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# AL attempt to create chaos will be resisted

## Says student leaders at rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different student organisations, including the Anti-discrimination Student Movement, declared they would resist any potential chaos by the Awami League leaders and activists centring August 15.

The students made the announcement at a rally titled “Sampriti Samabesh” in the capital’s Shahbagh.

“The leaders and activists of the Awami league will try to create chaos on Thursday in the name of observing National Day of Mourning. We will remain on the streets to resist any such attempts,” said Sarjis Alam, a key coordinator of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement.

“We will be on the streets until a government elected by the people assumes power,” he said.

The rally was organised as a part of a week-long resistance movement as announced by the quota reform platform. It was attended by student activists of different student organisations, including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and

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Students of various educational institutions gather at Shahbagh yesterday afternoon demanding formation of a special tribunal to ensure speedy trial of the killings during the mass uprising in July and August. The students later went to Danmondi-27.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

## ‘False cases to be withdrawn by August 31’

### Says law adviser; cases in Dhaka to be withdrawn by today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government would withdraw by today all “false and harassment” cases filed in Dhaka against students and ordinary people during quota reform protest, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul said yesterday.

Similar cases lodged across the country during the student movement, which led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina-led government, will be withdrawn by August 31, he told a press conference at the secretariat.

The adviser said his ministry officials are working day and night for withdrawal of the cases filed between July 1 and August 5.

He mentioned that they earlier said the ministry would take steps within three working days to withdraw the cases.

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# KILLING OF SHOPKEEPER

## Salman and Anisul placed on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and former law minister Anisul Huq on a 10-day remand in a case filed over the death of a shopkeeper in the capital’s New Market area on July 16.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid passed the order in the presence of the duo after investigation officer Sajib Mia, a sub-inspector of New Market Police Station, produced them before the court with a 10-day remand appeal in the evening, said a sub-inspector working in the court.

In the courtroom, pro-BNP Jamaat lawyers did not allow any lawyers to represent Salman and Anisul.

Two lawyers, who came to represent Salman and Anisul, could not stand inside the courtroom. They were assaulted by some unruly lawyers inside the courtroom, said witnesses.

Chaos inside the courtroom ensued when a man, claiming to be the father of the victim Shahjahan Ali, started shouting and demanding that the accused be hanged.

On the court premises, a group of lawyers even threw eggs at the accused before and after the hearing.

The hearing, where Salman and Anisul were also not allowed to speak to

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# BNP focused on getting thousands of cases withdrawn

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The BNP is now focusing on getting the cases against its leaders and activists withdrawn and revamping the party after giving the interim government the time required to create a congenial atmosphere for polls.

Getting the cases withdrawn will be an uphill task since 1,41,633 cases have been filed against around 50 lakh BNP activists between 2009 and September 2023, according to the party.

The BNP believes now is the time to reorganise the party as it could not hold councils and extended meetings at grassroots units for over a decade since most leaders and activists were either in hiding or in jail. It had also been busy waging movements to oust the government.

The party leaders said almost all the cases were “politically motivated” and that most cases were filed by law enforcers, not by Awami League leaders.

According to the BNP, in the nine city corporation areas, 35,284 cases had been filed against 8,90,516 BNP leaders and activists until September 2023.

Besides these, 11,461 cases were filed against 7,63,565 leaders and activists in BNP’s Rajshahi division; 13,482 cases against 3,72,635 in BNP’s Chattogram division; 6,265 cases against 1,15,199 in Cumilla division; 9,704 cases against 3,81,471 in Rangpur division; 15,079 cases against 6,61,553 in Dhaka division; 6,394 cases against 2,51,117 in Mymensingh division; 8,662 cases against 30,35,21 in Barishal division; 26,871 cases against 9,65,173 in Khulna division; and 8,434 cases against 2,21,744 BNP leaders and activists in Sylhet organisational division.

