of entrenched disparities and discriminations in society. When the Hasina regime started to lose control over the situation, it used its security cum intelligence apparatuses as well as political cadres linked to the regime for brutally suppressing the protests through violent and cruel means in

The United Nations Human Rights Office or the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has released a fact-finding report in February this year (12 February 2025), which found the intelligence agencies and security forces of the deposed Hasina regime in Bangladesh killing as many as 1,400 innocent civilians (of whom 12 to 13 percent were children), and arbitrarily arresting or detaining over 11,700 protesters during the student-led mass movement that took place from 1 July to 5 August, resulting in Sheikh Hasina fleeing from the country. Titled ‘Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh’, the report was compiled by a team of UN experts following a request made by the interim government of Bangladesh, asking the UN Human Rights Office to impartially investigate human



United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland

order to hold on to power.

The UN Human Rights Office found that the female protesters, who were at the forefront during the mass movement, were subjected to arbitrary arrests, torture, ill-treatment, attacks, and even sexual cum gender-based violence by the security forces; and in some cases, sexual assaults were perpetrated by pro-regime terrorists belonging to the Awami League. The investigation found patterns of deliberate and impermissible killings or maiming of protesters by the security forces, including incidents where protesters were shot at point-blank range. In one such incident, the 23-year-old student activist of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur Abu Sayed was shot and killed by shotgun pellets while leading protests on 16 July 2024, despite posing no threat as seen live on television screens.

The UN investigation found that the police and other security forces killed and maimed even child protesters with indiscriminate firing from rifles and shot-guns loaded with lethal ammunition, and subjected them to arrests, detention and torture under inhumane conditions. The security personnel even obstructed lifesaving medical care in hospitals and clinics, often arresting wounded protesters and intimidating the medical staff at those places to refrain from performing their duty. The UN report lamented that “Neither prosecutorial authorities, nor the judiciary took any meaningful action to curb acts and practices of arbitrary detention and torture, or to ensure that any officials perpetrating such acts were held accountable.”

According to the report, the intelligence services – the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI), and the National

Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) – and the specialised branches of the Police – Detective Branch (DB), Special Branch (SB), the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit, and the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) were directly engaged in perpetrating human rights violations for suppressing the protests. They used intelligences including those gathered through surveillance in violation of the right to privacy for carrying out the campaign of mass arbitrary arrests in late July. The DB routinely resorted to arbitrary arrests, detention and torture to extract information from detainees. The DB and DGFI colluded in the abductions and arbitrary detentions of student leaders.

The intelligence outfits were also part of a systematic and organized effort to conceal serious violations of human rights. The NTMC worked in close concert with Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to implement ministerial orders by enforcing strategically timed and targeted internet shutdowns to prevent protesters and the masses from using internet communication for informing and organizing events, and to obstruct access to and dissemination of information about the ongoing violations of human rights. The DGFI, NSI, and RAB exerted pressure on the print and electronic media outlets to change their report about the mass protests and their violent suppression by the Hasina regime. Besides, the DGFI joined hands with the Police for intimidating the victims and suspects, their family-members and lawyers in order to force them into silence, the report mention.

Based on reported deaths compiled by both public and private sources, and by combining those with other available evidences, the UN Human Rights Office estimated that at least 1,400 people were killed during the mass protests, the vast majority of whom were killed by military rifles and shotguns loaded with lethal metal pellets commonly used by the security forces of Bangladesh. Thousands more suffered severe, often life-altering injuries. There were at least 13,529 injuries, and one hospital in Dhaka alone treated 736 patients with eye injuries. Based on information provided, over three-quarters (78%) of deaths were caused by firearms, including military rifles and shotguns loaded with lethal metal pellets. The violences were often incited by armed Awami League activists followed through by indiscriminate applications of force by the Police, RAB, and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel. Even helicopters were used to intimidate and terrorise protesters. More than 11,700 people were arrested and detained, according to information provided by the Police and RAB.

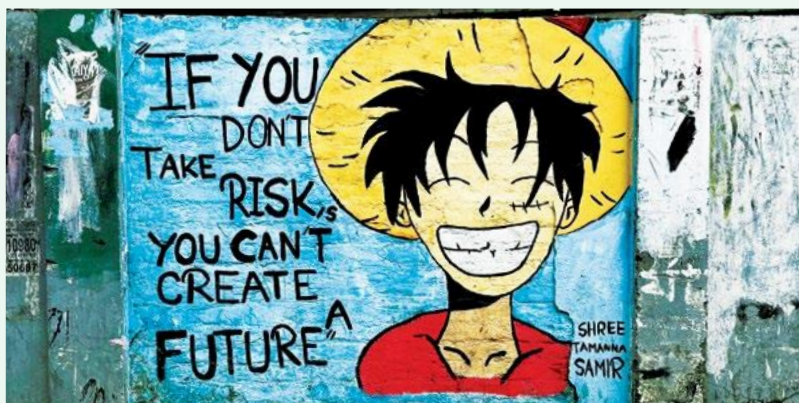
The UN report identified the underlying causes of human rights violations by the security forces of Bangladesh as follows: use of military rifles and metal pellet-loaded shotguns in public order management; outdated laws enabling the use of disproportionate force; militarisation of Law Enforcement Agencies; politicisation of the security sector; institutionalised impunity and a politically compliant justice

system; stifling of civic space and repressive legal framework; and structural discrimination in law and practice.

The UN report also put forward a number of recommendations with the objective of reforming the security and justice sectors of Bangladesh, abolishing some repressive laws and institutions that stifled civic and political dissent, and bringing about changes to the existing political system cum governance. Specific recommendations included: prohibit the use of shotgun pellets or other lethal ammunitions to disperse crowds and immediately cease equipping the police with metal pellet ammunition for public order management; reform public order management by emphasizing less lethal tactics and de-escalatory approach; replace the Police Act 1861 and the Police Regulations with human rights-compliant laws and regulations; establish National Police Commission for fair, transparent, and merit-based police recruitment, promotion, transfer and removal; establish an independent commission for investigating violations of laws, rules and regulations by the police; set up similar independent accountability cum justice mechanism for the Armed Forces and the BGB.

While commenting on the report, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk claimed: “The testimonies and evidence we gathered paint a disturbing picture of rampant State violence and targeted killings, that are amongst the most serious violations of human rights, and which may also constitute international crimes. Accountability and justice are essential for national healing and for the future of Bangladesh”. He further added that, ‘the best way forward for Bangladesh was to face the horrific wrongs committed during this period through a comprehensive process of truth-telling, healing, and accountability, and to redress the legacy of serious human rights violations, and ensuring they can never happen again’.

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Muharram and Ashura

Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman Khan

According to the lunar calendar, Muharram is the first month having its great religious and spiritual significance and importance for the Muslims all over the world. Many tragic incidents and events took place this month. Muslims of the Shia communities observe the first ten days of the sacred month as a period of mourning for the death of Imam Hussain (R), the grandson of Hazarat Muhammad (SM). This 10th day of the month of Muharram is called Ashura. And this month is especially notable and memorable for the Day of Ashura. This day is also marked as a day of mourning and grieving for the Muslims especially for the Shia Sect. The Shias express their deep and intense condolences on the Day of Ashura.

Background of Ashura

Imam Hussain (R), his family members and a small group of loyal followers refused to pay allegiance to Yazid- 1, believing that his rules and custom were unjust and against the principles of Islam. That refusal of allegiance and loyalty enraged Yazid. As a result, a fierce and bloody religious battle, took place between Yazid's forces and those of Imam Hussain (R) at Karbala in Iraq in 680 A.D. In the battle of Karbala, Yazid had a greater number of forces while Imam Hussain (R) had a small number of forces, no match at all in terms of strength of the forces of



In remembrance of Karbala, Shia Muslims bring their procession with symbolic coffin of Imam Hussain (R.) during Ashura



In the procession symbolic horses are also brought representing these of Prophet Muhammad's grandsons

Yazid. Despite that Imam Hussain (R) remained committed to justice and religious practice and tradition. He did not budge even an inch from his religious point of view. Eventually a historic and fierce battle erupted and ensued between the two opposing groups. In such difficult and dire circumstances, finding no other alternative, she and his forces fought bravely and boldly against the enemies. But as a matter of great grief, the followers of Imam Hussain (R) that included men, women and children were deprived of food and water for several days and in the long run were killed brutally by Yazid's forces. Furthermore, Imam Hussain (R) was also martyred in the battle of Karbala on the 10th of Muharram, making the Muslim Ummah shed tears. Thus, the Karbala tragedy constituted the setting and background of the Ashura.

Significance of Muharram and Ashura

There are a lot of significant and religious concepts and values included in Muharram and Ashura. Like the Shia Sect, the concept of Muharram and Ashura is also religiously important to the Sunni Sect too. The Sunni Sect or the Sunni Muslims also keep fast on the Day of Ashura to seek forgiveness and blessings from Allah. It is popularly believed that fasting on the Day of Ashura can redeem the sins of the past times. On the Day of Ashura, the Shia Muslims have their deep mourning for the bereavement at Karbala and they commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (R) with passion plays and recitation of elegies. The events of Karbala tragedy symbolize the struggles against irreligion, oppression and tyranny providing the adherents with inspiration to uphold justice and truth.

From the Hadith, we have the instructions to observe fasting on the 9th and 10th of the month of Muharram. Fasting on the Day of Ashura was obligatory until fasting in Ramadan was made obligatory. Furthermore, both in pre-Islamic times as well as at the time of the Prophet Muhammad (SM), it was forbidden to be engaged in war in the holy month of Muharram.

Our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) drew attention to the importance of Ashura



The Shia sect brings out a Tazia procession from the historic Hussaini Dalan in old Dhaka to commemorate the holy day of Ashura

and revealed, “In order of importance after Ramadan, the second-best fasting is the fasting of Allah’s month which is known to us as the month of Muharram. And in order of importance after the obligatory prayers, the second-best prayers are the prayers performed at night.” (Muslim Hadith: 1163).

In another case, it was revealed from Abu Qatada Al-Ansary:

Once our Prophet (SM) being asked about the virtue and moral goodness of the Ashura fasting, he replied, “It is the expiatory measure to absolve one of a sin committed in one past year.” This means that the sins of a person committed within past one year are forgiven and redeemed. (Muslim Hadith: 2804).

To express deep and overwhelming grief, the Shiah communities bring out processions with Tazia, the replica of the tomb of Imam Hussain (R) and they show their grief by clapping on their chests or flagellating and flogging themselves with knives or chains. The mourning continues for forty days till the first ten days of the next month Safar.

Observance of Muharram

Muharram has universally been observed since the 10th century. But in Bengal it has also been observed for the last few centuries. The centre of observance of Muharram in Dhaka is the Hussaini Dalan Imam Bara. In this month, the Shias as the mark of mourning, dress in black at least for the first ten days of Muharram. And during this time, they refrain from marry-making, listening to music, enjoying plays or movies and lead a very simple, honest and religious life. Moreover, they do not arrange any wedding ceremonies during this month. They remember that Imam Hussain (R) and his followers suffered from food and water. Remembering that suffering of Imam Hussain (R) and his followers some of the people of the Shiah communities avoid eating any fish during the month.

During the first ten days of the month of Muharram, mourning assemblies are held at Imam Baras separately for men and women. And in the assemblies the tragic stories that happened at Karbala are recounted to the devotees that gather in the assemblies. It is narrated there- how and why Yazid’s brutal forces deprived Imam Hussain’s followers, men, women, and children of food and water for many days,

and how Yazid's soldiers killed the men, women and children. And also, how tragically and pathetically Imam Hussain (R) received martyrdom in the hands of the Yazid's soldiers. These stories are very tragic and heartrending in nature and fill up human mind and heart with emotions and passions. Then at the end of the religious stories, refreshments or foods are distributed to the people who gather there. On the seventh of Muharram special offerings such as shirni are prepared and the people pray to Allah for His blessings. Food and fruits in large quantities and in many varieties are distributed to people on the occasion. Those who are real devotees pray for Allah's blessings, pick out a food item and make a promise not to eat that for a year. In case the prayer is deemed to have been accepted, they promise to offer shirini the next year.

Muharram processions were common in Bengal in 18th century. Horses and elephants were used in the processions. But processions nowadays are very smaller. In Dhaka the procession begins at Hussaini Dalan and, after winding its ways through the streets, terminates at a place designated Karbala on the banks of the Dhanmondi Lake. The replica of Duldul, the horse of Imam Hussain (R) and the flags in the procession show a symbolic presence of Imam Hussain (R). Moreover, stick fights are organized to remind of the battle between the soldiers of Imam Hussain (R) and those of Yazid.

Two Great Miracles Happened on the Day of Ashura

According to the correct Hadith, two great, real and true miracles happened on the Day of Ashura. They are:

1 Allah's protection for Moses (AS) and his followers from the hands of Firaun, Egyptian ruler (Pharaoh) and his soldiers: Moses (AS) for fear of life fled along with his followers from Egypt and crossed the big river along the wide road through the bosom of the river. This miracle happened by the grace of Allah. At the behest of Allah, Moses hit the water of the river with his stick and then water receded and a wide dry road came into being. Moses along with his followers followed the road and reached the other bank of the river safely.

2 Firaun along with his soldiers was following Moses and his followers to catch them. When he came to the bank of the river, he found a wide road along the bosom of the river. Then he along with his soldiers tried to cross the river along the wide road. And when they came to the mid-point of the river, the river water rushed from both sides and drowned Firaun and his men. They had watery graves there.

