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# No one to be homeless in Bangladesh

Says PM while giving homes to 33,000 families



**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday pledged to ensure houses for all homeless people in the country. "We have been able to ensure electricity for 100 percent people. Now 100 percent [homeless] people will get houses. None will remain landless and shelter-less in Bangladesh," she said.

The premier was addressing a programme marking the handover of about 33,000 government-built homes to another batch of extremely poor families as her Eid gift under the third phase of the Ashrayan-2 project. She joined the event from the Gono Bhavan virtually.

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**Tigress Joya drinking from a stream of water in a reservoir at Chattogram Zoo to quench her thirst in the unbearable summer heat yesterday. Several other animals at the zoo were seen jumping into their pools to cool down.**

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## NEW MARKET CLASHES Dhaka College finally forms probe body

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Dhaka College authority finally formed a committee yesterday to verify whether their students were involved in clashes in the New Market area a week ago.

The move comes days after police's Detective Branch already made headway into identifying the attackers who assaulted and hacked 19-year-old Nahid Mia to death.

According to detectives, most of the attackers were Dhaka College students and affiliated with Chhatra League.

Five cases have so far been filed regarding the clashes, which left two people killed and at least 50 injured, including journalists, students and cops. The cases are now under investigation.

ATM Mainul Hossain, acting principle of Dhaka College, told The Daily Star yesterday that they formed a three-member committee, headed by Prof Akhil Chandra Biswas, head of mathematics department.

The two other members are: Md Saheen Uddin, associate professor of physics and Md Faruk Ahmed, assistant professor of Islamic history.

The committee was asked to submit its report within five working days, he said.

Asked about the delay in starting the investigation, Mainul said the police investigation was not their concern.

"We have formed the committee as per academic rule."

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## It's religious terrorism

Says tribunal about murder attempt on Prof Zafar Iqbal, sentences attacker to life

**DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet**

The attack on Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal is "religious terrorism" to silence those who speaks and writes about freethinking, progressiveness, science, and religious superstitions.

Judge Muhammad Nurul Amin Biplob of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal in Sylhet made the observation yesterday while handing life imprisonment to prime accused Md Foyzul Hasan for the attempted murder of the professor on March 3, 2018.

The tribunal also sentenced Foyzul's associate Md Sohag Miah to four years and fined the two Tk 20,000 and Tk 5,000.

The four other accused were acquitted.

Zafar Iqbal, an eminent author and educationist, was stabbed in the head by Foyzul on stage during a programme at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST).

Caught red-handed by students and teachers, Foyzul was handed over to police.

SUST Registrar Mohd Ishfaque Hossain filed the case with Lalabab Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act on the night of March 3.

After investigation, police submitted the charge sheet to the metropolitan magistrate court on May 6, 2018, accusing Foyzul and five others.

The four other accused were: Foyzul's father Hafez Maulana Atiqur Rahman, mother Minara Begum, uncle Fozlur Rahman and brother Enamul Hasan.

The tribunal in its observation said Foyzul drew inspiration from radical sermons of Mufti Jashimuddin Rahmani about militancy and extremist ideology.

"It was not proved that Foyzul was involved in any local and international terrorist organisation. But he became motivated to indulge in terrorist activities by reading radical articles and books and listening to sermons of extremist speakers...."

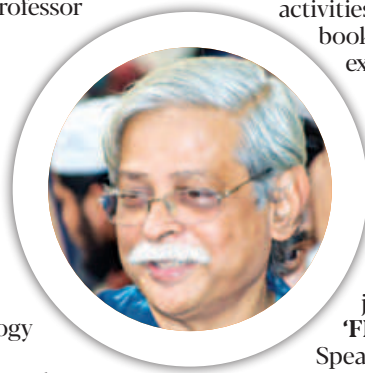
"Such an attack on an eminent writer and teacher, who is vocal about dissenting thoughts and stands by the victims of extremists, is unacceptable as expressing opinions freely, tolerance, and progressiveness are key indicators of civilization," the judge said.

**'FEEL PITY FOR FOYZUL'**

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday after the delivery of the judgment, Zafar Iqbal said, "I'm not angry with him [Foyzul]. But I pity the youths like him who believe that if they do this kind of activity, they will go to heaven."

He said he was angry at those who mislead Foyzul.

"He has been sentenced under the existing law because he committed a crime. But I don't have any grudge against him."



**A woman callously tries to cross Manik Mia Avenue, one of the busiest streets in the capital, between two buses yesterday. Such jaywalking ignoring risks to one's safety often causes fatal accidents.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Taking steps on findings will be more effective

Says TIB after govt bins its Covid report

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said it was working to establish good governance and prevent corruption and there was no scope to bring allegations of damaging the country's image against it.

"Instead of terming the TIB's report incorrect and intentional, taking measures on the report's findings would play a more effective role in controlling the pandemic," said the graft watchdog in a statement in response to the health minister's rejection of its recent report.

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## CHANDPUR TECH CAMPUS

# Academic activities may not start this year

**MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN**

The hope of starting academic activities at Chandpur Science and Technology University on the proposed land is dashed again as the deadline for depositing compensation for land acquisition is over.

There was a legal binding of depositing money to the Land Acquisition Fund of Chandpur Deputy Commissioner's office within 120 working days.

The DC office confirmed no money was deposited till yesterday – the deadline for deposit.

Though the land acquisition process remains stalled over alleged price manipulation by some local ruling party activists, the university authorities were hopeful of beginning academic sessions this year with the buildings on the proposed land.

Meanwhile, the senior metropolitan special judge's court issued a travel ban on Chandpur's Laxmipur Union Chairman Selim Khan who was allegedly involved in price manipulation of the land.

"We hoped to begin academic activities but the unreleased of money has made things complicated for us," said CSTU Vice-Chancellor Nasim Akhtar.

The alleged deception was unearthed by the Chandpur district administration which found that 63.549 acres of land in Laxmipur Mouza no-115, selected for the university, were heavily overpriced.

The Chandpur Deputy Commissioner's office began the CSTU land acquisition in May 2021.

The DC office estimates that at the artificially hiked rate, the government would have to pay about Tk 553 crore when the actual price of the land is about Tk 193.90 crore.

In an order on November 4, the Chandpur DC office had asked the university authorities to release about Tk 193.90 crore as compensation for land acquisition by 120 working days.

"If the estimated money is not deposited by the said time, the land acquisition case will be cancelled automatically," reads the order.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chandpur Deputy Commissioner Anjana Khan Mojilish said they did not get the estimated compensation.

Asked whether the acquisition will be cancelled, she said they are waiting for a decision from the High Court as a writ is pending.

Challenging the DC office's estimation, Selim Khan and others filed petitions before the High Court which after a hearing fixed April 20 for order.

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## NOTICE

Dear readers, the Chattogram page will be published tomorrow instead of today.