

Expedite visa for journos who want to come here

Press secretary tells missions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has asked all missions abroad to expedite visa approvals for any journalists who want to visit Bangladesh, according to a Facebook post by Shafiqul Alam, press secretary of the chief adviser.

Anyone who wants to report on Bangladesh and the performance of the interim government is most welcome, Shafiqul wrote yesterday.

"Yesterday, during his telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has said Indian journalists are welcome to Bangladesh and report from the ground here," he added.

"It is better they see the situation themselves and do reports accordingly rather than being dictated by any secondary — and sometimes very exaggerated — reports."

"We want to build an open society where freedom of press is non-negotiable."

## 150-year-old British ship found in Karnaphuli riverbed

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

A century-old British merchant ship has been discovered at the bottom of the Karnaphuli River during dredging operations for the Chattogram Port Channel.

The 350-foot coal-powered vessel was found on August 15 in the Dangarchar area between Jetty 6 and 7 and has since been salvaged.

Artifacts recovered from the ship include silver coins from 1862-82 AD, silver furniture, binoculars, and a substantial stock of coal. The ship is estimated to be around 150 years old.

Officials reported that the vessel was cut into two parts for removal. Initial attempts by two organisations to salvage the ship failed, but Hiramoni Salvage Ltd was later successful.

Capt Faridul Alam, deputy conservator of the Chattogram Port Authority, confirmed the recovery, saying the vessel posed a risk to container ship movement in the Karnaphuli Channel.

Md Abul Kalam, manager of Hiramoni Salvage Ltd, stated, "We salvaged and removed the ship as per our agreement with the port. There are also



PHOTO: COLLECTED



two more sunken ships in the riverbed that will be removed to enhance the safety and efficiency of the port."

Artifacts recovered from the ship also include furniture,

plates, bowls, water pots, spoons, candle holders, flower vases, and various items made from ivory, copper, brass, and silver. The ship is believed to have sunk during the British

period while engaged in trade in the Indian subcontinent.

Senior diver Md Zahir explained that the ship was submerged 60 feet deep, leading to significant silt accumulation. Salvage operations involved dredging the silt and using skilled divers to cut the ship into two parts, which were then brought to the riverbank using four salvage barges.

Jihad Hossain, director of Hiramoni Salvage Ltd, said the artifacts recovered have not yet been examined by experts.

Dr Ataur Rahman, deputy director of the Directorate of Archeology and keeper of the Chattogram Ethnological Museum, confirmed the historical significance of the recovered coins.

He pointed out that the coins, predating Queen Victoria's direct rule over India, are of considerable archaeological value.

Dr Rahman added, "According to regulations, archaeological artifacts should be handed over to the Directorate of Archeology. The authorities involved in the salvage operation should have informed us to ensure the artifacts are preserved and no items are lost."



A man casts a net into the Kirtankhola at the river port in Barishal city yesterday. Due to the ongoing situation, launch transportation in Barishal has decreased significantly. As a result, many workers are passing idle times. PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Administrative deadlock

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The Local Government Division in Bagerhat has been urged for restoring these services promptly to alleviate public suffering.

Visiting Gotapara, Bemarta, Karapara, Shatgumbuj, Raripara, and Banagram UPs on Thursday, this correspondent found only a few public representatives present at the offices, with most services on hold. A similar situation was observed at Bagerhat Municipality office as well.

"I came for my citizenship certificate for

an urgent need, but failed to collect it as it cannot be issued in absence of the mayor," said Nasir Sheikh, a resident of ward 9 in the municipality.

Kohinur Akter Dalim, a female councillor, admitted that the mayor and councillors have not been coming to the office for several days.

"Without the mayor, official work cannot proceed. I am occasionally visiting the office," she added.

Saiful Islam, a representative from Karapara UP, echoed her,

saying, "Many citizens have been coming for services, but we are unable to provide any as the chairman has not been coming to office."

Dr Md Fakhruul Hasan, deputy director of Local Government Division in Bagerhat, said they have submitted a list of absentee public representatives in the district to the ministry.

According to the report, at least 50 percent of the public representatives are absent from their workplaces.

"We will take further decisions based on directives of the ministry," he added.

## UK shouldn't

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killed by police under a "shoot on sight" policy resembling that of stormtroopers, sparked protests by expatriates in Paris, Rome, Manchester, Trafalgar Square and Middle East.

Many Bangladeshis think she should return to face charges there, she said. Huq said there is a collective sense of relief among her Bangladeshi cousins, as the atmosphere of fear surrounding any criticism of the government seems to be easing.

However, risks remain, she said. The deposed camp argues they maintained stability, but as elections approach, it's time for a change, she added.

Instead of the ongoing feud between two families that has marked Bangladesh's history, the country should aim for a fresh start, she said.

## August

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unrecordable blood pressure and pulse, and an inability to urinate.

"Many patients die within minutes if they experience such shocks," Dr Nazmul warned.

He said the death rate is higher among high-risk groups, including obese and elderly individuals, pregnant women, infants, and those with comorbidities.

Dr Nazmul also said severe stomach aches, breathing difficulties, severe weakness, bleeding from gums or nose, and vomiting are symptoms that require immediate hospitalisation.

"Failure to hospitalise patients showing warning signs can lead to shock syndrome," he added.

## Govt now can

FROM PAGE 3  
notification, two provisions have been added to the Local Government (city corporation) Ordinance 2024, enabling the government to remove mayors and councillors of city corporations.

