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## GRADUATION FROM LDC US can be 'our most robust partner': PM

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited US investors to come to Bangladesh to tap into its liberal investment policy.

"I would like to invite US investors to invest in renewable energy, shipbuilding, automobile, pharmaceuticals, heavy machineries, chemical fertilisers, ICT, marine resources, medical equipment, and Covid-19 vaccine manufacturing in Bangladesh," she said.

The PM made the call while delivering her speech at a high-level policy roundtable arranged by the US-Bangladesh Business Council at Lotte New York Palace hotel.

She listed some components of the liberal investment environment -- foreign investment protection, tax holiday, remittances of royalty, unrestricted exit

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The ill-fated bus of Talukdar Paribahan is left along the Dhaka-Khulna highway after it was driven into a concrete electricity pole in Faridpur's Purba Gangavardi area yesterday afternoon. The pole, which was being lifted onto a truck by a crane, ripped through the bus from the impact of the crash. Another bus coming from the opposite direction hit the section of the pole that was sticking out of the rear of this bus and skidded off the road. The accidents left one passenger dead and 10 others injured.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BNP cautious of its footing

Party leaders wary of provocation but ready to respond when attacked

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP top brass has decided not to go for any tougher action like hartal or blockade for now as they believe the government is intent on provoking violence on the street, which is a trap the opposition party should not walk into.

Party leaders said they will stage peaceful demonstrations like rallies and processions even after four of their leaders and activists were killed during their countrywide protests.

Besides, they will fight legal battles over incidents of killings in police attacks and torture in police custody by filing cases through "legal cells" formed centrally and in districts.

"Although four of our leaders and activists were killed, we will not leave the streets. As a democratic party, we will continue to wage our peaceful and systematic movement," Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, BNP standing committee member, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Party leaders and activists are ready to face any situation on the street and put up resistance if they are attacked, he also said. "Time will say what should be the course of action, but for now we will continue our ongoing programmes."

Sources say the party right now does not have any plan for tougher programmes like hartal or blockade.

As part of its legal battle, the party has filed a case in Bhola over the killings of two of its local leaders in a police shooting. It also moved the court for filing cases in Narayanganj and Dhaka but the court rejected the prayer.

BNP leaders said they will continue their attempts to file cases as an attempt to keep pressure on the police.

"We will continue our efforts to get justice. It is unacceptable that police and Awami League men will kill a citizen and there will be no justice. We will go to the highest court seeking remedy," said Masud Ahmed Talukdar, senior joint convener of the BNP's central legal cell.

Party leaders say since the nationwide protests started on August 22, their rallies came under attacks in different places but they could not fight back.

"The failure to launch counter-attacks has two negative impacts -- it demoralises the activists and also sends out a message that the party does not have the organisational strength to wage movement," a senior leader said.

Before the beginning of the nationwide programmes, the grassroots were instructed to stay alert to any attack and not to get locked into clashes with police as it can be a trap set by the government.

Reportedly, there were reassurances from the top level of the government that the programmes would not be obstructed.

But violent attacks by the ruling party activists on the BNP events kept making headlines while the opposition leaders and activists faced arrests. Four BNP men got killed and scores injured.

On September 17, BNP's senior leaders, including Standing Committee Member Selima Rahman, Vice Chairman Barkat Ullah Bulu and Executive Committee Member Tabitha Awal, came under attack in Banani.

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## Audit fails to determine Evaly's dues

Controversial e-commerce platform maintained no transaction record

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Evaly's creditors are unlikely to get their money back as there is no documentation at the controversial e-commerce platform's end, making it difficult to verify who is owed what amount, found an audit into the company's books commissioned by the court-appointed board.

Both customers and vendors have routinely been flocking outside of Evaly's office in the capital's Dhanmondi demanding their money back for a while now.

"But we can't work based on that in the absence of any record at the company's end," said AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik, a former judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division who was appointed the chairman of the five-member board by the High Court in October last year to run Evaly.

The board commissioned leading chartered accountancy firm Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co. to conduct a comprehensive audit of the disgraced e-commerce firm.

On September 21, the five-member board turned in the 4,000-page audit report to the court as well as their resignations and their own report on the company, according to Mahbub Kabir Milon, the HC appointed managing director of Evaly.

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## RAJUK'S JHILMIL HOUSING PROJECT 5 years gone by, work yet to start



DIPAN NANDY

The much-hyped housing project taken up five years ago for middle-income people in Keraniganj is in limbo, as the authorities have yet to start construction work of the Tk 9,978 crore mega scheme.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) took up the Jhilmil Residential Park project, one of its largest housing initiatives, under a public-private partnership arrangement in 2017.

The project was taken up to reduce the growing pressure on residential

spaces in Dhaka by building houses on the outskirts of the capital.

Rajuk signed a deal with Malaysia-based BNG Global Holdings in November 2017 to build 13,720 flats in four years.

But the project has seen little progress, and Rajuk authorities now say they will sign a fresh deal to extend the deadline before construction can start.

Rajuk officials attributed the delay to the Covid-19 pandemic. A recent report on the project's progress also blamed complexities over importing some vital construction materials as

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### PROJECT AT A GLANCE

**IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**  
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk)

#### DURATION

**8 yrs**  
(construction 4yrs & maintenance 4yrs)

#### TOTAL AREA

**160 acres**

#### TOTAL COST

**Tk 9,978 crore**

#### TOTAL BUILDINGS

**85**

**TOTAL APARTMENTS**  
**13,720**

9,120 -- 1,400sqft each

2,576 -- 1,600sqft each

2,024 -- 2,200sqft each

#### FACILITIES

12-acre lake, 1 park, 2 playgrounds, school, college, hospital, mosque, market

#### CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

BNG Global Holding, Malaysia

SOURCE: RAJUK

## Missing Khulna woman 'found dead' in M'singh

Her daughter identifies the body; DNA test to be carried out for confirmation

STAR REPORT

A college student from Khulna, who has been desperately looking for her mother for almost a month, said the body of an unidentified woman buried in Mymensingh recently was her mother's.

Tejgaon College student Moriom Mannan's mother Rahima Begum, 55, went missing from Daulatpur area of Khulna on August 27. She chronicled the harrowing journey of her search for her mother in Facebook posts that reached thousands of people over the last couple of weeks.

After hearing that police in Phulpur, Mymensingh, arranged the burial of an unidentified woman on September 10, she contacted the officer-in-charge of Phulpur Police Station, Abdullah Al Mamun.

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Carrying her son, Ruma, 34, serves a customer at a refilling station in Narayanganj's Kamtal area yesterday. She works eight hours every day and earns Tk 8,000 a month to help her rickshaw-puller husband run their family of four. Her elder child, not in picture, is also around here. Set up about a decade ago, this refilling station has employed 12 women in three shifts to refill vehicles and receive payments from customers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## MUNSHIGANJ CLASH Shaon made accused the night he died

STAR REPORT

A case was filed against Jubo Dal activist Shahidul Islam Shaon on the same night he died of injuries suffered during a clash between BNP men and police in Munshiganj.

Shaon died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Thursday night after suffering severe head wounds in the clash on Wednesday.

The same night in Munshiganj, Abdul Malek, a member of pro-Awami League worker's body Sramik League, named 27-year-old Shaon as the third accused in the case filed with Munshiganj Sadar Police Station.

He was among 52 named accused in the case filed over their involvement in "violence, damaging public property and setting fire to vehicles". Malek also accused 200 unnamed.

Asked why a dead man was made



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