

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

## Gross violation of rights: ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must set up a cell where the victims of enforced disappearance can lodge complaints, demanded Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

Furthermore, an independent commission must be set up to investigate each case, and prevent further incidents from happening, the organisation said in a statement.

"Enforced disappearance is a gross violation of human rights, and a state based on human rights must ensure accountability for this crime," the statement read.

They demanded trial and punishment of those involved in forcefully disappearing people. They also demanded justice and victim protection for the disappeared and their families.

ASK demanded that Bangladesh sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, an international treaty meant to prevent this crime.

They asked that the government admit that enforced disappearance happens, and

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Members of Editors Council at a meeting with Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami at a city hotel yesterday ahead of the prime minister's visit to India next week.

PHOTO: STAR

## Improving connectivity, trade can be a game-changer

Says Indian envoy on bilateral relationship

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Improving trade and transport connectivity, alongside regulations and logistics, between India and Bangladesh, as well as other neighbouring countries can be a game-changer not only for the two countries but also for the entire region, said Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami yesterday.

He said currently, the big challenge of trade between the two countries is high cost, as most of the trade happens through land route, which is inefficient and not environmentally friendly. A truck cannot carry more than 15 tonnes of goods, and mostly has to use one land route.

"If you think about that, this is a recipe for creating monopoly. This is one of the reasons why our trade is so expensive and so difficult," Doraiswami said at a

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## Give Tk 5 lakh to Jaha Alam SC orders Brac Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday ordered Brac Bank Ltd to give Tk 5 lakh to jute mill worker Jaha Alam in seven days.

Alam had been wrongly imprisoned for three years in place of the real accused in several corruption cases.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice M Enayetur Rahim passed the order while hearing petition filed by Brac Bank challenging the HC verdict that directed the bank authorities to pay Tk 15 lakh in compensation to Jaha Alam.

The judge also stayed the petition to its full bench for hearing the matter on October 31.

If the Brac Bank authorities fail to give Tk 5 lakh to Jaha Alam in seven days, the stay order on the HC verdict will be stand vacated. On September 30, 2020, the HC directed Brac Bank Ltd to pay Tk 15 lakh in compensation to Jaha Alam as two of its officials – Faisal Kayes and Sabina Sharmin – supplied the photo and information of Jaha Alam, instead of the real accused Abu Salek, to the IO of the ACC.

The ACC investigation officers then identified Jaha Alam and implicated him in the corruption cases, the HC observed.

KHULNA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
Recruitment stopped over anomalies

MAHBUUR RAHMAN KHAN

The authorities of Khulna Agricultural University (KAU) are withdrawing their decision to recruit professors directly to its microbiology and health department after anomalies were found in the recruitment process.

This development came after the education ministry ordered KAU to cancel the job advertisement, through which Ferdousi Begum, wife of KAU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Shahidur Rahman Khan, applied for a post.

KAU has already formed a committee to formulate a policy akin to that of appointing teachers for Bangladesh Agricultural University to address anomalies in recruitment, said a university official.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has found several anomalies in the recruitment of teachers and staff for KAU. As per the findings, on August 3, the ministry gave several directives centring the anomalies. The Daily Star obtained copies of the findings and recommendations of UGC's probe committee.

According to the probe report, a total of 73 teachers were appointed through a selection board that had the same people – Faisal Kayes and Sabina Sharmin – supplied the photo and information of Jaha Alam, instead of the real accused Abu Salek, to the IO of the ACC.

The ACC investigation officers then identified Jaha Alam and implicated him in the corruption cases, the HC observed.



**The process of appointing the VC's daughter Ishrat Khan was flawed too. Directives can be given to address the procedural flaws in the recruitment for the Department of Computer Science and Engineering.**

Department of Computer Science and Engineering," reads the probe report. The committee also recommended that the education ministry cancel the advertisement through which the VC's wife applied for the professor's post in the microbiology and health department. The UGC probe committee requested the issuing of directives for the KAU authorities to refrain from nepotism during recruitment.

Based on the probe report, the education ministry in its order said, "Since the VC himself acknowledged the recruitment of his nine family members and relatives, measures

need to be taken to cancel their appointments." It also asked to cancel the appointment of the 73 teachers in 20 subjects.

Contacted, KAU Registrar Dr Mazharul Anwar (Shajahan) said they received the ministry's order on August 25. "The vice-chancellor is not present [on campus]. We'll soon hold a meeting on the matter and take measures accordingly."

The KAU authorities will send a report on the measures taken by it to the ministry and a draft reply in this regard has already been prepared, he said.

Preferring anonymity, a KAU official said it is not possible to cancel the 73 teachers' appointments. There are rules to include subject-wise experts in the selection board for recruiting professors and associate professors, but there is no such provision for assistant professors and lecturers.