Finally, Muharram and Ashura are very sacred to the Muslims. Every year the Shia communities arrange and observe Ashura in the month of Muharram, and thereby remember and pay homage to the persons who received martyrdom for the cause of Islam in the Battle of Karbala. The main purpose of the Battle of Karbala was not to grab a piece of land but it was led to secure and uphold core human and religious values. The battle was fought between good and evil, right and wrong, justice and injustice, supremacy and subjugation, brutality and humanness. All Muslims should show respect to the martyrs and perform all religious rituals in honour of them in a befitting manner.

The writer is a former Joint Secretary to the People's Republic of Bangladesh



The Streets of Bangladesh: Where Walls Speak and Streets Sing

Tasnimul Zannah



Graffiti drawing on the street wall of July upsurge 2024

A soft ‘trrrring’ from a rickshaw in the still-blue dawn’s, cutting through the quiet like the first line of a song. It begins with the sound of a bell. Somewhere, coal crackles to life under a tea stall’s kettle; the steam rises and curls into the air like an unspoken prayer. A man in a lungi rolls up the shutters of his bookshop, sending a cloud of dust dancing in the sunlight. Down the lane, a woman in a bright sari begins arranging marigold garlands, their yellow flames brighter than the day itself. In this moment, the street is waking, stretching its limbs, shaking off the shadows of the night, and preparing for the stories it will host.

The streets of Bangladesh are more than just passageways; they are living canvases, performance stages, and marketplaces of ideas. The country’s urban spaces pulse with creativity and cultural exchange. There is a strange magic here. It is where strangers strike up conversations over tea, where a single mural can unite a neighborhood, where music drifts between the constant soundtrack of honking horns, and where the market’s noise becomes its kind of symphony. It is chaotic, yes — but in that chaos lies the heartbeat of a nation that refuses to live in silence. These streets are the canvas, the stage, the library, the concert hall, and the kitchen of the people. In their noise and color, you can hear the country breathing.

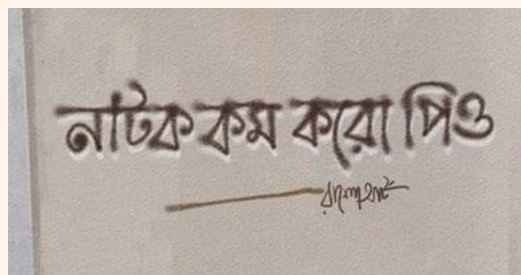
Rickshaw painting is perhaps the most iconic example. Every rickshaw is a rolling canvas, bursting with hand-painted scenes of cinema stars, pastoral landscapes, or tigers and peacocks in impossible colors. Sign painters, calligraphers, and political muralists also leave their mark on the urban scenery. The beauty of street art in Bangladesh is its accessibility: it doesn't ask for a ticket, a dress code, or an appointment. It's right there, in front of you, whether you're hurrying to work or wandering with no destination in mind.

In Bangladesh, a wall is rarely just a wall. It can be a blank page for a young artist's imagination, a battleground for political voices, or a memorial for heroes, spaces for slogans, or abstract bursts of color that brighten grey concrete. During the July 2024 revolution, graffiti became the ink of resistance. Portraits of Abu Sayed, slogans for justice, and clenched fists in bold red flooded city walls, telling stories that television couldn't — or wouldn't — broadcast. From Dhaka's TSC to along Chattogram's CRB hills, each mural is a silent storyteller. Some make you smile with bright folk motifs, others halt your steps and pull you into reflection, carrying you back to the memory of our brothers' sacrifice. They stir goosebumps as colors breathe life into history, each wall standing as a living archive of a political awakening. Layered with the raw strokes of anger, the muted shades of grief, and the vibrant hues of hope, these murals speak truths that no censorship can easily erase.

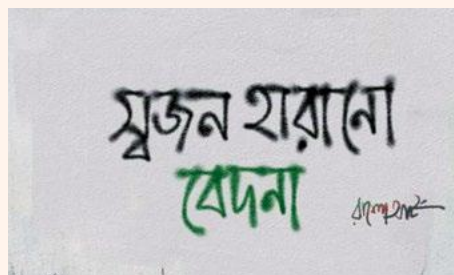
Bangladesh also has a proud tradition of street theatre — performances where actors speak directly to the people, unfiltered by microphones or stage lights. Buskers bring music, magic, and often a touch of mystery to the streets, from folk songs passed down for generations to contemporary tunes that resonate with today's



A woman painting graffiti on July upsurge 2024 on a street wall



'Do less drama'; wall graffiti on July upsurge 2024



'The pain of losing the relatives' a farcical graffiti on July movement 2024



Wall graffiti on corruption free Bangladesh

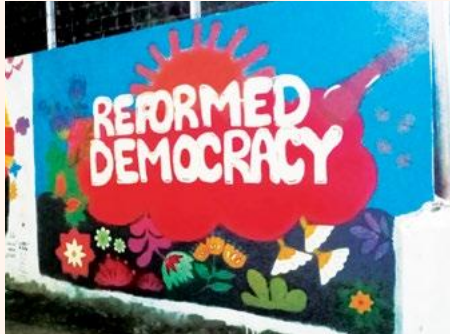
youth. The audience isn't just watching — they're part of the story, shouting responses, clapping mid-scene, sometimes even stepping into the performance themselves. During festivals like Pohela Boishakh, the streets erupt in music, dance, and vibrant processions in mangal shobhajatra— UNESCO-recognized parades featuring giant

effigies. Traditional mask dances, puppet shows, and folk music performances fill the air, transforming roads into living stages. These celebrations are not only entertainment but acts of cultural preservation and community bonding, drawing crowds across generations.

Street markets themselves are a form of entertainment — the banter between buyers and sellers, the colorful displays of textiles and jewelry, bangles that jingle in sunlight, and the aroma of street food all combine into a sensory spectacle. Hawker stalls become impromptu social hubs where stories are exchanged having variety of things. Flower markets burst with vibrant colors and fragrances, especially in places like Shahbagh in Dhaka. Vendors arrange fresh roses, tuberose, marigolds, and orchids in eye-catching bundles, attracting buyers from early morning until night for weddings, celebrations, and daily offerings. In Nilkhet or Bangla Bazar, books spill from crates onto the pavement — second-hand novels, tattered poetry collections, and textbooks from another generation. Students squat on the roadside flipping through pages, negotiating prices like treasure hunters bargaining for gold. Daily life here is sustained by countless small services — barbers trimming hair under trees or in open stalls, cobblers repairing worn shoes, mobile recharge booths glowing with LED signs, photocopy kiosks buzzing with machines, makeshift public toilets, water vendors pouring cold drinks, and public notice boards plastered with layers of posters.



Women painting graffiti on July upsurge 2024 on a street wall



Several graffiti on street wall expresses the hope and aspirations of the commoners

Street food in Bangladesh has a vibrant tapestry of flavors, aromas, and everyday stories woven into the country's urban life. From the tangy burst of fuchka filled with spicy potato and tamarind water to the smoky richness of beef chaap sizzling over open coals, every dish carries its heritage. Tea stalls serve steaming gorom cha in glass cups, often alongside crispy shingara or spicy aloo chop, while roadside vendors serve bowls of chotpoti topped with boiled eggs and fresh coriander. Sweet-toothed passersby linger for golden spirals of jilapi dripping with syrup, or soft malpoa during Ramadan evenings. More than just snacks, these foods are social glue — eaten elbow-to-elbow with strangers, traded over banter, and savored amid the hum of rickshaw bells, market chatter, and the warm chaos that defines Bangladesh's streets.

As night falls, the scene changes again. Neon signs flicker to life, and shop lights spill onto pavements like liquid gold. Crowds pour into markets — bargaining becomes louder, footsteps quicker, and laughter easier. Buskers play under street lamps, their music competing with the distant azan. Hawker stalls glow under naked bulbs, serving tea in tiny glasses to night-shift workers and students lingering after class. Lovers walk along quieter lanes, speaking in low voices. Past midnight, the noise thins, but the streets never truly sleep. Tea stalls stay open for truck drivers, stray dogs trot in packs, and the city hums with secrets only the night can hear. If the morning streets are a canvas, the night streets are a stage — lit, alive, and full of stories too fleeting to be told in daylight.

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Revolutionary Zeal of the Young Generation: Reminiscence from the Glorious Language Movement to July Revolution 2024

Muhammad Arif Sadeq

'If winter comes, can spring be far behind'

– P B Shelly

with a renewed identity filled with youthful vigour, commitment, and a vision for rebuilding the nation, but also they have sparked a light of hope throughout the country. On this backdrop, it is our turn to illuminate the path and help realise the dream of a new Bangladesh, free from the discrimination, they bravely fought against. This composition clearly illustrates how hope and perseverance can lead to significant positive outcomes for the young generation, particularly when backed by the wisdom of their experienced predecessors. It will assertively examine the profound impact of youth activism on Bangladesh's socio-political landscape.

Importance of youth in shaping socio-political discourse

Youth activism is a powerful force where young people take a stand to drive social and political change. They actively raise awareness about critical issues and refuse to remain silent on matters that affect the future of the country and so of the nation. These passionate individuals used to tackle key topics such as education, employment opportunities, equality, and human rights, demanding action and accountability from their communities and leaders. Youth activism is not just important; it is essential to shaping a better world for all.

The vibrant young generation of Bangladesh is bursting with potential and a compelling vision for transforming the nation. Their energy and creativity are poised to reshape the future, making strides towards rebuilding a brighter tomorrow. Since 1952, leading up to the Liberation War in 1971 and onwards till today, they have demonstrated such extraordinary achievements and it become has possible as they are guided by genuine patriotism and nationalism. In July 2024, a new generation emerged, embodying the same patriotism and vision to transform their beloved country into a place, free from discrimination, injustice, and repression. They have not only introduced themselves

Eminent writer Zahir Raihan's book "*Arek Falgun*" closes with the stirring line, "*Ashchhe Falgune, amra kintu digun hobo*" ("In the upcoming Spring, we will be double") (Raihan, 1969). Often misinterpreted as a romantic gesture, it is, in truth, a daring challenge to the jailer (a symbol for the cruel instrument of the establishment), who could not accommodate all the students arrested for protesting. This line has transformed into a powerful taunt, a beacon of hope, and a testament that, regardless of the obstacles, the resistance will endure fiercely.

The role of youth in shaping political discourse is tremendously significant in today's society. Young people bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a sense of urgency to political conversations that can stagnate without their influence. Their engagement is crucial, as they represent the future generation that will inherit the consequences of today's policies.

With their ability to leverage modern technology and social media, youth mobilise, connect, and amplify their voices on any vital issues. This digital activism enables them to reach broader audiences and spark discussions that challenge the status quo.

By participating in political movements and initiatives, young people encourage a more inclusive dialogue that embodies diverse viewpoints, which is essential for a thriving democracy. Their active engagement inspires not only their peers but older generations as well, fostering a vibrant and participatory political landscape.

Ultimately, youth involvement is vital for driving progress and ensuring that political discourse evolves to reflect the needs and priorities of all citizens. Their energy, creativity, and commitment serve as powerful catalysts for change, reaffirming the importance of their role in shaping the political narrative.

Glorious Past of Bengali Youth: Key Events Catalysing Youth Involvement

The history of youth activism in Bangladesh is not just a narrative of struggles; it is a powerful testament to the resilience and determination of a generation committed to fighting for their rights and identity. Several historic events have acted as pivotal turning points that intensified youth participation in activism. The



Students preparing for procession during 1952 language movement in front of old Arts Faculty Building, Dhaka

Language Movement of 1952 was the defining moment that not only highlighted the unwavering commitment of youth to their cultural and linguistic rights but also solidified their role as active participants in national discourse. The sacrifices endured during this period established a formidable foundation for future movements aimed at justice and equity.

In the glorious Liberation War of 1971, the young population played a crucial and heroic role in the struggle for national independence, displaying remarkable bravery and a unified spirit in their fight against oppression. Their contributions were indispensable, as they were driven by a fervent desire for sovereignty and a deep-seated belief in national belonging.

Post-independence political climate: Key socio-political events leading to increase youth involvement

Since our independence in 1971, the youth have been at the forefront of pivotal movements that have shaped the nation's socio-political landscape, propelled by a rich history of activism.

In the Political Turmoil of the 1980s and 1990s, amidst a backdrop of military coups and oppressive regimes, the youth rose in defiance against systemic injustices and repression. Their fervent call for democratic governance and human rights encapsulated their determination to foster a political environment that respected individual liberties and justice for all. Students have always been the pioneers of resistance against dictatorships, both in pre- and post-Liberation War Bangladesh. The mass movement against then-President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in the 1980s stands as a beacon of bravery; it was the students who boldly led the charge against his autocratic rule, with many heroically sacrificing their lives for the cause. (Hannan, 2017)

Moreover, we can reminisce about the Student Movement for Safe Roads in



In 1971 Liberation War, the youth were at the forefront to achieve victory of the nation

the recent past. The Student Movement for Safe Road, sparked in 2018, was a passionate and empowering initiative led by students dedicated to making our roads safer. Fueled by the urgency to address the alarming number of road accidents affecting their peers, these young voices stood united, advocating for transformative change. They strove to inspire a collective responsibility, pushing for better infrastructure and stricter regulations while raising awareness about road safety. Through their courage and determination, the Student Movement for Safe Roads was not just seeking change; they ignited a generation to champion the right to live in a safer world. It fetched far-reaching consequences for the country; The movement significantly influenced the landscape of sociopolitical justice and accountability, leading to deep and enduring changes in our perception of effective governance. Its effects have reshaped our understanding of what constitutes responsible leadership and the importance of holding those in power and position in the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government accountable.

