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## Hasina demands right to talk on phone from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded the legal rights she is entitled to including the right to communicate over telephone from the sub-jail on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, her lawyer said.

The former premier also expressed surprise and disappointment over a judgment of the High Court in the Mig-29 case filed against her, her lawyer Fazle Noor Taposh told newsmen after meeting her at the sub-jail yesterday.

People should remain alert, her lawyer Jawique Nawaz quoted her as saying following his meeting with Hasina. She also asked her party leaders and workers to remain united, have patience and face the present situation.

"She [Hasina] is not getting many rights which she is entitled to

## Double whammy for the flood-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even before getting the chance of recovering from the effects of an earlier flood, thousands of people were marooned again across the country while crops and vegetables on over a million hectares of land went under water due to the incessant downpour over the last few days.

Environment and flood experts expressed grave concerns over the intensity of the second spell of the flood while our correspondents from different districts sent reports of damages done to flood protection embankments and inundations of new areas. Road communication between Rangamati and

Chittagong and some places of Khagrachhari and Sirajganj were snapped.

Dr Ainun Nishat, an eminent water and flood expert in the country, told The Daily Star that the July flood was a moderate one, but big floods usually occur in mid and late September.

"It was possible to recover from the crop damage we had to endure in July...but I am afraid, this time around it will be really difficult..."

Talking to The Daily Star, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) chief Saiful Hossain said, "Actually...we are in trouble...the situation is grim. Records show that floods of late August and September usually last longer."

He added, "There was some improvement in the flood situation for about 10 days but again we find the rivers rising alarmingly threatening to destroy the banks. The recent flood witnessed by us only in last month was a premature one, when the Ganges was not so vigorous, but now all the major rivers are likely to rise."

An FFWC bulletin warned that the north, north-central and the south-central parts of the country are under threat of a second spell of flooding in the next 48 to 72 hours.

As monsoon remains vigorously active in the Ganges, Meghna, and Brahmaputra basins, both in and outside the country, and also in the

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## Rain paralyzes Ctg; 2 die

CU CORRESPONDENT

A girl and a middle-aged man were swept away by rainwater in the port city yesterday that has been experiencing heavy downpour since Friday evening.

Two other girls also went missing during the heavy rain yesterday.

The dead were identified as Khadiza Akter, 7, daughter of Abdul Khalek, and Zillur Rahman, 45, son of Mohammad Shahabuddin.

The road communication between Chittagong and Rangamati has been snapped as the rainwater washed away a bailey bridge at Kalamapati area in Raosan upazila.

The torrential rains have brought life and activities in the city and different parts of the district to a halt.

According to the Met office at Patenga, the city and the adjoining areas have experienced 108.3mm

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## Bhuiyan proposes Saifur to take over BNP

The former finance minister says he is too ill for the post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expelled BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who claims his faction to be the mainstream of the party, yesterday proposed that former finance minister M Saifur Rahman take charge of the BNP.

Sources said Saifur did not turn down Bhuiyan's proposal but said he is not fit for the post due to illness. Saifur once again expressed his full support to the initiatives undertaken by Bhuiyan to strengthen the party through reforms.

Bhuiyan met Saifur at the latter's Gulshan residence yesterday and gave the proposal.

BNP Secretary General

Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday blamed Bhuiyan for hatching conspiracy against the party and said reforms will be implemented following party constitution, not Bhuiyan's design.

"He [Bhuiyan] has drawn a unique reform proposal to implement his own desires," Delwar told reporters at his NAM apartment house yesterday. "What he has done following his expulsion is part of a conspiracy against the party," Delwar added.

Sources said the faction of BNP led by Delwar wants to pass time as a strategy to gain control over the situation. The newly appointed secretary general will meantime talk to leaders at the district and upazila levels for their support and

cooperation to maintain unity at the grassroots level.

A few leaders from Dhaka, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Bhola and Barguna yesterday met Delwar at his residence to express their solidarity with the leadership of detained party chief Khaleida Zia.

Talking to reporters Delwar yesterday once again asserted that the BNP has only one stream and that is under the leadership of Chairperson Khaleida Zia. "There is nothing called 'mainstream' of BNP," he said.

