

HC-appointed Evaly board 'resigns'

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and
SUKANTA HALDER

The High Court-appointed board of directors of controversial e-commerce platform Evaly has "resigned", said a member of the board.

"We have resigned and we will submit our papers tomorrow," Mahbub Kabir Milon, managing director of the HC-appointed board, told The Daily Star over phone.

Milon is the board's one of the five members, who were appointed by the High Court in October 2021 to run Evaly.

Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a former justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, was made chairman of the board.

The resignation comes days after the HC ordered Evaly's existing board of directors to include the e-commerce platform's former chairman, Shamima Nasrin, her mother and brother-in-law as its members.

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An HC bench led by Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar made the order.

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In the four-page full text of the order released earlier, the HC also ordered the Evaly's board to keep an officer not below the rank of deputy secretary of the commerce ministry as an independent director.

Besides, there will be a representative of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh in the new board.

Contacted, Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik refused to comment on the issue.

On August 24 this year, the HC bench delivered a short order on this issue following three separate applications filed by Shamima Nasrin, her mother and brother-in-law.

Shamima said they had found investors and wanted to run the company on their own.

And she promised to pay back the money Evaly owes its customers and vendors after reviving its business.

The central bank found that Evaly's dues were Tk 404 crore as of the middle of March last year, including Tk 214 crore liabilities to customers.



The entrance to the Jalkuri branch of the Institute of Child and Mother Health in Narayanganj is waterlogged, with weeds springing up from the soil. This place has become a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, thanks to poor drainage. This is causing unnecessary suffering for patients. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

New twist in Jatiya Party drama

Ranga seeks to withdraw letter for Raushan's removal as opposition leader

RASHIDUL HASAN

In yet another dramatic development, Opposition Chief Whip Mashiur Rahman Ranga has sought to withdraw the letter the JP Parliamentary Party sent to the Speaker for removal of Raushan Ershad as the leader of the opposition.

Ranga, who has recently been relieved of all Jatiya Party posts for "breaching the party discipline", yesterday submitted a letter to Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan office in this regard.

He told The Daily Star, "I have informed the Speaker that I want to withdraw the letter of JP Parliamentary Party because the way it was sent was not right."

Raushan's Political Secretary Golam Moshi was with Ranga when he met the Speaker.

Asked, Ranga said, "The Speaker told me she will decide after considering the legal aspects and going through the party's charter."

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter.

In the letter, Ranga said he convened

a JP Parliamentary Party meeting on September 1 on instructions of Chairman GM Quader. Removing the opposition leader was not on the agenda of the meeting.

"At the beginning of the meeting, he [Quader] spoke about contemporary political issues and asked all to sign a paper. Once the signs were taken, he said Raushan's condition was not good," reads the letter.

Ranga said, "At the meeting, Quader also asked the Jatiya Party secretary general to write a letter for the removal of Raushan and submit it to the Speaker after taking my signature on it."

"I said the process was not appropriate as nothing such [removal of the opposition leader] was mentioned in the meeting agenda."

Ranga added that as far as he knew, 70 percent of the lawmakers did not agree to bring change in the post of the opposition leader.

The fresh conflict between Quader and JP chief patron Raushan, wife of former president and JP founder HM Ershad,

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Female BCL activist accuses unit leader of harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A female Chhatra League activist in Kushtia has accused a local leader of the pro-Awami League student body of repeatedly making unwelcome sexual advances.

The 18-year-old activist submitted a complaint with Kushtia Model Police Station on Monday against Hafiz Sheikh Challenge, general secretary of Kushtia unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Police last night said that they received the complaint.

The girl also accused Hafiz's three associates of stalking her.

According to the complaint, Hafiz tried to sexually assault her about a month ago and she has been staying away from him since then.

The three others have been following her and making indecent comments at her whenever they get a chance, read the complaint.

She also accused them of opening a fake Facebook page with her photoshopped picture. "They threatened me with death," she wrote in the complaint. "They have made my life miserable... On social media, they have seriously defamed me and my family. I want their trial and exemplary punishment."

