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## Traffic cops return to Dhaka streets after six days

Work in tandem with students

STAR REPORT

Traffic police have resumed their duties on some roads in Dhaka yesterday morning after about a week of absence following the Sheikh Hasina government's ouster.

They have returned to the streets after police called off their strike following a meeting at the home ministry on Sunday.

Traffic police were seen on busy intersections including Karwan Bazar, Khamarbari, Farmgate, in various spots on Mirpur Road and Dhanmondi 3. They were working in tandem with students, who have been performing the duties of traffic police since Hasina resigned as prime minister amid a mass uprising on August 5.

Employees of police administration announced a work abstention from August 6 to press for a number of demands following clashes between protesters and police during the anti-quota movement.

Police presence on streets had been thinning since before that date. Many also reported to their stations yesterday.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Police officials who were terminated during the Awami League regime bring out a procession on the Abdul Gani Road yesterday, demanding reinstatement.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



**Ali Imam Majumder**  
special assistant to chief adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder has been appointed as the special assistant to Chief Adviser of the interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus.

A circular of his appointment was issued yesterday evening.

He will enjoy the status of an adviser.

Ali Imam Majumder confirmed the matter to The Daily Star last night.

He is the first such appointment since Yunus-led interim government took charge on August 8, four days after the resignation and departure of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina amid a mass upsurge led by students.

## ATTACK ON HINDUS Protests continue across country

STAR REPORT

People from minority communities across the country yesterday continued their protests for the fourth consecutive day against violence and attacks on them.

In Dhaka, several hundred people gathered at the Shahbagh intersection at around 4:30pm and staged a demonstration for around two hours.

They shouted slogans demanding an end to violence against them and justice for the attacks on their houses and religious institutions.

Vehicular movement through the intersection was halted during the protest.

In Noakhali, Hindus staged a demonstration for two hours from 3:00pm at the Town Hall intersection in the district headquarters.

In Dinajpur, a group of people under the banner "Sachetan Nagorik Samaj" formed a human chain and organised a protest at Biral upazila.

Minority communities have been staging demonstrations in different districts, including the capital, since Friday, protesting the ongoing violence against them.

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## FIRING ON PROTESTERS

# 'Police to probe senior officials'

Home adviser expresses concerns over use of 7.62mm rifles by civilians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities will take measures against senior police officials, who used excessive force to subdue protesters during July and August. Sources in the police and home ministry confirmed the development to this newspaper.

There were allegations that police used lethal weapons against students and general people as per directives of a section of senior cops.

In reply to a reporter's query about junior cops' demanding action against the seniors, Home Affairs Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hossain yesterday said it is not possible to take action against anyone just after saying that the person is guilty. "There is a need for an inquiry."

Asked about the location of the senior cops, he said, "It will come out... definitely come out."

"Everyone is bad, it is not right... they

were forced to do it. Many of them are now realising [their mistakes]," he said at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka after visiting Ansar members who suffered injuries during the mass upsurge that toppled Sheikh Hasina.

**CIVILIANS CARRYING POLICE RIFLES** Meanwhile, Sakhawat said a major investigation is necessary to identify the youth in civilian clothing, who were seen carrying 7.62mm rifles, a type of firearm that only the police and Rab are authorised to use.

"I find it very strange. From what I've heard, it seems that the Ansar members suffered less from police fire than from civilians wielding 7.62mm rifles," he said.

Doctors showed him the ammunition that injured the Ansar members, which included both shotgun pellets and bullets from the same types of rifle, he added.

"This is very concerning. Firearms

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## Perpetrators of attacks to face justice

Says religious affairs adviser; ministry launches hotline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Religious Affairs Adviser to the interim government AFM Khalid Hossain yesterday condemned recent attacks on religious institutions belonging to minorities.

He promised that justice would be delivered.

During a press briefing at the secretariat, Khalid confirmed that complaints had been received about attacks on minority homes and religious sites. He assured ongoing support for these communities.

Hossain announced that deputy commissioners are compiling a list of damages. The finance ministry will finalise details of assistance for victims by today. The chief adviser will also meet leaders of religious minorities this afternoon.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs also launched a hotline for reporting attacks to ensure the safety of religious institutions, reports UNB.

The new hotline number is 01766-843809.

## 'Reorganise, don't stir up any trouble'

Home adviser tells AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hussain yesterday advised the Awami League leaders and activists not to do anything that may put their lives in danger and to reorganise the party with fresh faces.

He was talking to reporters after visiting injured Ansar members at the Combined Military Hospital.

"No one has banned your [AL] party. Banning any party is a bad culture," he added.

Mentioning the contribution of AL, the home adviser said, "We cannot deny it. Reorganise the party, participate when the election comes."

"People of the country have not forgotten [AL misrule] so easily. Give them time, they may forget. Those who you considered your leaders are now on the run," he said.

Sakhawat urged all political parties to take measures to stop conflicts, including attacks on minorities. He also said the ministry would help all political parties if they initiate reforms and bring fresh faces.

The home adviser said former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was not forced to leave the country, she left willingly.

Addressing Hasina, he said, "This is your country; why don't you come back. Your citizenship was not revoked. You have served

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## AL supporters, activists plan to observe the Mourning Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grassroots activists and supporters of the Awami League are planning to pay tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on National Mourning Day this Thursday across the country.

Mostly former Chhatra League leaders and a section of party grassroots have already taken the initiative to pay tribute to Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on Dhanmondi 32, which was attacked and set on fire immediately after the fall of the AL government on August 5, according to sources.

Since Sheikh Hasina left for India, the AL has been in disarray.

Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy has already urged countrymen to pay their tributes peacefully to Bangabandhu on August 15.

AL activists and supporters in the capital have been instructed to gather at Dhanmondi 32, while others are asked to observe the day in their own areas.

Organisers are using social media to circulate leaflets in this regard.



Students of Government Barisal college clean the streets in front of the Kotwali Model Police Station yesterday. Students across the country have taken up various social activities to look after their respective neighbourhoods following the August 5 mass uprising.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Try Hasina in int'l crimes tribunal

Demand student leaders, call for ban on student politics

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the students against discrimination platform yesterday demanded that the government file a case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her associates in the International Crimes Tribunal for "killing students and people".

They came up with the demand at a protest rally organised at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus.

They also demanded a ban on organisation-based student politics on all campuses, citing various terrorist activities of Chhatra League in the educational institutions.

Criticising the advisers of the interim government, coordinator Hasnat Abdullah said, "We had seen the advisers talking about rehabilitating the murderers [Sheikh Hasina and other AL leaders]. We want to remind these advisers that you have come to power through the student-people uprising."

"We will not hesitate to oust you just the way we made you advisers," he warned.

Hasnat also said those who want to rehabilitate AL in this country will be resisted by the students and people.

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