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## Students put forward four-point demand

Seek formation of special tribunal for speedy trial of killings during protests

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday launched a weeklong programme to press their four-point demand, the first of which is the trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

As part of the "Resistance Week" students gathered in front of the Raju Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus around 3:00pm and announced the four-point demand.

The demands are as follows:

1. A special tribunal must be formed to ensure the swift trial of Sheikh Hasina and her party leaders for "massacres" carried out using the fascist framework.

2. Those involved in the planned killings, robberies, and looting by the Awami League and its affiliates to undermine the mass uprising must be brought to justice swiftly, and the rightful demands of minorities must be acknowledged.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Staffers cleaning up the premises of Khilgaon Police Station in the capital yesterday, following a mob attack just over a week ago. The attack caused extensive damage to the police station that resumed partial operations yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BNP to hold sit-in today, tomorrow

Calls for bringing Hasina, her aides to justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will organise sit-in programmes at its offices across the country today and tomorrow, demanding that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her accomplices be brought to justice.

The party will also hold a milad mahfil at its offices on August 16 to pray for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's good health, and those killed and injured during the mass uprising, said a press release.

Meanwhile, the BNP yesterday handed a letter to the UN resident coordinator, Gwyn Lewis, requesting an impartial investigation into the "mass murder" committed by the Awami League government during the uprising that toppled the government.

After handing over the letter, BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury told journalists that AL President Sheikh Hasina and her party leaders must face trial.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Shayan F Rahman removed as IFIC director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman, the son of Salman F Rahman, lost his directorship at the IFIC Bank due to loan defaults.

The central bank sent a letter on August 11 to the managing director of the private commercial bank, saying that Rahman's company Esses Fashions defaulted on loan repayments.

Esses Fashions, one of the concerns of Beximco Group, started its commercial production in November 2004, as per its website.

Beximco Group is one of the top borrowers of the state-run Janata Bank.

Esses Fashions's loans at Janata Bank stood at Tk 278 crore at the end of last year.

"Thus, Shayan will not be able to hold his directorship," the letter added.

Earlier on June 27, the IFIC Bank's board requested Shayan's re-

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Bank accounts of Asaduzzaman, Palak to be frozen

BFIU issues directive to banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) yesterday instructed all banks to freeze the accounts of two more ministers from the recently overthrown Awami League government, along with their family members.

They are Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former home minister, and Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology.

With this, BFIU has so far instructed banks to freeze the accounts of five former ministers of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, which fell on August 5 in the face of student-led mass uprising.

All banks were told to freeze the accounts of Asaduzzaman, his wife Lutful Tahmina Khan, along with his son and daughter, said a senior official of the anti-money laundering agency.

The instruction came after the BFIU received reports of suspicious transactions in accounts under their names, said the official, wishing to remain unnamed.

In a letter, the BFIU asked all banks to block all kinds of withdrawals from the accounts of Asaduzzaman and his family members.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



## TENSIONS WITH ISRAEL

# Iran rejects Western calls for restraint

32 more Palestinians killed as Israel keeps up strikes in Gaza

AGENCIES

Iran yesterday rejected Western calls to stand down its threat to retaliate against Israel for the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran late last month.

The Islamic republic and its allies have blamed Israel for Haniyeh's killing on July 31 during a visit to the Iranian capital for the swearing-in of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented.

Iran has vowed to avenge the death, which came hours after an Israeli strike in Beirut killed a senior commander of Hezbollah, the powerful Iran-backed militant group in Lebanon.

Western diplomats have scrambled to avert a major conflagration in the Middle East, where tensions were already high due to the Israel's offensive in Gaza. In a statement on Monday, the United States and its European allies urged Iran to de-escalate.

The White House warned that a "significant set of attacks" by Iran and its allies was possible as soon as this week, saying Israel shared the same assessment.

The United States has deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and a guided missile submarine to the region in support of Israel.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser

Kanani criticised the Western call for it to de-escalate.

"The declaration by France, Germany and Britain, which raised no objection to the international crimes of the Zionist regime, brazenly asks Iran to take no deterrent action against a regime which has violated its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said in a statement.

- Hamas fires two rockets at Tel Aviv
- US, allies call for "unfettered" delivery of aid to Gaza
- Gaza death toll rises to 39,929

"Such a request lacks political logic, lies in the face of the principles and rules of international law, and constitutes public and practical support" for Israel.

The United States and its European allies also called for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, with difficult talks set for tomorrow on halting the conflict. They also called for the "unfettered" delivery of aid to devastated Gaza.

Hamas is sticking to its demand that truce talks focus on a deal already discussed with Israel and mediators rather than starting anew, an official said.

Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip has killed at least 39,929 Palestinians and wounded 92,240 since October 7, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said yesterday. A total of 32 Palestinians have been killed and 88 wounded in the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

## Adani can now sell Bangladesh-bound power in India

REUTERS, Singapore

An Adani Power coal-fired power plant under contract to sell all its output to Bangladesh can now supply the domestic market as the government has amended its power export rules.

An internal federal power ministry memo, dated August 12 and seen by Reuters, amends 2018 guidelines governing generators supplying electricity "exclusively to a neighbouring country".

Currently only one plant in India - Adani Power's 1,600 megawatt (MW) Godda plant in eastern Jharkhand state - is under contract to export 100 percent of its power to a neighbouring country.

The memo says "the government of India may permit connection of such generating station to the Indian grid to facilitate sale of power within India in case of sustained non-scheduling of full or part capacity".

The sale of power to the local grid might also be allowed if there is a delay in payments, it said.

The move, which comes nearly a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Palestinians carry a wounded person following an Israeli airstrike on the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Subsurface of Mars harbours oceans of water

REUTERS, Singapore

Data from Nasa's Mars InSight lander shows evidence of liquid water far below the surface of the fourth planet, advancing the search for life there and showing what might have happened to Mars' ancient oceans.

The lander, which has been on the Red Planet since 2018, measured seismic data over four years, examining how quakes shook the ground and determining what materials or substances were beneath the surface, according to a study released on Monday.

Based on that data, the researchers found liquid water was most likely present deep beneath the lander. Water is considered essential for life, and geological studies show the planet's surface had lakes, rivers and oceans more than 3 billion years ago.

"On Earth what we know is where it is wet enough and there are enough sources of energy, there is microbial life very deep in Earth's subsurface," said one of the authors, Vashan Wright of the University of California San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography. "The ingredients for life as we know it exist in the Martian subsurface if these interpretations are correct."