The Campaign for Equity against the discriminatory Quota System was committed to addressing the challenges of affirmative action policies that allocate opportunities based on demographic factors such as caste, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status etc. This movement put emphasis on the need for fairness and meritocracy in education and the workforce, as advocates believe that these quotas could inadvertently deepen societal divisions instead of fostering true equality. Through grassroots mobilisation, public dialogue, and legal advocacy, the movement sought to reform these systems imposed by autocratic Hasina government, by championing merit-based selection and ensuring equitable access to opportunities for all. By promoting constructive discussions and informed analyses, the movement aimed to reform public policy and create an inclusive society for all.

Current Trends and Future Implications

The Role of Technology and Social Media in Youth Activism in Bangladesh should not be underestimated. These are proven tools for youth activism in Bangladesh in the year 2024. They have shown how young people connect and organise for social and political causes. Many young people use smartphones and have access to the internet, making it easier to communicate and mobilise. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter(X), LinkedIn, and Instagram help activists share information and raise awareness about important issues. During protests against discriminatory policies or social injustices, young activists use these platforms for live updates, personal stories, and highlighting the experiences of marginalised groups. This helps reach a broader audience and encourages more people to join the cause. Technology also helps create a sense of community among young people. Online spaces allow them to connect, share ideas, and work together on projects. Movements that use hashtags against the then government have brought attention to serious human rights issues and mobilised thousands. Viral campaigns allow young activists to challenge the status quo and push for change.

However, using technology for activism comes with challenges. Misinformation, online harassment, and government surveillance can threaten activists' safety and the success of their movements. The recent internet blackout by the Hasina government machinery during the July Movement was a shocking form of oppression that affected the Bengalis from home and abroad. Despite these

challenges, many young people in Bangladesh continue to use technology to share their voices and fight for change.

To be precise, technology and social media play a key role in youth activism in Bangladesh. They help young people advocate for change in smart and effective ways. As they continue to use these tools, they are likely to grow their influence in any movements for establishing justice in the society.

A glowing example of the Student movement expedited by social media is the July 2024 Student Uprising. The engagement of technology and social media played a pivotal role in the July 2024 movements. Unlike past mobilisations that relied heavily on traditional forms of protest and communication, today's students utilise digital platforms to organise, spread awareness, and document their activities in real time. This shift not only enhances the visibility of their cause but also allows for greater participation from a wider audience. Though eventually the peaceful movement became the deadliest one due to the brutality of the then Hasina



Like the historical past, in July 2024, youths raised their voices against the illogical quota system in government jobs

government's machinery of oppression. Overall, the July 2024 student movements signify a new era of activism in Bangladesh, one that is shaped by both historical legacies and the evolving socio-political landscape of the country.

Furthermore, the July 2024 Student Uprising in Bangladesh, popularly known as the July Revolution, represents a significant departure from the dynamics of power like the past through student protests in the country. Historically, student activism in Bangladesh has played a crucial role in shaping the political landscape, often emerging in response to authoritarian regimes or social injustices. Notable movements, such as the Language Movement of 1952 and the anti-autocratic protests of the 1990s, were characterised by a unified front of students demanding democratic rights and systemic change. In contrast, the July 2024 protests are



On 3 August 2024, the people from all walks of life gathered at the Shaheed Minar with one point demand - Resignation of the then Prime Minister

marked by a more fragmented yet highly organised approach. This movement has seen a diverse coalition of student groups rose to prominence, each voicing unique grievances and demands. While the underlying themes of democracy, rule of law, justice and accountability remain, the current protests are heavily focused on multifarious issues of good governance and social justice issues, such as political and administrative reforms, social media censorship, educational reform and corruption etc., reflecting the contemporary challenges faced by the young generation and the masses. The movement is characterised by widespread participation, with young individuals at the forefront, supported by a collective endorsement from political and social leaders.

Capitalising the vision and commitment to march ahead

Student mass movement, the Monsoon revolution of July 2024, is a clear manifestation of a Revolutionary change in the mind with the dream born within, risen within the young generation out of grievance and long cheerised with for change, new arrangements and rigorous reformation of the whole system that run the country because it failed to address the dream of our independence. The movement with the manifestation is regularly grieving for change in motivation to reconstruct the failed system of the Hasina government and reform it anew, shaped by the united vision of the new generation en masse.

It is the golden opportunity for us to materialise the patriotism, commitment, motivation and awareness that have been built into the mindset of our young generation by the student revolution. Now we need to guide our youth to the right path and keep them on the right track to lead them to the dreamland of their vision.

Now, our focus should be to create the scope and opportunities for our youth to work to build their careers and serve the nation that has been bleeding within for healing. The interim government, led by Honourable Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus, is really working hard to explore employment opportunities

worldwide for our brilliant young workforce. Recently, Japan has pledged to take 1.2 lakh trained workforce from Bangladesh, which is a very positive sign. The window of Malaysia has been reopened for Bangladeshis again. Diverse scopes and opportunities will open up for us. The interim government has taken the initiative to create a trained workforce to get good jobs in the world job market and earn valuable foreign remittances for the country.

In addition to that, we need to capitalise their social and political awareness, rigour, drive for reforms, innovative opinions, motivation and commitment. They might have different ways of thinking regarding the reform initiatives but as our goal is transparent and fixed, we are sure to reach the destination. Yet, it is important to mitigate the differences of opinion, prioritising the united goals of the nation. Their youthful potential need to be guided and propelled by the experienced leadership of the country. The unique combination of innocence and experience will lead the nation to the destination that we dream of.



The youth stormed into Ganobhaban after the fall of the autocratic Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 5 August 2024

Fostering national progress through the dynamic spirit of youth, illuminated by the insights of experience

The enduring importance of youth activism in Bangladesh's democracy is immense. In the present era, young leaders are primarily at the forefront of critical global challenges, addressing urgent issues such as climate change, educational reform, and gender equality. By strategically leveraging technology and social media, they are effectively organising grassroots initiatives and amplifying their voices, thereby enhancing the impact and reach of their activism. Through these dynamic movements, the youth of Bangladesh have consistently demonstrated resilience, courage, and an unwavering commitment to social change. Their activism transcends immediate concerns, as it is deeply rooted in a profound historical connection to the nation's identity, reflecting an enduring dedication to cultivating a more just and equitable society. As we reflect on both the achievements of the



Courage, seen in the youth, is a ray of hope for having a peaceful Bangladesh

past and the complex challenges of the present, the legacy of earlier movements serves as a powerful source of inspiration, empowering today's youth to ardently advocate for their beliefs and ambitions for a progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.

To wrap up with a positive note, we may recall the popular verse of poet Shelly, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" (P. B. Shelley). It serves as a powerful metaphor for the resilience and hope that can arise in the face of adversity. As we reflect on the role of youth in July 2024, it is evident that their contributions have sparked a renewed optimism for our future. The sacrifices made by this generation are unmatched, and it now falls upon us to actively pursue the realisation of their aspirations. The same tone was heard from the voice of Honourable Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the Earthana Summit, organised by Qatar Foundation, in Doha, Qatar, in April 2025.

Honourable Chief Adviser stated, "In this venture, we must not leave behind the youth of today, who will inherit this planet. I, myself, have witnessed the transformational power of civic awakening among the youth for the cause of inclusion and empowerment of the masses."

("Prof Yunus Asks Global Leaders to Tap Youth's Potential," 2025)

However, achieving this vision is not a straightforward endeavour; it necessitates a multi-faceted approach characterised by integrity, dedication, motivation, and strategic planning. Effective implementation will require a well-defined roadmap and visionary leadership that can effectively interpret the concerns and desires of the populace. Leaders must bridge their own experiences with the aspirations of the youth to forge a path that will enable us to reform our nation in alignment with the collective dreams envisioned by its citizens.

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Cinema and the Mind: A Journey Within

Saiful Islam Mannu

understanding. In cinema, every frame becomes a vessel for experience, carrying the subtle currents of the unconscious into the conscious mind. What we witness is never isolated; it is an intimate conversation between the artwork and our inner life.

The questions that cinema stirs are often silent but profound: *What am I seeing? Why does this move me? How does this story echo within me?* Through these inquiries, cinema transforms into a tool of self-reflection. It forces the observer to confront not just the world on the screen, but the world within themselves—the fears, desires, and hidden truths that define our humanity.

Cinema is far more than spectacle; it is a mirror held up to the mind, a dialogue between the eye, the heart, and the depths of consciousness. It is where intellect dances with emotion, where memory converses with imagination, and where the visible is inseparably entwined with the invisible. To watch a film is to embark on a journey inward, for the images on screen are never merely images—they are reflections of our psyche, refracted through light, sound, and rhythm.

Perception lies at the heart of this experience. We see, we hear, we remember—but we do not merely record; we interpret. Sight and sound awaken memory; memory awakens feeling; feeling awakens



Cinema is not just something to watch; it's something to feel with heart



Cinema is a combination of dreams, memories, anxieties and hopes, adorned with poetic language and images

Swiss psychiatrist Carl Gustav Jung once observed:

“Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own’ heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakens.”

Cinema invites precisely this inward gaze. It is not a mere reproduction of reality but a medium that illuminates the unseen patterns of thought, feeling, and memory. Every gesture, every shadow, every movement of the camera is laden with significance, resonating with the viewer’s consciousness. To watch a film is to awaken—not only to the story unfolding on screen, but to the truths residing quietly within us.

Legendary filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard captured this alchemy when he said:

“Cinema is truth 24 frames per second.”

Yet this truth is not simplistic; it is layered, psychological, and profoundly human. Cinema captures life not only in its events but in its subtleties—the fleeting glances, the unsaid words, the rhythm of emotion. It renders visible the invisible: dreams, memories, anxieties, and hopes, all distilled into the poetic cadence of moving images.

Thus, to engage fully with cinema, one must engage with it both intellectually and emotionally. One must perceive beyond plot and spectacle, listening instead to the language of the soul that cinema speaks. In doing so, the screen becomes more than a window; it becomes a mirror, reflecting our consciousness, questioning our assumptions, and revealing the luminous interior life that defines us as humans.

Cinema, then, is not simply art—it is a journey inward. A journey where each frame is a question, each sequence a reflection, and each film an invitation: to awaken, to feel, and to know oneself through the images that dance in the light.



Emotion resonates in the cinema not only overwhelms the viewers but also makes them inhabit it

Dimensions of the Cinematic Mind

1. Emotional Resonance — [From the Heart to the Screen]

Emotion is the first language of cinema. But what does it truly mean to feel in film? Is cinematic emotion merely a sentimental device, or is it an authentic pulse flowing through the art itself? The answer lies in subtlety. The audience does not simply witness emotions—they inhabit them. The raw textures of life—gestures, glances, and silences—are translated into cinematic expression, becoming a bridge between the heart of the story and the heart of the viewer.

French filmmaker François Truffaut, in *The 400 Blows*, masterfully demonstrated this principle. Truffaut famously said, “*I demand that cinema express not only ideas but also the emotions of a beating heart.*” True cinema does not just narrate; it feels. Every whisper, shadow, or fleeting smile carries a resonance that lingers beyond the frame. It is this heartbeat—the subtle interplay of action and feeling—that makes cinema a living, breathing art.



Cinema which touches the heart has the capability to carry the resonance of lingering feeling beyond the frame

2. Memory and Reflection — [When the Past Speaks]

Cinema often engages with memory—not merely as a record of events, but as the echo of emotional experience. But whose memory does the screen hold: the filmmaker's, the character's, or the viewer's? Sometimes, the film creates a memory unique to its world, a past that exists only in its frames.

In this reflective space, cinema becomes a mirror of consciousness. Moments such as the empty chair of a departed loved one, or the rain tapping softly on a windowpane after loss, are more than visuals—they are imprints of human experience. They bypass rational analysis, embedding themselves directly into the audience's psyche. The film, in this sense, becomes both repository and revelation, holding the weight of lived emotion within its frame.

3. Moral and Intellectual Vision — [The World as It Is and Could Be]

Beyond emotion and memory, cinema has the power to provoke thought and ethical reflection. Great films challenge viewers not merely to observe, but to



Cinema can reflect moral and ethical perspective beyond entertainment

interrogate. They confront injustice, illuminate inequality, and imagine worlds that are possible—or necessary.

Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List* immerses its audience in history's moral urgency, while Bong Joon-ho's *Snowpiercer* and *Parasite* use dystopian allegory to reveal social truths. As Bong has said, "*Cinema makes us reflect on the world not as it is, but as it could be or should be.*"

Cinema's questions are often subtle, yet persistent:

- ☐ Does comfort blind us to truth?
- ☐ When is silence more dangerous than speech?
- ☐ Can art bear moral responsibility toward its audience?

These questions unsettle, and in unsettling, they awaken awareness. A true cinematic experience is never passive. It lingers, returns, and challenges us in moments of quiet reflection. A film's impact is measured not only by what it shows, but by the conversations it sparks within the viewer's mind.

In essence, cinema is a dialogue between the world on the screen and the inner world of the audience. It is a mirror of consciousness, a reflection of memory and morality, and a medium through which emotion, thought, and imagination converge. The greatest films are those that leave us changed, carrying their questions and emotions long after the credits have rolled.

The Poetics of Screenwriting: Structure, Character, and Silence

Cinema is the art of making the invisible visible—the architecture of human thought, emotion, and conflict rendered on a screen. A screenplay is its blueprint, a delicate map where narrative, character, and subtext intersect, pulsing with rhythm and resonance.

