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The fall of a dictator should not give rise to another

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Students, locals join hands to repair damaged road in Kurigram

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All contractual appointments to be scrapped

Interim govt to draw up list of those hurt during protests, bear treatment cost

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The interim government yesterday decided that all contractual appointments of the administration will be terminated in phases.

The decision was taken at a meeting of advisory councils of the interim government held at State Guest House Jamuna.

A list of all contractual appointments is being prepared, said two advisers of the interim government asking not to be named.

While some of the disputed and controversial contracts will be immediately terminated, the rest will be done in phases, they said.

In recent years, Awami League-aligned officials were appointed on a contractual basis. These create dissatisfaction among the administration.

After the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5 in the wake of a mass upsurge led by students, the contract of IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was terminated on August 7.

On the same day, the former Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah's contract was cancelled.

At present, Md Mahub Hossain, cabinet secretary; Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem, chairman of the National Board of Revenue; Lokman Hossain Miah, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, are serving on contractual appointments, among others.

At the meeting, the advisory council noted the attacks on religious minorities in some places with grave concern.

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The capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue was gridlocked yesterday as offices and businesses across the country have begun regular operations after weeks of nationwide protests and consequent violence.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Metro rail service to resume on August 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metro rail operation is set to resume on August 17, nearly a month after the suspension amid violence centring the quota reform protest.

However, the operation of two stations, Kazipara and Mirpur-10, which were vandalised on July 19, will remain suspended until those are repaired.

The advisory council of the interim government yesterday made the decision.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) restarts services with the operations of freight trains from today and the full train services will resume from Thursday.

Besides, the operation of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway resumed formally yesterday with the authorities collecting tolls from vehicles.

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Gunfire, clash at Islami Bank

Protests in banks controlled by S Alam Group, Salman F Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clash and gunfire erupted in front of the Islami Bank head office in Motijheel yesterday while six individuals were injured by gunfire, a rare incident in banking history.

The incident occurred when officials appointed by the S Alam Group, which forcefully took over the Shariah-based bank in 2017, tried to enter the bank's headquarters.

Since 2017, the Chittagong-based conglomerate appointed about 14,000 officers and employees, mostly without following the proper recruitment process, according to people with knowledge of the matter. Most come from Patiya, an upazila of Chattogram from where Alam hails.

Officials appointed before 2017 started demonstrating in front of the bank's head office on August 6, a day after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government. S Alam Group chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam is a close associate of Hasina.

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Cops call off strike, set to join work today

Home adviser says their uniform to be changed soon; 599 police stations resume operations partially

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police members have called off their strike and are to report to their stations today.

They made the decision after a meeting with Home Affairs Adviser Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain and top police and Rab officials yesterday.

After the meeting, the home adviser told The Daily Star that many of the demands made by the policemen were logical, and he promised to consider them. Some demands can be met now while some will take time.

"Police uniform and logo will be changed at the quickest possible time. Their hearts are heavy with grief. They [police] do not want to go out in this uniform," he said.

"If the police are not there, the citizens are not protected. So, don't harm the police. If you have problems, tell the senior officers," Sakhawat said, adding that students told him that they have no enmity with the police.

The adviser said those at the political level and issued commands were more to blame for the way police were used during the protests. "I have asked them [pointing to the IGP sitting beside him] to take necessary measures. "I personally think there should be a police commission. Police will function under the commission, not under any political party. Political parties misuse the police."

Home Adviser M Sakhawat

any political party. Political parties misuse the police," Sakhawat said.

He said those who ordered excessive force were at the political level and no wrongdoers would be spared. There will be an investigation and the wrongdoers

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Political parties must abide by relevant act

Says home affairs adviser, threatens to close down media outlet if it turns to sycophancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Brigadier General (retired) M Sakhawat Hussain yesterday said political parties must operate in accordance with "the political party act".

"If you [political parties] want to do politics in the country, you have to abide by the political party act whether you like it or not. As long as I'm around, I'll make it happen," he told reporters before taking charge at the home ministry in the afternoon.

"You will become a dictator -- that is not going to happen."

About the "political party act", he said, "I have prepared a draft [of the act]. There will be discussions [on it]. [But] if you are a political party, you have to register. You will form a political party and indulge in extortion -- that will not happen."

With an oblique reference to the Awami League, the home adviser said, "Look at the state of a political party today. Such a big and traditional party, whose name is associated with the independence of Bangladesh, its



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Every attack on minorities will be probed

Says Foreign Adviser Touhid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will give a 11 - o u t efforts to investigate all the attacks against the minorities following the fall of Awami League government, and bring to book all the criminals irrespective of their political affiliation.

"We will in no way accept people being attacked over religious or political identity. The [interim] government will ensure full transparency and diligence in this regard," said Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain said in his first media briefing after taking the oath on August 8.

At a meeting with all

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Chief justice, 2 more advisers sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new chief justice and two advisers to the interim government were sworn in at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed was sworn in as the 25th chief justice at a ceremony at the Darbar Hall of the president's official residence around 12:45pm.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath to the chief justice at the event conducted by Cabinet Secretary Mahub Hossain.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, other advisers to the interim government, and distinguished personalities attended the event.

Justice Refaat, who was the most senior judge of the High Court Division, was first appointed as a judge of the Appellate Division and then appointed as chief justice, Law Secretary Golam Sarwar told The Daily Star.

The previous chief justice, Obaidul Hassan, resigned on Saturday amid demonstrations on Supreme Court premises.

Later, five more judges of the Appellate Division resigned.

Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar and Supradeep Chakma also took oath yesterday as advisers.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oaths at the same venue.

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PHOTO: PID

Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed being sworn in as the 25th Chief Justice of Bangladesh by President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday.

ATTACKS ON MINORITIES BBC, dismislab debunk fake news

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While it is undeniable that the aftermath of the ouster of the Awami League government was marked by violence against the Hindus, fake news is also being spread with abandon in social media in India.

This was found by BBC Verify, the fact-checking unit of the British broadcaster.

BBC Verify found that a photo of the arson attack on the house of cricketer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is being shared as that of cricketer Liton Das's house. Mortaza was an Awami League lawmaker.

This piece of fake news was being spread from India by ultra-right wing influencers, found BBC Verify.

A report published by BBC said that a social media intelligence or "social listening" platform, also mined X, formerly Twitter, for trending hashtags pertaining to violence on minorities in Bangladesh and found that the most viral posts were generated from India.

A video of Chattogram's Nobogroho Temple in Laldighi Par allegedly being set on fire was making the rounds on social media.

BBC Verify inspected the footage and found that the temple was not the target, but rather an Awami League office situated right behind the temple was attacked.

A Bangladeshi fact-checking organisation called dismislab also found the truth to this.

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