



“Soon both Finland and Sweden will be members, meaning that President Putin is getting the exact opposite of what he wanted.”

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg



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## Suspend use of DSA immediately

Says UN rights chief as demand gets louder for release of journalist Shams

### STAR REPORT

Amid growing criticism over the arrest of a Prothom Alo reporter under the Digital Security Act, the United Nations Human Rights chief yesterday called upon Bangladesh to immediately suspend the application of the contentious law.

“I am concerned that the Digital Security Act is being used across Bangladesh to arrest, harass and intimidate journalists and human rights defenders, and to muzzle critical voices online,” UN Human Rights chief Volker Türk said in a statement.

“I call again on the authorities to impose an immediate moratorium on its use and to reform comprehensively its provisions to bring them in line with the requirements of international human rights law. My office has already provided detailed technical comments to assist with such a revision,” added the UN high commissioner for human rights.

The statement comes when demands are growing louder for the repeal of the controversial law and the release of Prothom Alo Staff Correspondent Shamsuzzaman Shams, who was picked up from home

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- ✓ DRU demands scrapping of DSA
- ✓ Shams shifted to Kashimpur Central Jail-1
- ✓ CPI calls for his immediate release
- ✓ US state dept voices deep concern over use of DSA



Encroaching on a part of the Dhaleshwari, traders are extracting sand from the bed of the river near Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Expressway in Sirajdikhan, Munshiganj. Unplanned sand extraction in the lean season disrupts the natural flow of water in monsoon. The photo was taken recently.

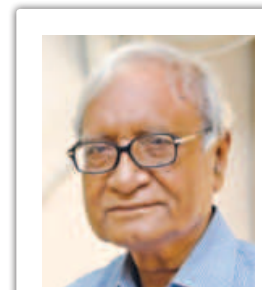
PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## DSA CASES AGAINST JOURNALISTS

This shows space for free press shrinking

It contradicts constitutional obligation on free media

Shams' arrest an attack on freedom of the press



**PROF SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY**

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury has said what is being done to the Prothom Alo editor and reporter shows that the space for press freedom is shrinking in the country.

Terming the recent incidents involving them

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**DR IFTEKHARUZZAMAN**

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Producing journalist Samsuzzaman Shams before a court 30 hours after his unlawful detention is a clear example of violation of a citizen's constitutional right to security of life, said TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

It is also a deliberate

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**JYOTIRMOY BARUA**

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua has said the arrest of journalist Shamsuzzaman Shams is not only an attack on freedom of expression, but also on press freedom.

“It is not misuse of the Digital Security Act, but rather the law's use in its

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## 56 journalists tortured, sued in 3 months

Says ASK report

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 56 journalists from different media outlets have been tortured, harassed, threatened or sued across the country over the last three months, according to a report of Ain o Salish Kendra.

The journalists include Prothom Alo Editor Matuier Rahman and reporter Samsuzzaman Shams, who were sued on Wednesday under the Digital Security Act with Ramna Police Station, said the report released yesterday.

It also mentioned the arrest of journalist Raghunath Kha, Satkhira correspondent of Deepto TV and daily Projonmo Ekattor, saying that law enforcers denied picking him up for nine hours and later showed him arrested in a case.

The rights body said daily Kaler Kantho Staff Reporter Zahirul Islam was tortured by a police officer of Gulshan Police Station.

It demanded scrapping of the DSA and withdrawal of all cases filed against journalists under the law.

### 124 WOMEN, CHILDREN RAPED

The ASK report also stated that at least 124 women and children were raped across the country over the last three months.

Of them, 12 were murdered after rape and a rape

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7 ARRESTED IN 10 DSA CASES LAST MONTH -- PAGE 12

## TV reporter sued under the DSA

### UNB, Khulna

Two cases have been filed against the Khulna divisional correspondent of Desh TV under the Digital Security Act following a report on a beauty parlour that aired on March 18.

The cases against Md Asim were lodged with the Khulna Cyber Tribunal on March 21 and 28.

According to the first case statement, the private TV channel aired a report headlined “Unethical activities in the guise of running beauty parlour” on March 18. The report was prepared by Asim.

On March 21, Tania Islam, owner of the beauty parlour, lodged the case against four people, including the reporter.

Subsequently, Sumaiya Kabir, an employee of the same beauty parlour, filed another case against Asim on March 28.

The court asked the Criminal Investigation Department to investigate it.

## A life of dreams, despairs ends in tragedy

### ANWAR ALI, back from Naogaon

Sultana Jasmine, 41, who died in Rab custody on March 24, had suffered the trauma of domestic violence by her husband in her early life.

But refusing to give in, she chose to fight back for building a new life of dignity for herself and her only son.

While raising her son as a single mother, she also continued her study and acquired her master's degree a year ago.

The Daily Star learnt about Sultana's struggles and dreams during a two-day visit to Naogaon town talking to Sultana's maternal uncle Nazmul Haque Montu, her house owner Delwar Hossain Dulal and her colleagues.

“She [Sultana] was close to fulfilling all her life's plans,” Montu said.

Her dreams were cut short when she died in the Rab custody in Rajshahi, two days after her detention on her way to work.

Her death triggered widespread criticisms from rights groups and the High Court questioning Rab's authority to detain her without a case against her.

Fifth among six sisters and a brother, Sultana was

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**Sultana Jasmine**

## Donald Trump indicted by NY grand jury

He becomes first ex-US president to face criminal charges

### AFP, New York

A New York grand jury indicted Donald Trump on Thursday over hush-money payments made to a porn star during his 2016 campaign, making him the first former US president to face criminal charges.

The historic indictment of the 76-year-old Republican -- who denies all wrongdoing in connection with the payments made ahead of the election that sent him to the White House -- is certain to upend the current presidential race in which Trump hopes to regain office.

And it will forever mark the legacy of the former leader, who survived two impeachments and kept prosecutors at bay over everything from the US Capitol riot to missing classified files -- only to land in court over a sex scandal involving

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Metro rail authorities yesterday opened the Shewrapara and Uttara south stations to the public. With this, all the nine stations between Agargaon and Uttara in the capital are now operational.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## ‘NEGATIVE REPORTING’ Info minister blames some newspapers

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the government has ensured freedom of the media.

“We are determined to continue it,” Hasan, also a joint general secretary of the ruling Awami League, said while talking to journalists at his residence in Chattogram city.

The minister said that it appears some newspapers are reporting negatively on purpose.

“If any of us do bad journalism in the name of freedom, the general people of the country and the journalist community will definitely not support it.”

“You will surely agree with me that it is not appropriate to do politics in the name of journalism,” the minister added.

Some identified quarters from abroad try to mislead people by spreading misinformation against Bangladesh, but such activities cannot prevent the country's development, the minister said.

Hasan said various newspapers around the world are praising the way Bangladesh is moving forward under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter

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