Structure: The Skeleton of Story

Structure is not merely a formula; it is the invisible spine that guides the audience through a journey of meaning and feeling. Classical storytelling often unfolds in three acts:

- ❑ **Setup:** The world is revealed, characters emerge, and the first seeds of conflict are sown.
- ❑ **Confrontation:** Obstacles rise, tensions deepen, and characters face the crucible of their inner and outer struggles.
- ❑ **Resolution:** Conflicts find their culmination, transformations are revealed, and the emotional journey reaches its inevitable consequence.

Syd Field reminds us:

“Structure is not a rigid formula; it’s a way to tell a story clearly, effectively, and emotionally.”

Character: The Heartbeat of Cinema

Characters are the lifeblood of a film. Their arcs define the emotional landscape, giving the story its shape and soul. Every fully realized character undergoes change—internal conflict, revelation, and evolution. Their backstory informs their desires and decisions, subtly woven through gesture, dialogue, and silence.

As Aaron Sorkin observes:

“Good characters are not the ones who say clever things, but the ones who reveal something human about themselves.”

Dialogue and Silence: The Music Between Words

Dialogue must serve story and character, advancing the plot without redundancy. Yet silence, the pregnant pauses between words, often speaks louder than speech. It gives space for subtext, tension, and unspoken truth, allowing the audience to inhabit the emotional world of the characters.

Akira Kurosawa famously declared:

“In a good script, silence is often more powerful than speech.”

The art of screenwriting lies in balancing the spoken and the unspoken, letting the weight of absence carry meaning alongside words. In this careful choreography,



The characters and their behaviour in cinema determine the lifeline of the movie

cinema becomes not just storytelling, but a mirror reflecting the depths of the human heart.

Cinematic Vision: The Language of the Screenplay

A screenplay is the lifeblood of cinema. It is where imagination, emotion, and narrative architecture converge. Within the screenplay, the story's structure, character, and emotional resonance are meticulously mapped, forming the invisible framework that guides every frame and gesture.

The Heart of Character: Exploring Inner Worlds

A well-crafted screenplay asks profound questions about its characters:

- ❑ Who are they, and what drives them?
- ❑ What do they fear, desire, or resist?
- ❑ How do they wrestle with internal and external conflicts, with memory and experience?
- ❑ How do they change—psychologically, morally, emotionally—through the story?

Answering these questions with sensitivity and depth allows a character to breathe and live on screen. As Swedish director Ingmar Bergman wrote: “Film as dream, film as music. No art passes our conscience in the way film does, and goes directly to our feelings, deep down into the dark rooms of our souls.”

The Power of Subtext: Silence and Suggestion

Screenwriting is not merely about words on a page. It is about nuance, rhythm, and the space between moments. The most memorable scripts often let silence, gesture, and visual storytelling convey what dialogue cannot. The audience senses the unspoken, feeling the emotional weight of what lies beneath the surface.

Films like Céline Sciamma's *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* and Nicole Kassell's *The Woodsman* exemplify how subtle gestures, glances, and visual poetry can carry a narrative as powerfully as speech. Alfred Hitchcock famously said:

“Drama is life with the dull bits cut out. But psychology gives drama its weight.”

A screenplay lays the groundwork, but it is the collaboration on set that transforms words into living cinema. As Ridley Scott noted: “A film is made twice, once on paper, and once on set.”

The Art and Craft of Production

1. Budget and Vision

Budget is not a limitation—it is a design challenge. Constraints invite creativity, demanding innovative solutions to realize a director’s vision. As Danny Boyle observes:

“Budget is not a limitation, it’s a design challenge.”

2. Casting and Performance

Actors inhabit characters fully, channeling both the internal arc and external expression. Their performance bridges screenplay and audience, translating written emotion into lived experience.

3. Location and World-Building

The setting is not merely a backdrop; it is the story itself. Werner Herzog reminds us:

“The place is not where the story happens. The place is the story.”

4. Production Design and Atmosphere

Every visual choice—from set design to lighting—shapes tone, rhythm, and emotional resonance. The world of the film is curated to communicate subtext, theme, and character psychology without a word spoken.

5. Collaboration and Technical Craft

Cinema is a collective art form. The DOP, production designer, and sound designer—all translate the screenplay’s vision into sensory reality. Christopher Nolan notes:

“Cinema is a collaborative medium where vision becomes collective.”

6. Post-Production and Editing

Editing is where the narrative is refined, rhythm calibrated, and emotional impact heightened. The director shapes the raw footage into a cohesive whole, balancing pace, tension, and resonance to evoke the intended audience experience.



Cinema is a scope of measuring the visionary boundary through director's lense

Cinematography: The Language of the Lens

Cinematography is not just a technical craft; it is the visual poetry of cinema. It transforms a screenplay into images, shapes the rhythm of storytelling, and evokes emotions that words alone cannot capture. In filmmaking, cinematography is the soul of the frame, and understanding it deeply is essential for every director and visual storyteller.

Cinematographer and Camera: The Artistic Eye

The cinematographer collaborates with the director to translate the story into visual language. This includes deciding on the camera, lenses, lighting, composition, and visual tone. The cinematographer's work is not merely functional—it shapes the audience's emotional and psychological response.

Camera Types and Usage

- ❑ **DSLR / Mirrorless:** Lightweight and versatile, suitable for handheld shots and small-scale productions. Offers flexibility in low-light conditions and mobility.
- ❑ **RED / ARRI Alexa:** High-end digital cinema cameras used for large-scale productions, providing unmatched image quality, dynamic range, and professional-grade color fidelity.

Lens Choices

- ❑ **50mm (Standard):** Closely mimics human vision; ideal for general-purpose shots and character-focused storytelling.
- ❑ **35mm (Wide):** Expansive field of view; great for landscapes, environmental context, and layered compositions.
- ❑ **85mm (Telephoto):** Compresses space and isolates subjects; excellent for emotional intensity and character intimacy.

“Cinema is a matter of what's in the frame, and what's out.” – Martin Scorsese

Camera Movement: Telling Stories Through Motion

The choice of camera movement dictates how the audience experiences the scene. It guides attention, builds tension, and conveys emotion.

❑ Static (Fixed) Shots

A static camera does not move; the world unfolds within the frame. It can emphasize stillness, tension, or observation. Even in static shots, cinematographers carefully design composition, depth, and spatial relationships. Static shots often highlight characters' psychology and environmental context.

❑ Handheld Shots

Handheld cameras provide immediacy and realism. They create a sense of presence and intimacy, often immersing the audience in the characters' perspective. This technique can convey urgency, chaos, or emotional instability.

❑ Tracking / Dolly Shots

Tracking shots follow the subject smoothly, guiding the audience through space and action. They create continuity, maintain rhythm, and build narrative flow.

Visual Composition and Design Principles

1. Framing and Composition

Balance between foreground, midground, and background; use of lines, shapes, and depth to guide the eye.

2. Lighting and Mood

Lighting defines tone, time of day, and atmosphere. It can highlight emotion, conceal detail, or create symbolism.

3. Color and Texture

Color palettes and textures reinforce theme, character, and emotion. They enhance narrative subtext visually.

4. Camera Angles and Perspective

Angles communicate power, vulnerability, intimacy, or detachment. Low angles can empower a character; high angles can suggest fragility.

5. Integration with Storytelling

Cinematography must serve the story, not overshadow it. Every shot—static or moving—should reflect character, emotion, and narrative logic.

Static Shots: Key Considerations

- ☐ **Purpose:** To frame the subject with intentional stillness, creating emphasis or tension.
- ☐ **Placement:** Ensure characters and objects occupy meaningful space within the frame.
- ☐ **Balance:** Use depth and layers to prevent flatness; foreground and background must interact visually.
- ☐ **Lighting and Exposure:** Static shots require precise control over light, contrast, and texture.
- ☐ **Emotion and Storytelling:** A still frame can convey solitude, anticipation, or introspection, making it a powerful storytelling device.

Handheld Camera

What is a handheld camera?

A handheld camera is carried and operated directly by the cinematographer or operator without any mechanical stabilization like a tripod or dolly. It allows movement that is organic, spontaneous, and immersive, giving the footage a raw and realistic texture.

When is it used?

Handheld cameras are used to create intimacy and immediacy. They immerse the audience in the action, making them feel like they are part of the scene. This style is often used in war films, intense drama, or documentary-style storytelling. It can convey chaos, tension, or emotional instability. In narrative filmmaking, handheld shots emphasize realism and human presence.

Key aspects of handheld cinematography

- ☐ **Operator skill:** Requires steady hands and careful control.
- ☐ **Framing and focus:** Must maintain the subject clearly in frame while moving.



A good cinema proves its technical perfection also

- ☐ **Movement style:** Can be subtle or shaky depending on narrative intent.
- ☐ **Emotional impact:** Handheld movement conveys urgency, vulnerability, or spontaneity.

Dolly / Track Shots

What is dolly or track shots?

A dolly shot uses a camera mounted on wheels or tracks to smoothly follow, approach, or retreat from a subject. It is a controlled, fluid movement that guides the viewer's eye through space and maintains continuity in storytelling.

Uses of dolly shots:

1. Approaching or retreating from a subject

- ☐ Dolly in: Moves closer to the subject, increasing intimacy or tension.
- ☐ Dolly out: Moves away from the subject, revealing context or emotional distance.

2. Smooth, fluid movement

- ☐ Creates visual continuity and narrative flow.
- ☐ Eliminates the jarring motion associated with handheld shots.

3. Spatial awareness

- ☐ Shows the subject in relation to their environment.
- ☐ Enhances blocking and choreography in a scene.

4. Long takes

- ☐ Tracks allow continuous, uninterrupted shots that heighten immersion.

5. Storytelling through movement

- ☐ Guides the audience's focus and emotional response.
- ☐ Can establish perspective, reveal information, or follow action seamlessly.



A romantic scene of a Korean movie

Steadicam / Gimbal

What is Steadicam / Gimbal?

Steadicam and gimbal rigs stabilize a moving camera, allowing smooth, fluid motion while walking or running. They combine mobility with cinematic smoothness, bridging handheld spontaneity with dolly-level stability.

Steadicam

Invented by Garrett Brown in the 1970s, the Steadicam isolates the operator's movements from the camera, allowing for fluid shots without shake.

Advantages

- ☐ Smooth walking shots without motion blur.
- ☐ Complex choreography is possible without tracks.
- ☐ Can follow actors through stairs, uneven terrain, or confined spaces.

Uses

- ☐ Fluid storytelling, dynamic shots, and long takes.
- ☐ Often used for immersive point-of-view sequences.

Gimbal

A gimbal is a motorized stabilization system, often with 3-axis control, that keeps the camera steady even during rapid or complex movements.

Advantages

- ☐ Stabilizes against unintended rotation or tilt.
- ☐ Enables smooth pans, tilts, and tracking shots.
- ☐ Lightweight and versatile for handheld, walking, or vehicle-mounted shots.

Uses

- ❑ Action sequences, run-and-gun filmmaking, and creative motion shots.
- ❑ Allows fluid motion without the need for heavy Steadicam rigs.

“The camera moves not to impress, but to express.” – Jean-Luc Godard

Lighting in Cinematography

Lighting is a key element in visual storytelling, defining mood, focus, and spatial depth. Cinematographers use different lighting techniques depending on the narrative and aesthetic goals.

Types of lighting:

- ❑ **Natural Light:** Using available sunlight or ambient light to illuminate the scene naturally.
- ❑ **Three-Point Lighting:** Standard cinematic technique using key light, fill light, and backlight to model the subject.
- ❑ **Rembrandt Lighting:** Creates a triangle of light on the cheek opposite the light source, adding depth and dimension.
- ❑ **Chiaroscuro:** High contrast lighting for dramatic effect, emphasizing shadows and highlights.

“Light is not just illumination—it’s emotion.” – Roger Deakins

Location Sound (Production Sound)

Capturing clean audio during filming is essential for realism and immersion. Location sound includes dialogue, ambient sounds, and diegetic effects.

Components:

- ❑ **Dialogue:** Recorded on set during performances.
- ❑ **Ambient Sound:** Background environmental sounds (wind, traffic, nature, room tone).
- ❑ **Foley Elements:** Sound effects recorded on location to enhance realism (footsteps, props, cloth movement).

Tips

- ❑ Maintain consistency of sound to match the visuals.
- ❑ Avoid background noise that distracts from the performance.

ADR (Automated Dialogue Replacement)

ADR is the process of re-recording dialogue in a studio after filming, ensuring clarity and quality.

- ❑ Actors match their performance to the on-screen lip movements.
- ❑ Often used when location audio is noisy or unusable.

“A film is made three times: once when it’s written, once when it’s shot, and once when it’s edited.” – Robert Bresson

Post-Production (Editing, Sound Design, and Color Grading)

Editing Software

- ❑ Adobe Premiere, DaVinci Resolve, and similar tools are used to assemble the final film from raw footage.

Color Grading

- ☐ Techniques like Teal-Orange, Chiaroscuro, and creative LUTs are applied to enhance mood, atmosphere, and visual style.

Sound post-production

- ☐ Combines location sound, ambient sound, and ADR.
- ☐ Ensures audio clarity, spatial consistency, and emotional impact.

Mixing and Mastering

- ☐ Adjusts levels, equalization, and spatial positioning.
- ☐ Balances dialogue, effects, and music for a coherent audio experience.

Visual Effects (VFX) and Motion Graphics (MOGRA)

VFX (Visual Effects)

- ☐ Integrates computer-generated imagery (CGI), compositing, and special effects into live-action footage.
- ☐ Includes creating environments, augmenting scenes, and seamless blending with practical footage.

