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## 'Statement from DB office was not voluntary'

Say six organisers about the withdrawal of programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The six key organisers of the quota reform movement yesterday said they did not voluntarily issue the statement to withdraw their movement and that it was forcibly filmed during their detention at the Detective Branch (DB) office.

"Since July 19, the coordinators of the anti-discrimination student movement have been missing, arrested, tortured, and harassed to foil the movement. Subsequently, six coordinators were detained in DB custody for seven days in the name of 'security'. Although the home minister and the DB chief talked about security, they kept us in DB custody to isolate us from the movement," the statement said.

The statement was signed by Nahid Islam, Sarjis Alam, Hasnat Abdullah, Asif Mahmud, Nusrat Tabassum, and Abu Baker Majumdar.

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Workers unloading salt from a boat on Gulzar canal in Chattogram city's Majhirghat area. Waste thrown into the canal from factories, markets, and homes ultimately ends up in the Karnaphuli river, polluting both the water bodies. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 78 HSC examinees get bail

They were arrested in cases over violence centring quota protests

STAR REPORT

A total of 78 HSC examinees, who were arrested over the recent violence centring quota reform protests in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Khulna divisions, secured bail yesterday.

Among them, 55 students got bail in Dhaka division, 14 in Chattogram division, six in Khulna division and three in Rangpur division.

Despite being a weekend, the courts convened on Friday at the special initiative of Law Minister Anisul Huq, a ministry press release said.

The initiative was taken considering that those who were arrested still had to

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## 105 more held in nationwide drives

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested at least 105 more people as the nationwide crackdown on alleged saboteurs as well as quota protesters and opposition activists continues.

Of them, 28 were arrested in the capital, and 77 in seven districts, said police. At least 52 were held in Noakhali, 17 in Rajshahi, and eight in Laxmipur, Madaripur, Bogura, Natore and Barishal.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police produced those arrested in the capital before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday. The court sent most of them to jail and placed some in custody.

At least 11,052 people have been arrested since the drives began on July 18. The arrestees include students, BNP, and Jamaat Shibir leaders and activists.

Numerous cases have been filed accusing several thousand named

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## Israel's 'end getting closer than ever'

Says Hamas after its leader Haniyeh buried in Qatar

REUTERS, DUBAI

Hamas' top leader Ismail Haniyeh was buried in Qatar yesterday following his assassination in the Iranian capital Tehran as senior officials of Hamas and other mourners said their fight against Israel would intensify.

His death was one in a series of killings of senior Hamas figures as Israel's offensive in Gaza nears its 11th month and concern grows that the conflict is spreading across the Middle East.

Haniyeh was laid to rest in a cemetery in the

city of Lusail after a funeral ceremony at the Iman Mohamed Ibn Abd Al-Wahhab Mosque in Qatar's capital Doha.

His coffin, draped in the Palestinian flag, was carried in a procession past hundreds of people along with the casket of his bodyguard, who was killed in the same attack in Tehran on Wednesday.

Mourners at the ceremony included Khaled Meshaal, who is tipped to be the new Hamas leader. Other senior Hamas officials and Qatar's

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## Facebook again blocked for 7hrs

Palak apologises to the youth for internet disruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile internet users were unable to access their Facebook and Messenger accounts for approximately 7 hours yesterday due to a government-enforced shutdown of the services.

The restrictions on the social media services began around noon and continued around 7:00pm, said sources with knowledge of the development.

The decision coincided with today's nationwide programme announced by the Anti-Discrimination

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China's Long Daoyi and Wang Zongyuan compete in the men's synchronised 3m springboard diving final at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Aquatics Centre in Saint-Denis yesterday. The duo won the gold as China continued to lead the medals tally with USA in second and Great Britain in third position.

PHOTO: AFP

## France's medals strategy paying off

REUTERS, Paris

A French strategy to boost its medal count after years of sporting underachievement has begun to pay dividends at the Paris Olympics as rapturous home crowds propel its athletes up the medals table, although keeping up the pace may prove hard.

One week into the Paris Games, France has won eight golds and 27 medals in total. Since Atlanta in 1996, France has averaged 37 medals per Olympics, a Reuters calculation shows.

France's early improvement is the fruit of a seven-year plan that it hopes will position it as a long-term Olympics heavyweight.

It is based on promoting excellence in sports clubs and federations and zeroing in on medal hopes, as well as bringing families closer to the action, providing more performance support teams and capitalising on home advantage -

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**Adv. Sigma Huda**  
October 10, 1945 – July 17, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of our beloved mother, Advocate Sigma Huda, who passed away (Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un) on July 17, 2024, at United Hospital, Dhaka.

She was a devoted mother, cherished sister, a wonderful wife, trusted friend and an unwavering champion and pioneer of Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh. Among her many roles, she was appointed as the first UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

We seek your blessings and prayers for our mother.

Antara Huda & Srabanti Huda

বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহীম

# ২৬তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী



আজ ৩ আগস্ট ২০২৪ ইং। আমাদের ২৫ বছর পূর্তি। দীর্ঘ ২৫ বছরের পথচলায় আমাদের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সহযোগিতা ও নির্ভরতা আমাদের সাহস যুগিয়েছে। এক্সিম পরিবারের প্রায় পাঁচ হাজার মেধাবী জনবলের প্রাণের সঞ্চারণ এবং আমাদের অতিপ্রিয় সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের আন্তরিকতায় সমৃদ্ধ হয়েছে এক্সিম ব্যাংক। আমাদের সকল সহযোগীদের সহায়তায় আমরা আজ দেশের বেসরকারি ব্যাংকের মধ্যে এক অনন্য উচ্চতায় অবস্থান করতে পেরেছি।

আমাদের সকল সহকর্মী এবং সেই সাথে সমগ্র বাংলাদেশের অসংখ্য গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক, শেয়ারহোল্ডারবৃন্দ এবং শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের একান্ত প্রচেষ্টা ও উদ্যোগের ফলেই আজকের এই অভূতপূর্ব সফলতা। এদিনে আমরা আপনাদের সকলকে জানাই আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও শুভকামনা।

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