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SSC Bangla II MCQ test on Sept 30

Jashore education board announces
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The postponed MCQ test of Bangla II of SSC exams under the Jashore education board will be held at 11:00am on September 30.

The board postponed the test on September 16 citing unavoidable circumstances.

Sources at the board said question papers for the test were mistakenly distributed among students during another exam on September 15 at three schools.

The written part of Bangla II was on September 16.

BGB arrests man with 15 gold bars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday arrested a man with 15 bars of gold weighing 1.6 kg near the border in Benapole, Jashore.

Jalal Uddin, 32, who lives near Benapole port was about to smuggle the stash of gold worth about Tk 1.2 crore across the border, said Lt Colonel Tanvir Rahman of BGB Battalion 21.

The suspect was handed over to Benapole Port Police Station, Tanvir added.

Court fixes Jan 23 to hear charges against Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set January 23, 2022, to hear arguments on the charges pressed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in 11 cases, including the one filed over sedition.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed the date, said Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

Of the 11 cases, 10 were filed in the first three months of 2015 over arson attacks and the rest were filed over seditious comments on freedom fighters and martyrs of the Liberation War.

Khaleda, who is out of jail following an executive order from the government, is now unwell and staying at her Gulshan residence.

3 men land in jail for gang-raping 9th grader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA

A Khulna court yesterday sent three men to jail on charges of gang-raping a ninth-grader on Monday.

Mejbah Uddin, 25, Emon Molla, 20, and Shimul Chowkidar, 20, of Pabla area were sent to jail after they made confessional statements before the court.

Police are looking for two other suspects, said Jahangir, officer-in-charge of Khalishpur Police Station.

According to the complaint lodged by the girl's father, the victim was with a friend in Daulatpur area from where the accused took her to a construction site in Madinabagh area and raped her.

The girl is currently being treated at a hospital.

Nasa records first

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interior and to investigate current planetary impact processes."

Nasa's InSight, an acronym for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, arrived on Mars on 26 November 2018. A stationary lander rather than a rover, InSight carries seismology and heat sensing instruments to study the internal structure of the Red Planet, rather than mapping or analysing its surface.

Past findings from the InSight mission have given scientists a new understanding of the internal structure of Mars, and the mission also recorded the most powerful quake ever observed on another planet.

The new research is based on recordings made by InSight in 2021 and, when four different meteors entered the Martian atmosphere at high speed before impacting on the ground. Such meteors generate shockwaves in the atmosphere that impact the ground, generating seismic waves, followed by more waves from the eventual impact on the ground.

\$1b WB loan unlikely this fiscal year

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and the 'Bangladesh Second Recovery and Resilience DPC'.

But an additional \$1 billion was sought to meet fiscal 2022-23's budget deficit of Tk 245,064 crore, which is 5.5 percent of GDP.

The government is bidding to meet the deficit with loans from development partners, which come at concessionary rates, instead of going for the costlier option of domestic borrowing.

To secure a sum of that scale from the WB, Bangladesh needs to commit to a strong reform programme, which would take time to draft.

However, further talks on the matter will take place during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group scheduled to be held in person in Washington DC from October 10 to October 16.

BNP working at a synchronous movement Act to stop

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Party sources said the movement will be carried out based on the nine-point demand.

The BNP has already held talks with 35 political parties and platforms on the issue. They include Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob), Nagorik Oikya, Biplabi Workers Party and Gonosamhati Andolon.

Party sources said almost all the parties, in the first round of talks, agreed on waging a simultaneous movement. And so that it happens, the BNP has kept the party-led 20-party alliance as well as the Jatiya Oikya front inactive.

Talking to this newspaper, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, a member of the BNP Standing Committee, said, "Our talks with different political parties are going on. It is not possible to say exactly when the discussions will end. Basically, they will go on as the movement progresses."

He also said the party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir is likely to brief journalists today.

At a press conference on September 13, Fakhrul said the outline of a "simultaneous" movement to oust the government would be made public.