Motion Graphics (MOGRA)

- ☐ Adds animated titles, graphics, and visual enhancements.
- ☐ Can be 2D or 3D, often layered onto live-action for stylistic or informational purposes.

Film Promotion and Marketing-

Promoting a film is as crucial as making it. Without proper promotion, even a great film can remain unnoticed. Promotion ensures the film reaches its audience, creates anticipation, and maximizes box-office potential.



The spectators enjoying 3-D (three-dimensional) movie in a movie theatre

Promotion Goals

- ❑ **Create Awareness:** Let people know the film exists through trailers, posters, social media, and press coverage.
- ❑ **Generate Interest:** Engage audiences with behind-the-scenes, interviews, or teasers.
- ❑ **Drive Engagement:** Encourage audiences to watch the film in theaters or streaming platforms.
- ❑ **Build Word-of-Mouth:** Positive buzz spreads through reviews, social media mentions, and fan interactions.
- ❑ **Boost Box-Office Performance:** Effective promotion directly impacts ticket sales and visibility.

Promotion Methods

Traditional Marketing

- ❑ **Press and Media Coverage:** Newspapers, magazines, TV, and radio interviews.
- ❑ **Outdoor Advertising:** Billboards, posters, and banners in high-traffic areas.
- ❑ **Premieres and Screenings:** Organize events to generate buzz.
- ❑ **Merchandising and Tie-ins:** Branded products or collectibles for fans.
- ❑ **Street Marketing:** Posters, flyers, and promotional events on location.

Digital Marketing

- ❑ **Social Media Campaigns:** Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok updates.
- ❑ **Online Advertising:** Google Ads, Facebook Ads, YouTube promotions.
- ❑ **Content Marketing:** Behind-the-scenes videos, interviews, or trailers.
- ❑ **Email Marketing & Websites:** Keep fans updated with newsletters and official content.

Audience Engagement Strategies

- ❑ **Interactive Engagement:** Contests, quizzes, and fan interactions online.
- ❑ **Influencer/PR Collaboration:** Leverage personalities to spread awareness.
- ❑ **Community Building:** Encourage discussions on fan forums, pages, and groups.

Guerrilla Marketing

- ❑ **Flash Mobs or Live Acts:** Surprise performances in public spaces to capture attention.
- ❑ **Viral Campaigns:** Creative and unconventional marketing stunts that spread organically.

Key Takeaway

Promotion is not just an add-on; it's an integral part of a film's success. Combining traditional, digital, and guerrilla marketing ensures maximum visibility and engagement.

"The film doesn't reach the audience by itself—it's the promotion that connects it to them."

Saiful Islam Mannu, Award-winning Director, Playwright & Film Producer



Legal Aid : Conventional Notions Need Overhaul

Writer : Md. Rizwanul Islam

Translator : Sayere Nazabi Sayem

on ensuring legal aid for poor litigants is minimal compared to the expenditure on amending different legal frameworks or on physical infrastructure, such as the construction of buildings.

From the undesirable plight of a common litigant to seek refuge in law in an economically prosperous country like the United States, it is clear how difficult it is in other countries to seek legal assistance. However, we may have a lesson to learn from this dismal picture of a rich country.

Our Parliament passed the Legal Aid Services Act in the year 2000, with a vision to open doors to the right to access to justice for the common people. Certain regulations, rules and policies have been formulated under this Act from time to time. Legal aid committees have been formed not only at the national level or the Supreme Court, but also at the district, sub-district, and union levels of the country.

Several reforms have been made in terms of who is eligible for legal aid under the Act based on expert opinions and surveys. It is commendable indeed. In particular, the legal aid eligibility is being assessed not only on the basis of the annual income but also taking into account various socio-economic perspectives, which is better than before.

At present, the requirement of a minimum five years of experience may be relaxed for lawyers who will provide legal aid under this Act. Many may assert that lawyers with less experience may not be able to handle cases efficiently enough for their clients. But in this case, it should be noted that many times the strides of a new lawyer to fight and win the case may not be as evident as that of many experienced lawyers.

There is nothing called Justice, until you buy it with wealth’.

It may seem like the expression of hopelessness from a desperate, aggrieved litigant in a country like Bangladesh, which lags behind in the standard of the global justice index. But in fact, it is a quote from a study, based on the US judicial system.

According to a research article published in the Yale Law Journal, a guilty & rich person is in a relatively advantageous position than an innocent & poor person. The harshest sentences are usually received by the individuals whose lawyers are relatively weak; not the ones accused of the worst crimes.

It is said that the overall amount of resources the United States spends



Supreme Court of Bangladesh

A major limitation of the current legal aid provision in Bangladesh is that there is only a nominal remuneration-based award for the legal aid lawyers. The Chief Justice of Bangladesh and other judges including the Attorney General at various times have expressed the moral obligation of lawyers to conduct pro bono cases for indigent litigants.

But there are questions as to how effective it would be to encourage lawyers to provide legal aid in exchange of meager cachet, only under moral grounds. So it is high time to think of the other ways to incentivize lawyers who serve free legal aid.

A lawyer's track record of providing pro bono legal services should be taken into consideration for any government appointment, for example, for their enrollment as a 'Senior Advocate' or for appointment as a Judge in the High Court Division or for an appointment as a member of the National Human Rights Commission, etc. However, such changes to the existing laws will by no means be sufficient, unless our policy makers completely reform the concept and process of providing legal aid.

Statistics from the National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO) demonstrate that the number of beneficiaries under this organization's framework has increased significantly in the last two decades. According to statistics published by NLASO on 18 February, 2024, about one million people received various types of legal services under this organization from 2009 to January 2024.

But the limitation of these statistics is that there is no method to know how much the number of people receiving legal aid has increased in proportion to the total number of cases filed, or whether it is even increasing or decreasing at all.

From research report number 166 of the Bangladesh Law Commission published in 2023, it has been seen that the number of pending cases in our country is gradually

increasing. Hence, there is no room for complacency merely because more and more people are seeking legal aid.

In this regard, there is an urgent necessity for our policy makers to take initiative on two fundamental issues. The presumption of only assisting the litigant to seek redress through a court or tribunal when their right has been violated – one needs to step aside from providing legal aid based on this narrow concept.

The idea that ordinary citizens must face lawyers for every matter to establish the rule of law - deserves strong reconsideration. This however, does not mean that the need for lawyers will disappear; rather, such a system would make people more conscious about their rights and expand their access to laws. This would in turn allow a more fruitful application of the funds allocated for providing legal aid.

It is often difficult for a commoner to even understand whether their legal right has been violated or not. With the progression of the country to a ‘smart’ Bangladesh, more opportunities need to be created for people to access legal information and services online.

From the wide use of the online calculator that has been introduced in determining Muslim inheritance, it can be assumed from this context that citizens are able to get some idea about the law even without going to the court for relatively straightforward matters.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Court had introduced the ‘Use of Information Technology by Court Act, 2020’ to perform online litigation processes. But the online justice system has been introduced as an interim or emergency system in this Act.

Currently, there are no evident proceedings under this Act. We need to get out of the stereotype that ‘fraud is easy online’. It may be difficult to conduct complex processes such as taking evidence or cross-examination online, but the online court trial can indeed play a vital role in speeding up the resolution of cases in this country.

Therefore, increasing the budget for providing legal services and appointment of judges would further open the doors of legal aid or increase the speed of the disposal of cases – we need to think ahead of such one-dimensional concept.

[The Act has recently been amended as the Legal Aid Services (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025. It introduces both pre-case and post-case mediation mechanisms, either physically or virtually, by mutual compromise.]

Translated by Sayere Nazabi Sayem

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Critically Endangered Birds of Bangladesh

Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman

The world is home to roughly 9,930 species and 22,000 subspecies of birds, with total numbers estimated between 20,000 and 40,000 crore. India hosts 1,311 species, while Bangladesh has about 731. Over the past few centuries, around 200 species have disappeared due to factors such as habitat loss, deforestation, over-exploitation of resources, pollution, food scarcity, use of insecticides, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and uncontrolled tourism. Currently, nearly 1,200 species are considered threatened worldwide, highlighting the urgent need for conservation to protect these vital and diverse members of our ecosystems.

Bangladesh hosts about 340 resident species that live and breed year-round in the country, alongside nearly 370 migratory species. Migrants, often called “guest birds,” arrive seasonally, stay for

a period, and return to their native lands. However, they are not true guests—these birds depend on our country for survival when their breeding grounds become inhospitable in winter due to harsh weather, food scarcity, or other factors. Thus, the country serves as both a permanent home for native species and a vital refuge for migrants, making it an important habitat for global bird diversity.

According to the IUCN Red List of Bangladesh (2015), nineteen bird species are considered regionally extinct, meaning they no longer occur in the country. These species were more common in the early 20th century but have not been seen in recent years. Most still exist elsewhere, except the Pink-headed Duck (*Rhodonessa caryophyllacea*), which has not been observed globally for nearly a century. Although the Grey Francolin was listed as Regionally Extinct, it was rediscovered in 2018 in the Padma Charlands of Rajshahi, Chuadanga, and Kushtia—166 years after Captain Robert Christopher Tytler collected a specimen in Dhaka in 1852. Today, the Grey Francolin is regularly observed in Padma Charlands, making it more appropriate to classify the species as Critically Endangered rather than Regionally Extinct.

The IUCN Red List of Bangladesh identifies 10 bird species as Critically Endangered. Recently, three more species have been added: Grey Francolin, Mask Finfoot (upgraded from Endangered in 2020), and Brown Crake (sighted in 2019 at Chapainawabgonj and in 2023 at Sherpur), bringing the total to 13 Critically Endangered species. Their decline is driven by habitat loss, hunting, climate change, and pollution. Conversion of wetlands, grasslands, and forests into agricultural or urban areas disrupts natural habitats. Rising temperatures and climate change affect breeding success; while hunting and trapping reduce populations. Water pollution further threatens aquatic ecosystems and dependent birds. These 13 Critically Endangered bird species in Bangladesh are briefly described below:



The Critically Endangered Mask Finfoot (male) at the bank of Chuta Kotka Khal, Sunderbans, Bagerhat



A female Mask Finfoot at the bank of Shundori Khal, Sunderbans, Bagerhat

Mask Finfoot (*Heliopais personatus*)

Also known as the Asian Finfoot, the species is Critically Endangered both globally and in Bangladesh. Locally called Sundori Hansh, Geilo Hansh, or Baila Hanshpakhi, it is a rare resident of the eastern Sundarbans. The global population has drastically declined from 600–1,700 in 2009 to just 100–300 in 2020, making it more at risk than even the Royal Bengal Tiger in the region. Only four confirmed breeding populations remain—in Bangladesh and Cambodia—with possible sites in Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam. Habitat loss and human disturbance in low-lying forested wetlands are the main threats.

The Mask Finfoot is a secretive, duck-sized bird with a body length of - 56 centimeter (cm). It is seen alone, in pairs, or small groups. It forages in shallow water for mudskippers, fish, insects, mollusks, and other invertebrates, and responds to danger by submerging or fleeing. Breeding occurs from July to August, with nests built 2 meters (m) above the ground. Females lay 4–8 greyish-white spotted eggs, and both parents raise the chicks. Lifespan exceeds 10 years.

White-rumped Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)

The White-rumped Vulture, locally called Shakun, is a Critically Endangered species of the Accipitridae family. Once common in Bangladesh, its population has



Three White-rumped Vulture roosting on a tree at Dewrachara Tea State, Moulvibazar



White-rumped Vulture landing on a tree at Dewrachara Tea State, Moulvibazar

dropped dramatically due to toxic painkillers like Diclofenac and Ketoprofen used on livestock. A 2022–2023 survey estimates only 245–250 individuals remain. Conservation measures, including banning these drugs and creating “vulture safe zones,” have helped stabilize the population, though recovery is slow.

This medium-sized vulture measures 75–90 cm in length, weighing 3.5–7.5 kilograms (kg), with an unfeathered head and neck, broad wings, and short tail feathers. The social birds are often seen in flocks or colonies, especially near villages, rivers, and tea gardens.

Breeding occurs from October to March, with nests in tall trees. Females lay a single egg, incubated by both parents for 45–52 days. Chicks are fed regurgitated meat and fledge after about 3 months. With a lifespan of 16–18 years, the White-rumped Vulture’s future in Bangladesh looks cautiously optimistic, as stabilization efforts continue.

Grey Francolin (*Francolinus pondicerianus*)

Formerly known as the Grey Partridge, this species, locally called Khoir or Titir, belongs to the Phasianidae family. The illusive species was first documented in



A Grey Francolin walking on the Padma Charland, Rajshahi



A Grey Francolin running on the Padma Charland, Rajshahi

Bangladesh when Captain R.C. Tytler collected a specimen in Dhaka in 1852, with his report published in 1866. The species was considered Regionally Extinct in Bangladesh until it was rediscovered on 15 May 2018 in Char Majardiar, Rajshahi, with later sightings in Chuadanga and Kushtia. Globally, it remains widespread across South and Near East Asia.

The Grey Francolin has a round body, short legs, and a stubby tail. Males measure 29–34 cm and weigh 260–340 grams (g), with females slightly smaller. It inhabits dry grasslands, scrub, dunes, and cultivated areas, usually in pairs or small groups. It forages by scratching for seeds, grains, shoots, and insects, and prefers running to flying when disturbed.

Breeding occurs from April to September. Nests are shallow scrapes hidden in thorn bushes or wall niches. Females lay 6–9 speckled eggs, incubating for 18–19 days. Lifespan is about four years.

