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## 4th meeting of joint commission ends with no decision

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Russia has proposed a direct payment system bypassing the global standard SWIFT to settle the dues for Rooppur nuclear power plant as the Soviet nation looks to navigate the sanctions from the West following the Ukraine war.

SWIFT is the messaging system used by financial institutions globally to convey instructions to carry out tens of millions of transactions each day. Most Russian banks are banned from SWIFT, effectively cutting the nation off from the global payment network.

This has left Russia in a blind spot over its payment from Bangladesh for the \$13 billion Rooppur nuclear power plant.

The issue was discussed at length at the fourth meeting

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- » Direct payment system with Russia
- » Currency swap agreement
- » Currency clearing scheme
- » Facilitate wheat procurement
- » Settle payment in yuan



Lawyers vandalise a marquee outside the Supreme Court Bar Association building over allegations of irregularities in the polls to the bar association yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Journos, pro-BNP lawyers hurt in police action, clash

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police assault on journalists and clashes between pro-Awami League and pro-BNP lawyers marred the first day of the two-day annual Supreme Court Bar Association election yesterday.

Voting was scheduled to start at 10:00am, but utter chaos broke out as soon as pro-BNP lawyers demonstrated for the formation of an election-conducting committee by someone "acceptable".

Polling started two and half hours later and went on until 5:30pm with an half-hour interruption in the afternoon due to violence.

In the morning, at least 10 journalists and several pro-BNP lawyers were assaulted by the police.

Throughout the day, the two camps of lawyers chased each other on the Supreme Court Premises, vandalised properties, and engaged in scuffles. Police intervened several times.

Witnesses said police entered

Shaheed Shafiur Rahman Auditorium around 11:30am to make the protesting pro-BNP lawyers leave. Within moments, pro-BNP and pro-Awami League lawyers started shoving and hitting each other. Police eventually got involved.

Around 11:45am, the police attacked journalists who were taking photos and videos of the law enforcers' action on the lawyers, witnesses said.

The Law Reporters' Forum in a statement later said, "The attack was

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**A man pulls his bicycle while his wife rides pillion holding her baby in her lap in the**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Patients to get free insulin at community clinics: PM

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government will provide free insulin to diabetic patients through community clinics.

She said this while addressing the second graduation completion programme of Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialised Hospital and Nursing College.

"We have decided that we will include insulin in the list of free medicines of the community clinics across the country for the diabetic patients," she said.

Currently, the government is providing 30 types of medicines free of cost through the community clinics.

"We will give away insulin free of cost so that the diabetic patients could get relief," she added.

KPJ Healthcare President Norhaizam Binti Mohammad was the speaker of the graduation ceremony.

The PM handed over certificates to 210 nurses and the prime minister's award among six graduating nurses for

their outstanding results in their respective sessions. A documentary on Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital and Nursing College was screened during the programme.

The prime minister also inaugurated Website, Hospital Management Software and Medical Journal of the hospital.

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