



# The Daily Star

**PUNISHED AGAIN**  
Disciplinary Committee recommends six-month int'l ban for Sabbir Rahman  
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**"All autocrats claim to be democrats .... We don't want it. We want a real, people-friendly democracy where people will have control over the state."**  
EMINENT JURIST AND GONOFORUM PRESIDENT DR KAMAL HOSSAIN AT A DISCUSSION IN DHAKA (PAGE 20)



**"Many in the country still don't know how to put thumb impressions. How will they vote by pressing the button of EVM?"**  
JATIYA PARTY CHIEF ERSHAD AT A PROGRAMME (PAGE 3)



**"He made us better presidents -- just as he made the Senate better, just as he made the country better."**  
BARACK OBAMA AT REPUBLICAN SENATOR MCCAIN'S FUNERAL (PAGE 8)

## No election with Khaleda behind bars

**BNP leaders tell a rally in city; allege EVMs a plot to rig polls; unveil a set of demands**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The BNP has demanded that the government release its chief Khaleda Zia before the schedule for the upcoming national election is announced.  
There will be no polls keeping the BNP chairperson behind bars, said senior leaders at a huge rally in the capital yesterday marking the party's 40th founding anniversary.  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina must resign and parliament has to be dissolved before the election schedule is declared so that a congenial atmosphere for inclusive and meaningful elections could be created, they said.  
Their other demands include: release of all political prisoners, withdrawal of the

**KEY DEMANDS**

- Free Khaleda before polls schedule
- PM must quit, parliament dissolved
- Political prisoners have to be released
- Deploy armed forces during election
- Reconstitute Election Commission
- Form polls-time non-partisan govt



**A part of the BNP rally in front of BNP's Naya Paltan central office yesterday afternoon. The street between Fakirerpool and Nightingale intersections were filled with participants. Inset, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam addressing the rally.** PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 14-party to be on street from Sept 18

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance will be on the street from September 18 to fight conspiracies ahead of the upcoming general elections slated to be held at the end of December.  
AL's presidium member Mohammed Nasim, also spokesperson of the alliance, made the announcement after a meeting of the allies.  
The meeting was held at the AL president's Dhanmondi office with Jatiya party (JP-Manju) General Secretary Sheikh Shahid in the chair.  
"The 14-party alliance will hold rallies in the divisional cities in phases from September 18 till the announcement of the election schedule. A conspiracy is on to foil the national polls ... We will work together against those conspiracies and for ensuring the victory of democracy," said Nasim, also the health minister.  
Nasim came down heavily on Jukto Front, an alliance led by Bikalpadhara Bangladesh chief AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, saying the Front leaders are conspiring to foil the

## MALAYSIAN CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGALS Many Bangladeshis among 500 held

**STAR REPORT**  
Over 500 undocumented migrants, including Bangladeshis, were rounded up in Malaysia yesterday, the first day of a major crackdown against irregular migrants, reports Malaysian daily The Star.  
The crackdown came after a government deadline for irregular migrant workers to go back to their native countries expired on Thursday. Under an amnesty programme, the government had allowed the workers to return home by paying a fine worth Tk 8,000.  
Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not confirm the number of the arrested Bangladeshis.  
Adrian Pereira, executive director of North South Initiative, a rights body in Kuala Lumpur, said a good number of Bangladeshis might be among those held.  
During the nationwide raid, more

than 5,000 foreigners were checked resulting in the arrests of over 500 illegals, Malaysia's Immigration Director-General Datuk Seri Mustafar Ali said at a press conference yesterday.  
"We are fulfilling our pledge that we will go all out to nab illegal immigrants after the expiry of the amnesty programme," he added.  
A Bangladeshi man and a Malaysian immigration officer were injured during a raid at a glove factory in Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi in Sepang yesterday, reports Malaysian state news agency Bernama.  
The Bangladeshi was injured as he fell down in an attempt to escape arrest.  
Immigration Officer Nur Erra Ellina Zaharudin, aged about 24, was injured as she fell down about five metres through the ceiling while chasing a female illegal migrant, said Mustafar.  
The immigration DG said his department had conducted 9,527 operations from January 1 to August

30 when 116,927 foreigners were inspected and 29,177 of them arrested.  
The undocumented migrants were from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, Cambodia, China, Vietnam, India and Nepal.  
Nearly one million Bangladeshis have been working in Malaysia and around half of them could be undocumented, an official of the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia told The Daily Star recently.  
Under a rehiring programme launched in early 2016, most of the irregular migrants applied for regularisation by paying RM 5,000 to 8,000 to some Malaysian companies and their agents, but most of them failed to get regularised, said Bangladeshi migrants.  
Migrants and rights activists said the news of the crackdown has prompted fear among the undocumented Bangladeshis. Many of them



**Undocumented migrant workers rounded up by the Malaysian immigration police at a factory in Sepang area yesterday, the first day of a major crackdown.** PHOTO: COLLECTED

## A mentally challenged woman raped on Tangail bus

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail**  
A mentally challenged woman has been raped inside a bus in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila, police said.  
The incident reminds one of the rape and murder of law student Rupa Khatun inside a moving bus in the district a year ago.  
Mosharrif Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station, said the 28-year-old woman, who could only tell her name and that she was from Kushtia, boarded a local bus at Tangail Bus Stand around 10:00pm Thursday.  
By the time the vehicle reached its last stop in Pathaikandi on the eastern side of Bangabandhu

## UN RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY US ends funding for Palestinians

**AFP, Gaza City**  
Palestinians reacted angrily yesterday to a US decision to end all funding for the UN agency that assists three million needy refugees, seeing it as a new policy shift aimed at undermining their cause.  
Washington, which until last year was by far the biggest contributor to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees, announced on Friday that it would no longer make any contributions to the "irredeemably flawed operation."  
President Donald Trump's administration has backed Israel in accusing the nearly 70-year-old agency of perpetuating the Middle East conflict by maintaining the idea that many Palestinians are refugees with a right to return to homes in what is now Israel, something they both oppose.  
But to Palestinians, the right of return for the hundreds of thousands who fled or were expelled during the 1948 war that accompanied Israel's creation is a central plank of their cause.  
Its calling into question by Trump follows his December recognition of the disputed city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and axing of more than \$200 million in bilateral aid for Gaza and the West Bank.



## Anarchy by students of public univs unacceptable Says PM

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said any anarchic activity by public university students is not at all acceptable as they are availing of the education facility with public money.  
"Indiscipline is not acceptable. If anyone wants to get education from any public institution, he has to abide by the rules and

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