Brown Crake (*Zapornis akool*)

The Brown Crake, also known as the Brown Bush-hen, locally called Kag, Badami Kheni, or Badami Ghurghuri, is a discreet wetland bird of the Rallidae family. Last



A Brown Crake at Babudaying, Chapainawabgonj



Brown Crake searching food in a canal at Babudaying, Chapainawabgonj

recorded in Dhaka by Captain R.C. Tytler in 1852, it was thought absent for over 165 years until rediscovered on 1 February 2019 by bird photographer Nur-E-Saud in Chapainawabgonj. Later in 2023 it was sighted in Sherpur district.

Measuring 25–28 cm, males weigh 110–170 g and females 110–140 g. The species ranges across South Asia, from Pakistan and India to Bangladesh, Myanmar, and parts of Southeast China and Vietnam. It inhabits marshes, swamps, reed beds, and paddy fields, usually seen alone or in pairs. Mostly active at dawn and dusk, it feeds on invertebrates, worms, small frogs, mollusks, seeds, shoots, and berries.

Breeding occurs from March to August, with nests hidden in dense vegetation and clutches of up to 10 eggs. Lifespan is 3–4 years.

Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Calidris pygmaea*)

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper, locally called Chamochthoti or Kodalthoti Chapakhi, is a Critically Endangered winter migrant to Bangladesh. A tiny shorebird of the Scolopacidae family, its population has declined sharply since the 1970s, with only about 228 breeding pairs remaining worldwide. It breeds in northern Russia and winters across Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Southeast India, Indochina,

South China, Singapore, and the Philippines.



The Critically Endangered spoon-billed sandpiper at Kaladia Char, Sonadia Islands, Cox's Bazar

Measuring 14–16 cm and weighing 29–34 g, females are slightly larger. Its unique spatula-shaped bill increases the tactile surface, helping detect prey in soft sediments and shallow water. In Bangladesh, it winters in Sonadia (Cox's Bazar), Nijhum Dweep (Noakhali), and Domar Char (Bhola), foraging alone or in small mixed flocks on muddy-sandy coastal flats, feeding on invertebrates, insects, larvae, seeds, and small gastropods.

Breeding occurs from July to August in Russia's Chukotka and Kamchatka. Nests are made of moss and sedges near wetlands. Females lay four cryptically marked eggs; both parents incubate, but males' rear chicks alone until fledging at 15–20 days. Lifespan is 6–7 years.

Pale-capped Pigeon (*Columba punicea*)



Pale-capped Pigeon

Also known as the Purple Wood Pigeon and locally as Golapi or Sadatupi Kobutor, the species belongs to the Columbidae family. It is one of the rarest and Critically Endangered pigeons in Bangladesh and is listed globally as Vulnerable, with a patchy distribution across South and Southeast Asia.

This large pigeon measures 36–40 cm and weighs 370–510 g. In Bangladesh, it was last reliably recorded between 1988 and 1989 in Lawachhara National Park, Moulvibazar. It inhabits mixed evergreen and riverine forests, flying slowly and often perching in large fruit trees. Primarily frugivorous, it forages in small groups under the canopy and occasionally on fallen fruits and seeds.

Breeding is poorly known. From May to August, it builds flimsy twig nests in trees or bamboo thickets, usually laying one white egg (sometimes two). Incubation lasts 17–18 days, and chicks fledge in about 28 days. Lifespan is 5–6 years.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

The Eurasian Spoonbill, locally called Khunte, Chamochthoti, or Kodali Bok, is a rare migratory wader of the ibis family (Threskiornithidae). In Bangladesh, it has been recorded in coastal areas, Padma River charlands (Rajshahi), and Choroil Beel (Chapainawabganj). Widespread across Africa, Asia, and southern Europe, it is classified as Critically Endangered as a winter migrant in the country.

This egret-like bird measures 70–95 cm and weighs 1.1–2.0 kg. Its distinctive



A Eurasian Spoonbill flying over the Choroil Beel, Chapainawabganj



Eurasian Spoonbill searching for food in a paddy field at the Choroil Beel, Chapainawabganj

spoon-shaped bill is used to sweep shallow waters for shrimps, fish, tadpoles, frogs, insects, as well as aquatic plants. It forages alone or in small flocks, often alongside herons and egrets, and is most active at dawn and dusk.

Breeding occurs from July to January, usually in colonies with other waterbirds. Nests are made of sticks and vegetation on the ground, reeds, or mangroves. Females lay 3–5 spotted eggs, incubated for 24–25 days. Chicks develop spoon-shaped bills within two weeks and fledge at 45–50 days. Sexual maturity takes 3–4 years, with a lifespan of over 7 years.

Painted Stork (*Mycteria leucocephala*)

The Painted Stork, locally called Ranga Manikjor or Sonajongha, is a large wader of the stork family Ciconiidae. A Critically Endangered winter migrant in Bangladesh, it is occasionally seen in wetlands, river charlands (e.g., Meghna, Padma), estuaries, and coastal areas. Its global range extends across South and Southeast Asia.



Painted Stork in a wetland at Keranigonj, Dhaka

Standing 93–102 cm tall, with a wingspan of 150–160 cm and weighing 2.0–3.5 kg, males and females look similar, though males are slightly larger. Recognizable by its heavy yellow, down-curved beak, it forages in shallow water for fish, frogs, reptiles, rodents, crustaceans, and insects. Usually solitary, in pairs, or small flocks, it flies with its neck outstretched and often rests on one leg.

Breeding occurs after the monsoon (August–

October). Nests are built in trees near water, with 2–4 eggs incubated for 30–32 days. Chicks fledge in about 60 days, and lifespan is approximately 8 years.

Asian Woolly-necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*)

Also known as the Asian Woolly-neck, this rare, Critically Endangered stork is a resident of Bangladesh, with some winter migrants. It inhabits charlands and wetlands in the Rajshahi Division and mudbanks in the Northeast. Its global range extends across Africa and Asia.

A medium-sized stork, it stands 75–92 cm tall, measures 90–125 cm in length, and weighs around 3.5 kg. Usually seen alone, in pairs, or small family groups of 4–5, it forages in marshes, probing mud for reptiles, amphibians, rodents, birds, and mollusks.

Breeding varies by region: during the dry season in Africa, July–September in northern India, December–March in southern India, and June–September in South Asia. Nests are built singly or in loose colonies as large stick platforms atop tall trees, cliffs, or even cell towers. Clutches of 3–4 eggs hatch in 27–29 days. Lifespan is nearly 16 years.

Spotted Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*)

The Spotted Greenshank, also called Nordmann's Greenshank and locally known as Tila Sobuj Chapakhi, is a rare, Critically Endangered winter migrant of the Scolopacidae family. In Bangladesh, fewer than 50 birds are found, restricted to Sonadia Island and Domar Char. It breeds in eastern Russia along the Sea of Okhotsk and Sakhalin Island, migrates through China and Korea, and winters across South and Southeast Asia. Globally, only 900–1,600 mature individuals remain, and populations are declining due to habitat loss.

This medium-sized sandpiper measures 29–32 cm, with a slightly upturned bicolored bill and short yellow legs. It inhabits coastal mudflats, swamps, salt pans, and rice fields, feeding on crabs, mollusks, annelids, marine insects, and other invertebrates.



Asian Woolly-necked Stork flying near its nest on a mobile tower at Rajshahi



Spotted Greenshank, Kadadia Char, Sonadia Islands, Cox's Bazar

Breeding begins late May to June. Both parents incubate 2–4 eggs for 23–24 days and care for precocial chicks, which fledge in 25–30 days. Lifespan is approximately 6 years.

Baer's Pochard (*Aythya baeri*)

Baer's Pochard, locally called Baerer Bhutihash, is a rare and Critically Endangered diving duck of the Anatidae

family. Once widespread, its global population has declined by over 99% since the 1990s. Native to eastern Asia, it winters in southern China, Vietnam, Japan, India, and Bangladesh, where it is mainly found in the haors of the Northeast region, including Tangua and Hakaluki Haors, Pashua Beel, and beels in Kanaighat.

This medium-sized duck measures 41–47 cm with a wingspan of 70–79 cm. Males weigh 500–730 g, and females 590–655 g. It prefers freshwater lakes, marshes, and floodplain wetlands.

Breeding occurs from April to July in Russia's Amur and Ussuri basins and northeast China. Nests are built on the ground or on platforms in dense vegetation. Clutches of 5–14 eggs are incubated 24–27 days by the female, while the male guards. Chicks fledge by mid-summer. Urgent conservation efforts are essential to prevent extinction. The average lifespan in the wild is not documented, but in captivity it is within 10–12 year range.

Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)

The species, also called Indian Scissors-bill and locally known as Panikata, Thelajal, Jolkhlor, Panichora, or Gangchosha, is a rare, Critically Endangered migratory bird of Bangladesh belonging to the Laridae family. It winters mainly along the southwest and southeast coasts, with some breeding reported in Rajshahi. Globally, it occurs across South Asia, from Pakistan and India to Myanmar and Cambodia.

This striking bird measures 38–43 cm, with a wingspan of 102–112 cm and a weight of around 350 g. It is usually seen in flocks over large rivers and estuaries. Skimmers forage by flying low over water with their bill open, the elongated lower mandible skimming the surface to catch fish, small crustaceans, and insect larvae.

Breeding occurs from March to May in colonies of up to 40 pairs. Nests are simple scrapes on open sandbanks, with 3–4 blotched eggs that hatch in about 22 days. Lifespan is 11–12 years.

Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna acuticauda*)

The Black-bellied Tern, locally called Kalo Gangchil, is a Critically Endangered resident of Bangladesh in the Laridae family. Once widespread, its population has declined by over 90% in the past 20 years, leaving fewer than 50 individuals in the country. It occurs mainly along large rivers of central and northern Bangladesh, with a global range across South and Southeast Asia.

This medium-sized tern measures 32–35 cm and weighs 62–75 g. It inhabits freshwater rivers, lakes, and wetlands, rarely venturing to coastal areas. Gregarious and diurnal, it forages in flight, dipping at the water's surface to feed on fish, insects, and crustaceans.

Breeding occurs from February to May. Nests are shallow scrapes on bare sand, often solitary or widely spaced. Clutches of 2–3 eggs hatch in 19–21 days, with both parents caring for the chicks. Lifespan is approximately 11 years.

The writer and photographer of this article is a Wildlife Biologist, Veterinarian and Professor of Gazipur Agricultural University, Gazipur

Publication Festival 2025 by DFP marking the 1st Anniversary of July Upsurge 2024

Department of Films & Publications organized a Publication Festival 2025 at Tathya Bhaban marking the 1st anniversary of the July Mass Uprising 2024.

‘It is our duty to present their memories to the nation. We are trying to build a new Bangladesh as per their aspirations’- Adviser of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Md. Mahfuz Alam told at the inaugural ceremony of the Publication Festival 2025. He said, ‘multi-dimensional initiatives have been taken at the government level to publish books & make films focusing the July mass uprising.

Through this initiatives, documentaries analytical publications & creative works are being done to present that historical event to the next generation.’

The second volume of the book titled ‘36 July: Bangladesh in Graffiti’ & ‘Tarunner Uthsab’ have already been published by DFP and the work of publishing few more books is underway.

The Information Adviser said that government institution including PIB, PID, BTB and Bangladesh Betar are actively working to collect documents on July upsurge and to disseminate them.

Director General of DFP Khaleda Begum chaired the event while Secretary of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Mahbuba Farjana, Principal Information Officer of PID Md. Nizamul Kabir, DG of Mass Communication Md. Faizul Haque, DG of PIB Faruk Wasif, DG of Bangladesh Film Archive Md. Abdul Jalil and DG of National Institute of Mass Communication Muhammad Hiruzzaman were graciously present on the occasion.

Later, the Adviser visited various stalls of the festival, arranged by DFP.



Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md. Mahfuz Alam on August 4, 2025 displaying newly published books at the inaugural ceremony of the Publication Festival 2025, organized by the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) at Tathya Bhaban marking the 1st anniversary of July Upsurge 2024

– Mazharul Hoque

Major National Events

July-September

3 July, 2025

Sea-based economic transformation vital: CA

Chief Adviser (CA) Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus defines offshore Matarbari as “the most important region for Bangladesh’s future” as he envisions sea-based transformation of the economy.

During his meeting with Miyazaki Katsura, Executive Senior Vice President of JICA

(Japan International Cooperation Agency), at the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital on July 3, he stressed quicker execution of the multidimensional Matarbari project, said a spokesperson for the CA Office.

“Japan has always been a trusted friend. I recently visited your country, and I was deeply touched by the warmth and hospitality,” said the CA.

Miyazaki notes Bangladesh remains one of Japan’s most important partners in Asia, and reaffirms Japan’s commitment to continue supporting Bangladesh’s development journey. ‘We deeply mourn the lives lost and those injured in July Uprising,’ she said. *Source: The Financial Express*

15 July, 2025

WB appreciates reforms, reaffirms dev funding

Newly appointed World Bank Vice President for South Asia Johannes Zutt extended Bank’s strong support for Bangladesh’s inclusive growth and appreciated Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus-led interim government’s reform agenda in the economic sector, officials said.

A spokesperson for the CA Office said that Zutt, accompanied by World Bank’s new Division Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, Jean Pesme, called on the Chief Adviser at the State Guest house Jamuna.

During their discussion, Zutt shared his deep affection for Bangladesh, recalling his previous tenure as the World Bank’s country director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal from 2013 to 2015.



Executive Senior Vice President Miyazaki Katsura of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) met Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital on July 3



World Bank Vice President for South Asia Johannes Zutt called on Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest house Jamuna in the capital on July 15

‘Kudos to you and your fantastic team for doing a good job,’ he said acknowledging the post-uprising government’s efforts under Professor Dr. Yunus’s leadership, particularly in addressing ‘some very challenging issues in the financial sector’.