The other clause allows the government to appoint "competent persons or officials" as the administrators to the city corporations until further notice.

Similar amendments have been made to three other ordinances allowing the government to remove elected representatives of municipalities, zilla and upazila parishads and appoint administrators.

## Damages worth Tk 23cr

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Directed by the Police Headquarters, CMP has prepared a list of affected police establishments and estimated the damages to infrastructures to be worth about Tk 21 crore.

CMP's Traffic Police Department has prepared a separate report on the damages, which was not included in the aforementioned amount.

Abdul Warish, additional commissioner of CMP, said, "We have prepared a report on the damages sustained from the recent attacks on police establishments. The Police HQ will respond further in this regard."

District police sources said around Tk 2 crore worth of infrastructural damages were sustained in the attacks.

"We are compiling a comprehensive report in this connection," said Kabir Ahmed, additional superintendent of police (admin) of Chattogram District Police.

Meanwhile, around 50 of the looted firearms and around 3,000 rounds of ammunition have been recovered by members of the Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Ansar, and

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab 7) from different areas.

Still, at least 450 different firearms and around 12,000 rounds of ammunition remain missing, including those looted from the central armory at Dampara Police Lines, Kotwali, Double Mooring, Pahartali, EPZ, Patenga, Raozan and Lohagara police stations, said sources.

Niskriti Chakma, deputy commissioner (crime) of CMP, said, "We are working on recovering the looted firearms. Some have been recovered so far. After receiving full reports from the police stations, we will be able to confirm the number."

## Gun looted

FROM PAGE 3  
Quaiyum looted a semi-automatic pistol from a police station in Dhaka, said Mohammad Asadhuji Zaman, superintendent of police in Noakhali.

Later, Quaiyum handed over the pistol to Monir and asked him to sell it.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Monir from his residence with the firearm, the SP added.

A case was filed against Monir and Quaiyum.

## Two former AL MPs

FROM PAGE 3  
A Chhatra Dal activist filed the case on Friday night. The court of Judicial Magistrate Rajib Kumar Roy later sent him to jail.

In Dhaka, a total of 119 Awami League members, including two former Dhaka-19 lawmakers, have been sued in connection with the death of Ash-Sabur, a 16-year-old student killed during anti-government protests in Savar on August 5.

The case was filed by Sahid Hasan alias Mithu at Ashulia Police Station on Friday night.

The accused include former MPs Muhammad Saiful Islam and Talukder Tauhid Jang Murad, Ashulia Thana Awami League President Farooq Hasan Tuhin, Savar Municipality Mayor Abdul Ghani, and several union parishad chairmen.

The complaint alleges that Ash-Sabur was beaten and shot dead by Awami League cadres and their affiliates.

His body was found at Bypile intersection after he had been reportedly attacked while returning from a shop.

In Dinajpur, Afsar Ali, chairman of Bochaganj Upazila Parishad and General Secretary of Bochaganj Upazila unit of Awami League, was arrested and sent to jail after an altercation with students at the Bochaganj Police Station.

The students, present near the police station, accused Afsar of threatening them.

Afsar, who had gone to the station to file a complaint about his house being vandalised and set on fire, was subsequently arrested based on a case filed by Faisal Mostak,

## Work abstention

FROM PAGE 3  
Mohammad Abdur Rouf, company secretary of DMTCL, said they have already started meeting five of the six demands.

"We also assured them of meeting their demands for salary hike, as we [DMTCL authority] cannot fulfil this demand unless DMTCL board takes a decision in this regard. But they [employees] were adamant about not rejoining unless an order in this regard is issued," said Rouf.

The agitating employees said while DMTCL employees from 1st to 9th grade earn 2.3 times the national pay scale, employees from 10th to 20th grade earn only 2 times more than the pay scale. They want this "discrimination" to be removed.

MAN Siddique said they

a student from Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University.

The case was filed for attacking protesters on July 18. It named former state minister for shipping and ex-Dinajpur-1 lawmaker Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, along with 99 others as accused.

Additionally, in Natore, two cases of attempted murder were filed against former lawmaker Shafiqul Islam Shimul.

The cases, filed by district BNP joint convener Farhad Ali Dewan Shahin and BNP member Saiful Islam Aitab, accuse Shimul and others of orchestrating attacks against them.

The police are reportedly working to arrest the accused following the investigations.

In Cox's Bazar, a case has been filed against 150 individuals, including a former whip of the parliament, over shooting at protesters during the quota reform protest.

The case was filed against leaders and activists of AL, Jubo League and Chhatra League. Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Sub-inspector Md Salim Mia filed it early yesterday.

The case statement alleged that quota reform activists, engaged in a peaceful march in Cox's Bazar, were attacked and shot in Gungachhola area, resulting in the death of one activist.

OC Rokibuzzaman said no arrests were made by yesterday evening.

Among the accused are former MP and whip Shaimun Sarwar Komol, district AL General Secretary Mujibur Rahman, and Cox's Bazar Municipality Mayor Mahabubur Rahman Chowdhury.

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রেজিস্ট্রার

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Memo No: 12.26.0000.019.07.001.22-199 Date: 17.08.2024

**e-Tender Notice/2024-2025**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

| Tender ID No. | Name of Works  | Tender Publication Date & Time | Tender Opening Date & Time |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1008954       | Repair & Seal coat work at internal roads (Office premises) of Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute (BWMRI), Nashipur, Dinajpur | 18-August-2024 15:30           | 02-September-2024 14:30    |

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Dr. Md. Mahfuz Bazzaz  
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