"We are working with various political parties to forge a greater unity and we have decided to finalise the strategy in the light of that..." he said.

From August 22 to September 10, the BNP staged demonstrations across the country, protesting the price spiral of essentials and fuel, and attacks on the rallies of opposition parties.

It is now holding protest programmes over the same issues in the capital's north and south city corporations, which will continue till September 27.

Over the last few weeks, many leaders and activists came under attack in different parts of the country. Three of them were killed during protests.

All these programmes have been organised by the BNP alone, but the party leaders said they would soon bring all the opposition political forces under a single platform to carry out a simultaneous movement.

the impact that the 9 percent ceiling on the interest rate for loans has had on the economy and whether it contributed to the escalating inflation.

As per the most recent available data, which is of July, inflation stood at 7.49 percent, well above the budgetary target of 5.6 percent.

"We told him that the lending rate cap was not an issue at all. It has served the economy well, so we will not be lifting it anytime soon," said an official informed on the conversations.

He was told that the pressure on the foreign currency reserves is subsiding due to the raft of measures the government has taken to cut back on imports.

"So, there is unlikely to be any long-term problem on the reserves," the official added.

Reserves stood at \$37.06 billion after the \$1.73 billion payment to the Asian Clearing Union on September 7.

Contacted, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya, said,

"The BNP has already held talks with us on waging a simultaneous movement. We hope to hold talks again as there is no alternative to waging a simultaneous movement to oust this autocratic government... We are ready for that..."

Ahead of the 2014 polls, the BNP observed protest programmes but those drew flak both locally and internationally because of their violent nature. The party could not wage any significant movement before the 2018 election.

This time, the party aims to wage a movement centring on pro-people issues and to take on board all the opposition political parties and platforms with the national election around 15 months away, according to party insiders.

The Election Commission has already unveiled the electoral roadmap, saying the polls would be held between November 2023 and January 2024.

Bangladesh, which is one of the highest borrowers from the WB, will set its own economic policies and the lender will support the country, Raiser said in his meeting with Kamal, according to a press release from the finance ministry.

The WB can also broadcast the story of Bangladesh's economic progress to other countries.

In his meeting with Rahman, the two discussed the economic challenges stemming from the Ukraine war and how Bangladesh responded, public-private partnerships, regional integration and financial reforms needed for a competitive private sector, Raiser wrote in a tweet.

He discussed renewable energy and cross-border energy trade with neighbours, electronic vehicles and next-gen tech solutions for the power and energy sector in his meeting with Hamid.

diplomatic solution and it has no plan to deploy troops along the border, said the acting foreign secretary.

"We don't want to get into the trap of Myanmar's provocation."

Asked about the response from the foreign diplomats, he said they assured Dhaka of informing their headquarters about raising the issue at the UN.

The foreign diplomats also appreciated Bangladesh's diplomatic handling of the issue, said Khurshed.

Meanwhile, U Zaw Phyoo Win, director-general of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told the Bangladesh envoy in Yangon on Monday that the Arakan Army and ARSA attacked the Taungpyo (Left) Border Guard Police Outpost at BP-31 with mortars on September 16, where three mortar shells landed in Bangladeshi territory.

He claimed these groups again used the same weapons and attacked the Taungpyo (Right) Border Guard Police Outpost at BP-34 on September 16-17, where nine mortar shells landed on Bangladeshi soil.

The Myanmar official said while taking the necessary security measures close to the border with utmost caution, Myanmar always abides by bilateral agreements and international norms. It also respects the integrity and sovereignty of all nations, including Bangladesh.

Win said Myanmar will cooperate with Bangladesh to maintain tranquillity in the border area and stressed the need for full and reciprocal cooperation from Bangladesh.

Asked about Myanmar's blaming of the Arakan Army and ARSA, Khurshed said Bangladesh maintains 'zero tolerance' on sheltering any insurgent groups on its soil.

"Whatever the reasons may be, mortar shells and bullets landing in Bangladeshi territory from Myanmar's internal conflicts is not acceptable," he said.

Bangladesh still believes in a