He added, ‘We are very much prepared to continue our journey and share the ambition of the people of Bangladesh.’

Source: The Financial Express

16 July, 2025

July Martyrs Day observed

July Martyrs Day was observed with due respect in Dhaka and elsewhere across the country on July 16, marking the first death anniversary of Abu Sayeed, a student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, who was shot dead on July 16 last year during the nationwide Students Against Discrimination movement.

On the day, the national flag was kept at half-mast in all government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, educational institutions and Bangladesh missions abroad.

To mark the day, several programmes, including discussions, were held nationwide at different organisations, including education institutions in particular.

Special prayers were also offered in all mosques and other religious institutions.

The protests quickly grew into a mass uprising, culminating in the ouster of then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5.



Water resources and environment, forest and climate change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and law, justice and parliamentary affairs Adviser Asif Nazrul, among others, pose for a photo after laying the foundation stone of the Shaheed Abu Sayeed Street Memory Stamp at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur on July 16

The government announced 16 July as July Martyrs Day. The Cabinet Division issued a notification in this regard. *Source: New Age*

18 July, 2025

SpaceX keen to work closely with Bangladesh

SpaceX Vice-President Lauren Dreyer on July 18 met the Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus during her visit to the country as part of a high-level delegation from SpaceX.

‘We operate in 150 countries and territories. We have never seen such efficiency and decisiveness. On behalf of all my colleagues at SpaceX, I extend our appreciation



Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus, SpaceX Vice-President Lauren Dreyer among others are present during a meeting at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital on July 18

to you. We look forward to working closely with your team,’ she said. During her meeting with the Chief Adviser at the State Guest house Jamuna, she commended coordinated efforts of Bangladesh government officials for supporting effective launching of Starlink in the country.

‘There is also a pressing need for improved connectivity in the remote areas of our hill tracts. These regions lack proper schools, teachers, and doctors. We have set a target to introduce online education in 100 schools, which will benefit students in isolated areas,’ he said. *Source: New Age*

20 July, 2025

Promote capable, apolitical officers

Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus on July 20 urged members of the Army Headquarters Selection Board to promote officers who have demonstrated capable leadership throughout their military careers while remaining above political ideology.

The Chief Adviser’s instruction came when he formally inaugurated the ‘Army Headquarters Selection Board-2025’ at the Army Headquarters in the capital.

Prof Yunus said, the officers who are honest, ethical and professional and have leadership qualities deserve higher promotions.

He laid emphasis on the professional skills, leadership qualities, standards of discipline, honesty, trustworthiness and loyalty and above all, suitability for employment of the officers for promotion.

In this first phase of the promotion board, eligible officers of the rank of Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel of the

Bangladesh Army will be considered for further promotion, according to ISPR.

Prof Yunus commended the Bangladesh Army for its continued service beyond safeguarding national independence and sovereignty, particularly in disaster response, maintaining internal security and supporting the civil administration.

Source: The Financial Express

27 July, 2025

Newly appointed Saudi Ambassador pays courtesy call on Yunus

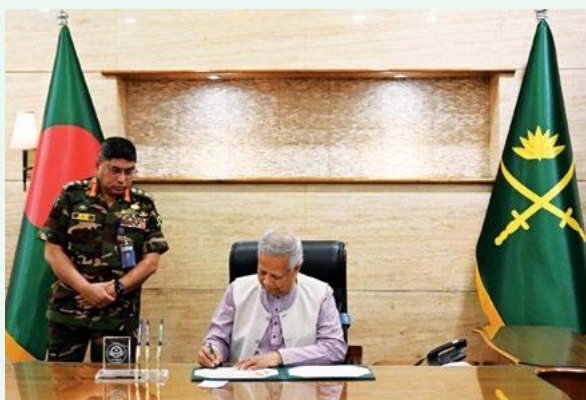
The newly appointed Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dr. Abdullah Zafer bin Abiyah paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on July 27.

The Chief Adviser extended his warmest greetings to the Saudi Ambassador

on assuming his duties in Bangladesh and expressed hope that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia would reach new heights during his tenure, said a press release, issued by the Chief Adviser's press wing.

In this regard, he called for Saudi investment in the energy sector, including oil refineries, the healthcare sector, the health education sector, and the pharmaceutical industry.

In response, the Saudi Ambassador mentioned his country's deep ties with Bangladesh.



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus signs the visitors' book after inaugurating the "Army Headquarters Selection Board-2025 (1st Phase)" programme at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka on July 20



Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus handed over a book on graffiti of July Uprising 2024 to the newly appointed Saudi Ambassador Dr. Abdullah Zafer bin Abiyah at the state guest house Jamuna on July 27

He said that Saudi investment company Red Sea Gateway Terminal is engaged in the Patenga Container Terminal and Matarbari Deep Sea Port, according to the release. *Source: New Age*

27 July, 2025

Govt forms National Pay Commission 2025

The government on July 27 constituted the National Pay Commission 2025 to review the existing pay structure and recommend a time-befitting and suitable salary framework for public sector officials and employees.

According to a notification, issued by the Finance Division, the commission, formed under Section 15 of the Public Service Act 2018, will be chaired by the former Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan as a full-time chairman.

The commission's mandate includes reviewing the current pay, allowances, and other benefits of government, semi-government, autonomous, state-owned banks, financial institutions, and grant-receiving universities—excluding workers under the 1985 Ordinance on State-Owned Manufacturing Industries Workers.

Key areas for recommendations include salary structure, benefits, taxation, allowances (housing, medical, travel, etc.), inflation adjustments, retirement and pension benefits, and monetization of non-cash benefits such as transport and telephone facilities.

The commission will also consider the cost of living for a family, education and healthcare expenses, economic growth, government fiscal capacity, poverty reduction strategies, and attracting and retaining skilled civil servants.

The commission has been asked to submit its report within six months of its first meeting. *Source: New Age*

27 July, 2025

ECNEC clears 12 development projects worth Tk 81.5b

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on July 27 approved 12 development projects -- six new and as many revised -- involving a fresh investment of over Tk 81.49 billion.

However, the committee rejected a controversial revision of the long-delayed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, citing serious flaws in its design and planning.

The approvals came during ECNEC's 12th meeting under the interim government, chaired by Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the NEC Conference Room in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Of the approved funding, Tk 80.59 billion will come from the public exchequer, Tk 527.2 million from implementing agencies' own resources, and Tk 1.43 billion from foreign loans, said Planning Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud at a post-meeting press briefing. *Source: The Financial Express*

29 July, 2025

Govt working on broad consensus around political system: CA

Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus said, the interim government was working to build a broad national consensus around a renewed political system.

‘We are working to build a broad national consensus around a renewed political

system - one that delivers inclusive, participatory, and credible elections,' he said.

'The goal is clear: to establish a society where all Bangladeshis can live in peace, with pride, with freedom, and with dignity,' the Chief Adviser told an event.

The UN Event on the July Uprising & Fact-Finding Report was held at Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka, on 29 July.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Yunus said their work is far from finished.

'Alongside our reform agenda, we are pursuing legal accountability for those responsible for gross violations,' he said. *Source: The Financial Express*

29 July, 2025

Hong Kong-based Handa to invest \$ 250m in Bangladesh

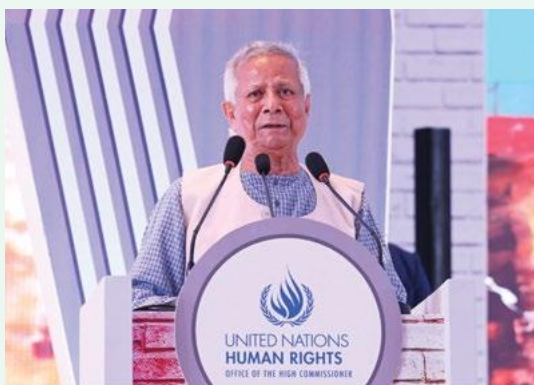
Handa Industries Co, a Hong Kong-based textile and apparel chain, has announced it will invest 250 million USD in Bangladesh.

Handa Industries Co, Chairman Han Chun announced the plan as he meet Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on July 29.

Handa had initially planned to invest 150 million USD in Bangladesh's textile sector and signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh authorities during the Bangladesh Investment Summit in April 2025. *Source: The Financial Express*



Handa Industries co-chairman Han Chun and team met Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on July 29



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus speaks at a UN event marking the first anniversary of the July Uprising at a city hotel on July 29

3 August, 2025

Govt. working on media reforms, journalists' protection: Mahfuz

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is working to implement 12 recommendations of the media reform commission by August this year, Information Adviser Mahfuz Alam said on August 3.

"We are working on the Journalists' Protection Act and the 9th Wage Board, and these



Information Adviser Mahfuz Alam handing over a certificate to one of the recipients at the programme, organised by Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust (BJWT) in the capital on August 3

will be implemented during the tenure of the interim government,” he said while addressing an event as chief guest.

The programme, organised by the Bangladesh Journalist Welfare Trust (BJWT), was held at the DFP Auditorium in the capital. It honoured journalists who bravely performed their duties during the July uprising, along with families of martyred journalists.

A total of 192 journalists and the families of five martyred journalists were recognised for their courageous and professional conduct during

the mass uprising that occurred between July 1 and August 5 last year. The adviser handed over crests, certificates, and cheques to the recipients.

Adviser Mahfuz clarified that the Information Ministry has no role in the blocking or distribution of news content. *Source: The Financial Express*

5 August, 2025

July Declaration to be ratified in reformed Constitution

A new national proclamation called ‘July Declaration’ encapsulating people’s aspirations



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus reading out the ‘July Proclamation’ at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad on August 5. He was flanked by leaders of different political parties

in the mass uprising 2024 would be ratified in reformed constitution of Bangladesh by the forthcoming parliament.

As the nation marked on August 5 the first anniversary of the historic mass uprising that ousted the long-serving regime of Sheikh Hasina, Chief Adviser of the interim government Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus unveiled the political-consensus declaration focusing equity, justice and fair polls through inclusive democratic reforms.

The declaration bears a promise for incorporation of the July Declaration into the schedule of a reformed Constitution to be drawn by a future elected government.

Source: The Financial Express

12 August, 2025

Dhaka, KL ink MoUs on defence and energy

Bangladesh and Malaysia on August 12 agreed to deepen ties at summit talks capped with the adoption of eight instruments of cooperation with thrust on economy, investment, free trade, and labour recruitment.

The signing of five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and exchange of three notes on cooperation followed talks between visiting Bangladesh

Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus and Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya, where the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to transforming the Bangladesh-Malaysia relations into a deeper, future-orientated strategic partnership.

The two leaders first had a one-on-one conclave, preceded by a restricted session with select senior officials. Later, they led delegation-level talks covering a wide range of bilateral issues, including trade, investment, labour migration, energy cooperation, blue economy, education, and cultural exchanges, said a spokesperson for the CA Office.

Source: The Financial Express

12 August, 2025

Invest in Bangladesh to avail bounteous business benefits

Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus on August 12 invited Malaysian investors to invest in Bangladesh to book bounteous business benefits unlocked



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim speak at a joint press meet at the latter's office in Putrajaya on August 12



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus addressing at a business forum in Kuala Lumpur on August 12

by the interim government through a series of measures to turn the country a business haven.

“Bangladesh is trying to become business-friendly in every possible way... I found an unlimited prospect in changing Bangladesh,” the head of post-uprising government told his audience at a business forum in Kuala Lumpur on trade and investment opportunities between Bangladesh and Malaysia. On August 13 addressing a special conovation at University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) was conferred upon honorary doctorate to Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus in social business. *Source: The Financial Express*

17 August, 2025

ECNEC okays 11 development projects worth Tk 78.55b

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on August 17 approved 11 development projects involving a total cost of Tk 78.55 billion.

The projects include five new initiatives, three revised projects and tenure extension of three ongoing projects without additional costs.

Planning Adviser Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud disclosed it at a press briefing at the NEC Auditorium in the capital after the ECNEC meeting, which was held with Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus in the chair.

Of the total cost, the government will provide Tk 50.14 billion from the public exchequer, Tk 2.57 billion will come from the implementing agencies, and Tk 25.84 billion will be available from external loans and grants, according to Planning Commission documents. *Source: The Financial Express*

18 August, 2025

Protect nature to save fisheries resources: CA

Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus on August 18 urged all to come forward to protect nature and help conserve the country’s fisheries resources.

‘Let’s learn to show respect to nature. Let’s learn to be kind to nature,’ he told the inaugural session of the National Fisheries Week-2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Yunus said the fish is a gift of nature and it is a gift of Almighty Allah.

He mentioned that people have been indiscriminately destroying nature, the habitat of fish, and that is why they have to think of being kind to nature and, thus, help conserve local fish species. *Source: The Financial Express*

26 August, 2025

Yunus launches 7-point proposals to resolve Rohingya crisis

Launching a 7-point proposals at an international conference for immediate safe repatriation of Rohingyas, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government Dr Muhammad Yunus also made an appeal for global action to stop their persecution in Myanmar.

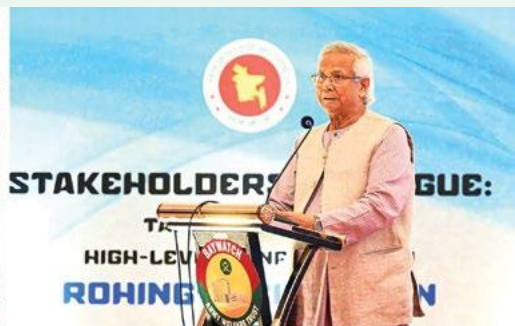
The seven-point proposal given by the Chief Adviser is to ensure a ‘safe environment’ for the Rohingya to return to their country, to establish a safe zone in Rakhine under the supervision of the UN and resettle the Rohingyas there.

