



Visitors look at displayed photographs taken by New Age photojournalists Sony Ramani and Md Saurav, Prothom Alo's Suvra Kanti Das, Business Standard's Mehedi Hasan, Bangladesh Pratidin's Rohet Ali Rajib and Ajker Patrika's Jahidul Islam Sahal in the July-August uprising in the past year at the North South University in Dhaka on Wednesday. — New Age photo

NSU hosts dialogue on democratic transition

Staff Correspondent

IN LIGHT of Bangladesh's recent political landscape and the anniversary of the July uprising, the Centre for Peace Studies at North South University and Germany's Arnold Bergstrasser Institute jointly organised a special dialogue and a three-day photo exhibition at the NSU in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The exhibition was inaugurated by AK Kashem, board of trustees and founder life member of the NSU Trust, said a press release on Wednesday.

The dialogue, titled One Year On: Revisiting the Role of Youth and Bangladesh's Transition Towards Democracy, brought together prominent speakers who emphasised democratic values, constitutional reforms, and the historical importance of memory.

CPS director and moderator of the session M Jashim Uddin said, 'This dialogue is not a mere formality—it carries the legacy of a history. Democracy is not a political structure; it is the spirit of the soul. We must build the foundation of our democracy through these two paths: memory and education.'

The chief guest, law adviser, Professor Asif Nazrul stated that the 2024 movement marked the beginning of a new, transformative chapter. He noted, 'People protested even at the risk of death, because our young generation has overcome the fear of the ruler. The revolution is not over—it is an ongoing process.'

Asif Nazrul also commented on the dichotomy of human rights, saying, 'The very countries that advocate for human rights are the ones involved in arms trade, which

other nations. To counter this double standard, we must foster a culture of introspection and education.'

During the panel discussion, political analyst Bobby Hajjaj remembered the students' sacrifices, saying, 'This movement was not just political; it was a journey of self-realisation. Everyone should celebrate and preserve this moment.'

Advocate Shishir Manir highlighted the lack of coordination among the three pillars of the state: the judiciary, the executive, and the legislature.

Barrister Mir Ahmad Bin Quasem, who returned after being forcibly abducted for eight years, said, 'I feel like a man buried in a grave. The fact that we are speaking today is due to the sacrifice of thousands of young people. We must not forget—we must learn to see people as human beings, not by