Of the 73 appointed teachers, 66 are lecturers and seven are assistant professors. "We'll request the ministry to withdraw the directives related to the cancellation of appointment of 73 teachers," said VC Shahidur, adding that his daughter is one of the 73 teachers. Asked about the appointment of his relatives, he said, "I was not on the selection board. They were recruited following due procedures."

"We'll inform the ministry within a day or two and take steps as per their guidelines," he added.

Meanwhile, KAU Teachers Association has protested the cancellation of appointment of 73 teachers. In a statement signed by its president Dr Taslim Hossain, the association demanded withdrawal of the directive.

## Govt trying to create anarchy

Says Fakhrul about attacks on BNP leaders, activists

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government is trying to create anarchy in the country by attacking opposition leaders and activists.

"The Awami League cadres have established a reign of terror across the country. They have added a new dimension to their terror activities now by attacking the houses of the leaders and workers. The armed terrorists of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League are attacking our various rallies, party offices, business establishments and killing and injuring our leaders and activists and filing false cases against them," he said.

Speaking at a press conference, Fakhrul said the current "illegal" government has resumed their suppression policy again by getting afraid of BNP's countrywide movement that began on August 22, protesting price hike.

Referring to the prime minister's recent comment that opposition leaders and activists would not be obstructed from carrying

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## 'We couldn't hold on to ideals of Bangabandhu' Speakers on communalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even after 51 years of independence, the non-communal country that Bangabandhu dreamed of has not been built yet, said Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali at a discussion marking National Mourning Day.

"Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sacrificed a lot to build a non-communal Bangladesh," he said while addressing the programme, organised by Moni Singh-Farhad Memorial Trust on Sunday.

Ramendu Majumdar, renowned thespian who has received Ekushey Padak, said, "A pro-liberation party is running the government, but the fundamentalists are running the society."

"Bangabandhu had spoken of the non-

**A pro-liberation party is running the government, but the fundamentalists are running the society.**  
RAMENDU MAJUMDAR

communal spirit and stood by those attacked in incidents of communal violence. But, people nowadays do not stand by their neighbours if they fall victim to communal violence. We all want to remain silent, but no one will be safe from the communal attacks," he added.

Dhaka University Prof Chandra Nath Podder said, "The country is financially solvent, but the main spirit of the country – that of the Liberation War and non-communalism – are being attacked today. We are deviating from the principles of Bangabandhu silently."

Prothom Alo joint editor Sohrab Hassan said the lack of reaction to recent communal attacks from leaders of the party that assumed power after independence and claimed themselves to be pro-liberation forces is disappointing.

Former DU vice chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, acting editor of Samakal Mozammel Hossain Manju, and president of the trust Shekhar Dutta also spoke at the programme.

## Of empty wallets and cracked eggs

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A mother of three, Nasima Begum (30) is a regular customer of "Fakinni Bazar", under Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Flyover, along the rail tracks.

This market is a go-to place for lower-income people.

"My husband is a rickshaw puller. Fish and meat were always beyond our purchasing capability, so eggs were our last resort to get nutritious food. But after the price hike of eggs, we were unable to purchase it," she told this correspondent.

Left with no other choice, she has resorted to eating cracked eggs.

"I often feel eggshells in my mouth while eating. But we are not in a position to buy an egg for over Tk 10," said Nasima.

The bazaar is set up on both sides of the rail tracks, where people living in shanties nearby sell daily goods. The sold product is not particularly in good condition, as most are on the verge of rotting. But for people like Nasima, this market is the only option they have.

Rozina Begum (34) echoed

the same. She said despite the recent decrease in the price of eggs, they have to buy cracked eggs as the costs of other daily commodities are still off the roof. "I have four children. Earlier my husband used to earn Tk 800-900 per day through his tailoring job. Now his income has dropped to Tk 200-300 a day."

"I am not in a position to spend more than Tk 100 for food. So we have to settle with cracked eggs," said Rozina. The rising prices of eggs last month threatened lower-income people's protein intake.

Despite a recent drop in egg prices, these families are still depending

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An official pastes a sign on the back of a rickshaw to create awareness on sound pollution as part of a drive initiated by the environment ministry in the capital. During the drive, mobile courts also fined vehicles that used horns excessively. This photo was taken in front of the secretariat yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 582 depositors to get back money from PLFSL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (PLFSL), a non-bank financial institution, yesterday informed the High Court that its board of directors has selected its 582 small investors and decided to refund their deposited money.

The board of directors of PLFSL placed the information to the HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar through submitting an application before it.

In the application, the board of directors, which was formed by the HC bench, also sought permission from the bench to refund the money to 582 small depositors, who have been demanding their money back from the NBFI.

The HC granted the application, court sources said, adding that maximum

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