



A group of youths under the banner of "Illusion in Motion" forms a human chain near the Indian High Commission in the capital yesterday rejecting the verdict in the Felani murder trial.

PHOTO: STAR

## FELANI VERDICT Youths protest near Indian mission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of youths held an hour-long human chain near Indian High Commission in the capital yesterday to protest the acquittal of a Border Security Force (BSF) soldier who was charged with murdering Bangladeshi girl Felani Khatun at the border two and a half years ago.

Terming the murder trial "farical", they demanded that Bangladesh take the issue to the international court, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, quoting the protesters who introduced them as members of a voluntary organisation, "Illusion in Motion".

A special court in West Bengal exempted BSF guard Amiya Ghosh, the lone accused, on Friday.

Felani, 15, was shot dead on January 7, 2011 while she was climbing over the barbed wire fence to return home in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.



## Help restore Shohagi's sight

CITY DESK

Syeda Shohagi has been suffering from "Steven Johnson Syndrome", a life-threatening skin disease, in the both eyes for the last 16 years.

Her family tried to give her the best treatment available in Bangladesh and India. After five years of rigorous treatment, doctors advised her to visit Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA where the chance of recovery is much higher.

But the treatment will cost Tk 45-50 lakh, which is quite impossible for her husband, who works as an MLSS at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), to afford. So, her family appeals for the kind-hearted support from the affluent people of society. Aid can be sent to Md Anwar Hossain, Account Number: 1507100379156001, Brac Bank Ltd, Banani Branch, Dhaka or contact at 01752726666.

## Student beaten up in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants yesterday beat a student up near Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital and snatched away money, a mobile phone and a camera from him.

The victim Ali Mortuza Jackie, 23, is a fourth year student of Dhaka Commerce College's finance department.

The victim was taking pictures when the miscreants attacked him. They called him an Islami Chhatra Shibir activist, beat him up and snatched away his valuables, said police quoting the victim.

He was released after primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Jackie told reporters at DMCH that the attackers identified themselves as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and attacked him.

## DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT MPs to decide CEC Rakibuddin tells journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said the parliament would decide whether the upcoming parliamentary election would be held with or without dissolving the current Jatiya Sangsad.

"We will work as per whatever they (MPs) decide," he told journalists at the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat in the capital.

The constitution allows elections with or without dissolution of parliament. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at a meeting with secretaries on September 2, said the national election would be held without dissolving the parliament and Cabinet.

Without clarifying which provision the EC will follow, Rakibuddin reiterated, "We are preparing to hold the election as per the constitutional provision. We cannot do anything beyond the constitution."

On whether the EC will propose dissolving the parliament, Rakibuddin said it was not possible at present to say

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## BNP JS caucus places poll-time formula

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP Parliamentary Caucus, a body of some BNP lawmakers, yesterday proposed to form a 15-member interim government for holding the upcoming general election.

According to their formula, the government with the chief adviser as its head will carry out all administrative functions for 90 days during which the election will be held.

The caucus came up with the proposal at a seminar titled "Caretaker Government, Corruption Prevention and Law and Order Situation" at Parliament Members Club of Jatiya Sangsad.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, who addressed the seminar as chief guest, however, said, "The BNP has no relation with the proposal but they will discuss it at their party's highest

forum in the presence of the chairperson."

The caucus suggested that a former chief justice or an incumbent justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court or the incumbent speaker of parliament might be appointed the chief adviser.

Alternatively, the two main political parties can pick a civil society member for the post, it said.

Then, the chief adviser will pick 14 neutral, non-political advisers on the advices of the president and political parties, according to the proposal.

Expressing some reservation, the caucus said the Speaker, though she had failed to play an impartial role, might be eligible for being chief adviser if she does not run for presidency in the future.

The caucus also suggested that the opposition BNP and the ruling Awami League hold

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বহু প্রয়োজনের ভীড়ে ঢাকার  
আর এই ব্যস্ততার ভীড়ে এক  
বেইলি রোড  
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## Give 60pc dearness allowance or face demo

Say class III, IV  
govt employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of class III and IV government employees yesterday placed a five-point demand, including 60 percent dearness allowance and other benefits to meet the rising prices of essentials and living costs.

Addressing a press conference in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity, leaders of the organisation, Bangladesh Sharkari Karmachari Shamannoy Parishad (BSKSP), also demanded cancellation of a government bar on appointing class IV employees.

If the demands are not met by September 23, BSKSP will hold demonstrations in all upazila, zila, and divisions the next day, said BSKSP General Secretary Nomanuzzaman Al Azad.

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## POSSIBLE TENSION IN AFGHANISTAN Bangladesh must be aware of spillover

Ex-diplomats, political analysts  
tell int'l conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former diplomats and political analysts yesterday underscored the need for political stability in Bangladesh so that the country could escape unrest if tension spills over South Asia after partial withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan early next year.

There is a possibility that instability will originate in Afghanistan after the pullout, which may affect this region, they told an international conference on "Afghanistan beyond 2014: Implications for South Asia" at a city hotel.

"It is very difficult to say whether stability will prevail in Afghanistan after the partial withdrawal, as the country has a long history of violence," said former ambassador Ashfaqur Rahman.

Replying to a query, he said there was little possibility that militancy would emerge again in Bangladesh over the security issue in Afghanistan.

Political analyst Prof Dilara Choudhury said, "Many of us fear that radical groups may emerge in the country if stability fails to prevail in Afghanistan."

"It is better to be aware of that," she told the daylong conference, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS).

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert W Gibson said stability in Afghanistan was vital for development of itself as well as for South Asian states including Bangladesh.

BIPSS President Maj Gen (ret'd) ANM Muniruzzaman gave the welcome speech, while some other former diplomats and politicians also spoke.

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- Students must bring a printed copy of the confirmation letter of registration
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