He blamed Bhuiyan for not initiating any reform during his 11-year tenure as the party secretary general. He, however, said the BNP has undergone many reforms since

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## Council okays fertiliser management ordinance

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved in principle the Fertiliser Management (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 aimed at stopping the sale of low-grade fertiliser in the name of organic fertiliser.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the council with Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed in the chair.

Another proposal was placed for constituting a joint commission on bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Myanmar. After discussing the proposal, the meeting asked the foreign ministry to "re-examine its various clauses" and place it again before the council.

The council also discussed the draft National Human Rights

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## Reform talks might be pushed back

CEC says as ban on politics still in force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has yet to decide whether to lift the ban on indoor politics or at least relax the curbs when only three days are left to go before the Election Commission's (EC) dialogue on electoral reforms begins.

The political parties that have already been invited are confused about how to go about developing their strategies for the discussions. They cannot meet at party forum to discuss the EC's draft proposals for electoral reforms unless the ban is withdrawn or loosened.

"We cannot seem to have a formal discussion to set our stance on the proposed reforms due to the ban," Abdul Latif Nezami, secre-

tary general of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), told The Daily Star yesterday. The IOJ is scheduled to sit with the commission on September 12, the first day of the much-awaited talks. Nezami said he received the invitation and copy of the draft proposals on August 29.

Contacted, Krishak Sramik Janata League chief Abdul Quader Siddiqui said his party received the invitation last Thursday.

"We don't know if the government will take action against us if we hold a formal meeting to discuss the commission's proposals," he said adding that he has, however, invited the working committee members for tea at his residence on September 10.

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## Govt must not sign any deal with IMF against nat'l interest

Says finance adviser

UNB, Dhaka

The government must not enter into any treaty with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that hampers national interest, no matter whatever amount of money it offers to lend, said the finance adviser.

"I will not accept any condition which is against the interest of the country," Mirza Azizul Islam said after a meeting with the visiting IMF team at his Planning Commission office yesterday morning.

Responding to questions from reporters about the Policy Support Instruments (PSI) treaty proposed by the IMF, he said still there has not been any discussion about the so-called PSI treaty. "But I can

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PHOTO: STAR

A woman with a child on her lap and another held by the hand wades waist-deep through flood waters on Kalibazar Kathur road in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha.

## 10-man medical board formed for Koko

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-member medical board has been formed for the treatment of Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of former prime minister Khaleida Zia, at the cardiology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital.

Led by Prof Dr KMHS Sirajul Haque, chairman of the cardiology department, the medical board examined Koko immediately after it was formed at around 11:00am yesterday.

He was admitted to the coronary care unit (CCU) at BSMMU under Associate Professor Dr Manjur Mahmud from Dhaka Central Jail on Friday at about 4:15pm.

Koko arrived at the hospital with pain in chest and shoulder along with cough and respiratory complexities, Dr Sirajul Haque said

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## Abul Hasnat Abdullah sued for concealing wealth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Another case was lodged against Abul Hasnat Abdullah, former Awami League (AL) chief whip, in connection with concealing information about his actual wealth in the statement submitted to the Anti-corruption Commission.

Abdullah, Barisal district AL secretary and also cousin of AL chief Sheikh Hasina, is undergoing trial in absentia in two other cases

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## DU VIOLENCE Cops to press charges against three teachers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police will submit charge sheets today against three Dhaka University (DU) teachers, including two already detained professors, in two cases for violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) during the recent campus violence.

Charge sheets will also be submitted against arrested Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Azizul Barea Helal for

violation of the EPR and around 100 persons including students for vandalism on the campus and at different places in the city.

Police sources said charge sheets will be submitted in 20 of total 53 cases filed with different police stations in the city while final reports will be submitted for these.

Apart from detained DU Teachers' Association General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain and

DU Social Sciences Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid, a science faculty professor will be charged, sources said.

Shahbagh police said they will submit charge sheets of three cases and final reports of four cases to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today. A total of 11 cases were filed with the police station.

They will submit charge sheets against Prof Anwar and Prof Harun

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## DU classes to resume Oct 28

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) Syndicate in a meeting last night decided to resume classes of the university on October 28, said a press release of the DU authorities.

The Syndicate, with Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair, also decided to reopen the dormitories on October 23.

Meanwhile, the Syndicate of Jahangirnagar University (JU) in an emergency meeting yesterday decided to resume its classes on September 12 and reopen its dormitories on September 11, reports UNB.

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