The party also said 513 cases had been filed between November 15, 2023, when the polls schedule was announced, and January 29 this year accusing 13,530 BNP leaders and activists.

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“Withdrawal of politically motivated cases against our party leaders and workers is at the top of our agenda as an oppressive regime filed the cases.”

AMIR KHASRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY  
BNP Standing Committee member

# ‘Our govt mishandled the protests’

## Joy says it shouldn’t have waited for court to settle quota issue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s son Sajeeb Wazed Joy has admitted that mistakes were made in handling the recent student protests in Bangladesh.

The government should have engaged with the protesters from the very beginning and spoken out against the quotas much earlier, Joy told The Indian Express in a video interview from Washington DC. The interview was published yesterday.

“I believe our government should have spoken out against the quotas and met with the protesters from the beginning instead of leaving it to the courts... Our government filed an appeal with the Supreme Court to reduce the quotas. I recommended we take a public stance, stating the court made a mistake and we don’t want the quotas. But our government chose not to, expecting the

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# Thai court sacks PM over ethics case

## Says Srettha lacked integrity in cabinet appointment

REUTERS, BANGKOK

Thailand’s Constitutional Court yesterday dismissed Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin for “grossly” violating ethics by appointing a minister who had served jail time, raising the spectre of political upheaval and a shakeup in the governing alliance.

Real estate tycoon Srettha becomes the fourth Thai premier in 16 years to be removed in verdicts by the same court after its judges ruled 5-4 in favour of dismissing him for failing to perform his duty with integrity.

Srettha’s exit after less than a year in power means parliament must convene to choose a new premier, with the prospect of more uncertainty in a country dogged for two decades by coups and court rulings that have brought down multiple governments and political parties.

“The court has found 5-4 that the accused is terminated as prime minister due to his lack of honesty,” the judges said, adding his behaviour “grossly breached ethical standards”.

The ruling underlines the central role the judiciary has played in Thailand’s unrelenting crisis, with the same court last week dissolving the anti-establishment Move Forward Party after ruling its campaign to reform a law against insulting the crown risked undermining the constitutional monarchy.

Move Forward’s surviving lawmakers regrouped last Friday under a new party. Parliament will convene tomorrow to vote on a new premier, Srettha’s chief of staff, Prommin Lertsuridej, a veteran of the Pheu Thai party, told Reuters without elaborating.



# Delhi eager to work with interim govt

## Says Indian envoy after meeting with foreign affairs adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India is keen on working with the interim government of Bangladesh led by Prof Muhammad Yunus “to fulfil the shared aspirations of peoples of both countries”, said Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma yesterday.

“We are eager to work with the interim government and advance the bilateral relationship,” he told the media after paying a courtesy call on newly appointed Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Touhid said Dhaka also wanted to work closely with New Delhi to promote bilateral relations, and stressed more people-centric engagement in future.

He emphasised some key issues like putting an end to border killings, sharing the water of the Teesta river, and ensuring supply of essential commodities.

Touhid, however, accused the Indian media of carrying out a campaign by “highly exaggerating” attacks on

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Workers set up a makeshift structure on a piece of land that was recovered from illegal occupation by Sadeeq Agro near the Ramchandrapur canal in the capital’s Mohammadpur on June 27. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# STUDENT PROTEST

## UN team to visit Bangladesh to probe killings

### Volker Türk tells Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of UN experts will visit Bangladesh soon to investigate the killings during the student-led movement that toppled Sheikh Hasina, UN human rights chief Volker Türk has said.

Türk revealed the information in a phone conversation with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, according to Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the head of the interim government.

“The UN rights chief said a UN-led investigation will be launched very soon to probe the killing of the protesters during the Student Revolution. A team of UN experts would soon visit the country to set up an investigation,” Shafiqul said on Facebook.

Describing UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres as a “longtime friend”, Prof Yunus thanked him and Türk for supporting the students’ revolution and championing their rights during unprecedented and devastating killings of student protesters.

The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner said human rights would be the

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