Also is a recommendation for increasing international pressure on Myanmar for Rohingya return.

The other proposals are to restore the civil rights of the Rohingyas in Myanmar,



Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the National Fisheries Week 2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital on August 18



Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus speaks at an international programme titled 'Stakeholders' Dialogue: Takeaways to the High-Level Conference on Rohingya Situation' in Cox's Bazar on August 26

take effective measures to prevent new Rohingya infiltration, to take initiatives to resolve the Rohingya crisis in coordination with local administrations and international organisations, and to present these proposals at the UN high-level conference and find a solution.

The 3-day conference titled ‘Take Away to the High-Level Conference on the Rohingya Situation’ began Sunday at the sea-beach venue at Inani, Ukhia. The conference is jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for Rohingya Issues. *Source: The Financial Express*

3 September, 2025

Entrepot MIDA to add \$150b to BD GDP

An emergent entrepot from seaside Maheshkhali-Matarbari integrated development project is expected to directly and indirectly create 2.5 million jobs and help expand Bangladesh’s GDP by US\$150 billion.



Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus in a meeting with members of the newly-formed Moheshkhali Integrated Development Authority (MIDA) at the state guest house Jamuna on September 3

The popping vista was presented by a delegation of the newly formed Maheshkhali Integrated Development Authority (MIDA) before Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus on September 3.

Led by MIDA Chairman Chowdhury Ashiq Mahmud bin Harun, the delegation met with the head of

interim government at the state guest-house Jamuna. Also present were MIDA members Commodore Tanzim Faruq and Md. Sarowar Alam, along with Chief Adviser’s Principal Coordinator on SDGs Lamia Morshed and Secretary of the Chief Adviser’s Office Md. Saifullah Panna.

The MIDA chief gave a presentation on the Maheshkhali-Matarbari project and outlined MIDA’s four-month work plan. He said the project would be implemented in three phases: Phase I from 2025 to 2030, Phase II from 2030 to 2045, and Phase III from 2045 to 2055. *Source: The Financial Express*

9 September, 2025

Govt working to expand global mkt access for jute products

Textiles and Jute Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin has emphasised the need to combine aesthetics with practical utility in the development of jute products with a view

to effectively capturing both local and global markets.

He made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of a boot camp on ‘Sustainable market entry for jute-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs)’, held at the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre in the capital on September 9.



Textiles and Jute Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin visits a sales centre of Jute Diversification Promotion Centre after the inauguration of a boot camp on ‘Sustainable market entry for jute-based Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)’ in the capital on September 9

‘It would not be possible to go far with jute products by only making flowers and fruits. People are happy to see them but do not buy such products,’ said the adviser. ‘To move forward with jute products, we must create items that have practical uses and that people are willing to purchase,’ he added. *Source: The Financial Express*

12 September, 2025

Belt and Road exhibition showcases China-Bangladesh cooperation

The two-day Belt and Road Initiative Exhibition has opened in Dhaka with the aim of casting a spotlight on the ‘joint capabilities’ of China and Bangladesh and attracting Chinese investment.

Speaking at the inaugural event in Bashundhara Convention Centre on September 12 Commerce Advisor Sheikh Bashir Uddin said: ‘This exhibition is a platform for our mutual cooperation and sharing of ideas. Through this, we are trying to establish a connection between trade and investment.’

Eight Bangladeshi companies and 32 Chinese firms are participating in the exhibition, which has been organised by the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka.



Commerce Adviser Sk. Bashir Uddin inaugurates ‘The Belt & Road Initiative in Bangladesh Exhibition 2025’ in International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), Dhaka on September 12

The event aims to strengthen economic, commercial and technological ties between the two countries, bringing together companies, investors, government officials and technologists from a range of sectors. *Source: The Financial Express*

14 September, 2025

Prof Yunus asks PKSF to expand programmes with tech-driven youth entrepreneurship

Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus on September 14 encouraged the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) to expand its programmes on a large scale and give the young people an opportunity to become entrepreneurs taking advantage of the technology that connected them with the world.

‘Technology has connected us with the world in a big way in all works. By taking advantage of this technology, time has come to create an opportunity for every person allowing them to go where he or she wants to go, centering their creativity,’ he said, hoping that the PKSF will start a new journey towards that goal with the formal opening of the new building.



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus speaking as the chief guest at a ceremony marking the formal opening of the PKSF Building-2 on September 14

Highlighting the importance of making things time-befitting for further expansion of PKSF programmes, the Chief Adviser said this approach can do a miracle if they can proceed accordingly. ‘People are born to be entrepreneurs.’

Prof Yunus made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a ceremony marking the formal opening of the PKSF

Building-2 where he shared the stories of PKSF’s formation stage, his role and its long journey.

The Chief Adviser unveiled the plaque of the newly constructed PKSF Bhaban-2 at Khiljee Road (Bir Uttom A N M Nuruzzaman Road), Shyamoli, Mohammadpur.

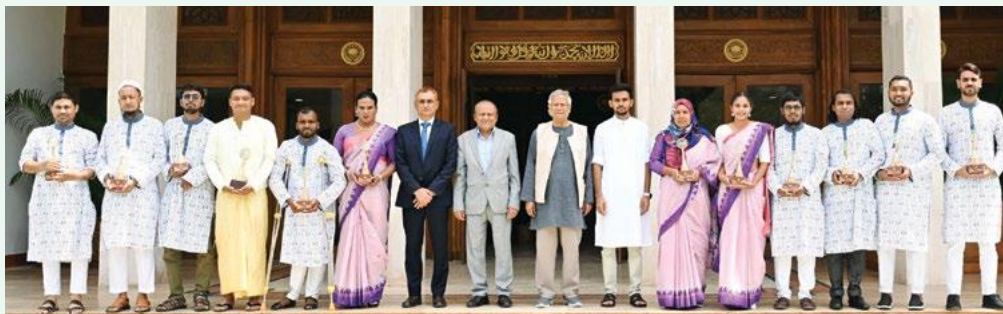
Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed spoke as a special guest at the ceremony chaired by PKSF Chairman Zakir Ahmed Khan.

Managing Director (MD) of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Md Fazlul Kader delivered welcome remarks. *Source: The Financial Express*

15 September, 2025

Chief Adviser pins hopes on youth leadership

Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus pins hopes on youth leadership for problem solving as he urges the young to lead from the front in tackling the nation’s most



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus posed for photos with the Youth Volunteer Award 2025 recipients at the Chief Adviser's Office in the capital on September 15

pressing challenges through turning voluntary services into a force for innovation, social justice, and long-term transformation.

Speaking at the Youth Volunteer Award 2025 ceremony in Dhaka on September 15 Yunus warned that the path ahead for Bangladesh would inevitably bring new and complex obstacles – from public health crises to inadequate access to education and climate-induced disasters. ‘These challenges must not leave us in despair,’ he told the audience. ‘Instead, we must confront them unitedly with our own strength. I hope our young people will lead this work.’

At the event, held at the Shapla Hall of the Chief Adviser's Office and organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, 12 young people were honoured in five categories for their contributions through voluntary service. Yunus personally handed over the awards, describing the winners as exemplars of the ‘driving force of the nation.’ *Source: The Financial Express*

15 September, 2025

Bangladesh for deeper trade ties with US, seeks further tariff cut

Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus reaffirms Bangladesh's strong commitment to deepening relations with the United States, particularly in trade, investment, energy and development cooperation, as a bilateral trade deal is set to be signed.

‘Thank you very much for the support. We are very happy about what has happened. This is the key to our economy,’ he said during a meeting with Assistant United States Trade Representative (AUSTR) Brendan Lynch at the Chief Adviser's Office in Dhaka on September 15.



Assistant United States Trade Representative Brendan Lynch meets Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at his office in Tejgaon, Dhaka, on September 15



Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus visited Dhakeshwari National Temple to witness preparations for the upcoming Durga Puja and exchanged greetings with members of the Hindu community on September 16

He was referring to the USTR's recent decision, announced on July 31, to lower the reciprocal tariff rate on Bangladeshi exports to the US from 35 per cent to 20 per cent -- a move he described as a significant milestone in bilateral trade relations.

Source: The Financial Express

16 September, 2025

Committed to ensuring equal rights for all citizens

Extending advance Durga Puja greetings, Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus on 16 September 2025

said no government has the right to deny citizens their fundamental constitutional rights.

"We -- the entire nation -- is a broader family. The government is committed to ensuring equal rights and dignity for all citizens," he said, stressing the importance of unity to defeat evil forces.

Prof Dr. Yunus visited Dhakeshwari National Temple to witness preparations for the upcoming Durga Puja and exchanged greetings with members of the Hindu community.

He also urged citizens to remain aware of their rights. "Keep reminding yourself that you are a citizen of this country, and you must be given the rights and dignity guaranteed by the Constitution." *Source : The Daily Star*

17 September, 2025

Free, fair and festive polls in February

Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus on September 17 reaffirmed his government's commitment to holding a free, fair, transparent, and festive general election in early February next year, ahead of Ramadan.

He gave the assurance during a meeting with a delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), led by Mounir Satouri, at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka.

'We have already announced the timeline for the election. It will be held in early February, just before Ramadan,' Yunus told the visiting delegation.

'Bangladesh will witness a new beginning through the February election. The general election will be peaceful, clean, transparent, and festive,' he said.

During the hour-long meeting, the two sides discussed the interim government's



A Delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) met the Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on September 17

reform agenda, the European Union's continued support for Bangladesh's development and democratic transition, and the ongoing Rohingya humanitarian crisis. *Source: The Daily Star*

17 September, 2025

ECNEC okays 13 projects worth Tk 83.33b

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on September 17 approved 13 projects worth Tk 83.33 billion aimed at strengthening energy exploration, upgrading infrastructure, and supporting social development across the country.

To strengthen the state-owned energy exploration company Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX), ECNEC approved the procurement of a high-capacity drilling rig for the fuel exploration project at Tk 5.77 billion.

Another project, costing Tk 15.56 billion, was also approved to explore gas at five prospective wells nationwide.

Presided over by Chief Adviser Prof Dr. Muhammad Yunus, ECNEC cleared the projects, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud told journalists after the meeting. ECNEC has also decided to identify khas land (government-owned land) under different public agencies to ensure proper utilisation and management, the adviser added.

Among the 11 other ECNEC-approved development projects, seven are new, five are revised, and one received an extension without any additional cost. *Source: The Financial Express*

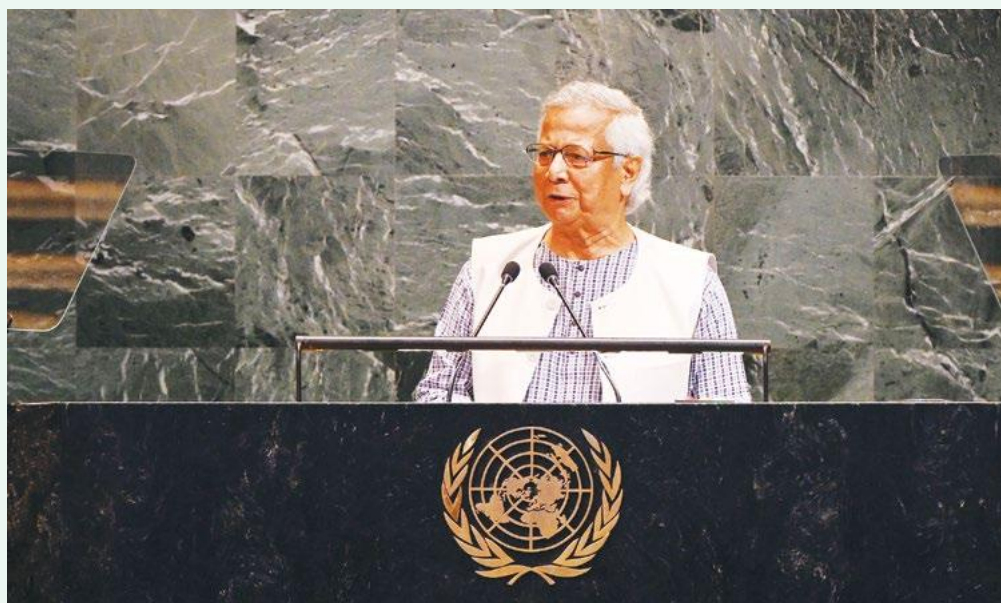
26 September, 2025

CA highlights Bangladesh's democratic progresses, reforms in his UNGA speech

Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus addressed the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) delivering a powerful call for justice, reform, and renewed international solidarity.

Reflecting on Bangladesh's transformation since the July Uprising of 2024, Prof Yunus highlighted the decisive role of youth in restoring democracy and inspiring reforms now anchored in the 'July Declaration.'

The Chief Adviser paid tribute to Bangladesh's expatriate workforce, noting that migrant workers continue to send home record levels of remittances, and underlined that their contributions are equally valuable in host countries and at home.



Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus addresses the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

He drew attention of the Member States to the High Level Conference on Rohingya on 30 September 2025 and urged the global community to step up support for the Rohingyas.

He also strongly condemned the Israeli genocide and called for urgent international action to stop the violence in Gaza.

He reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering support for a two-state solution.

He presented his vision of a “three-zero world”: zero carbon, zero net wealth concentration to end poverty, and zero unemployment. *Source: Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS)*

Report Compilation: Mazharul Hoque, Mamun Hossain



July Graffiti

