



Tribute to a fallen friend

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Harris easier than Biden to beat: Trump

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Time for the sunshine law

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Modernity, city, and soliloquy

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Election after vital reforms

Chief adviser tells foreign diplomats; 'I must succeed as there's no other option'

- Previous regime destroyed the institutions
- Armed forces to assist civil administration as long as needed
- Interim govt to uphold international legal obligations
- To promote national reconciliation



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The interim government will conduct a free, fair and participatory election after reforming the democratic institutions that had been destroyed by the previous regime, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus told the international community yesterday.

It is the interim government's mandate to make vital reforms in the Election Commission, judiciary, civil administration, security forces, and mass media, he said.

"We will also make sincere

efforts to promote national reconciliation," he said.

Prof Yunus' first "meet and greet" event with more than 60 foreign diplomats and representatives of international organisations was held at the InterContinental Dhaka.

Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam briefed the media after the event.

The event scheduled to begin at 11:00am was delayed by nearly two hours. Prof Yunus said he was stuck in his office because some unruly government officials wanted their demand for permanent jobs fulfilled immediately.

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A bouquet of flowers on the bench where Shafiq Uddin Ahmed Ahnaf should have been as his classmates sit for an exam at the BAF Shaheen College in Dhaka yesterday. Ahnaf, 17, was shot dead at Mirpur-10 a day before Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country. His teachers placed the bouquet and the name tag in his remembrance. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BORHAN UDDIN

BUSINESS

BANKING COMMISSION IN THE OFFING

The interim government will soon form a banking commission, a longstanding demand from economists, to bring about reforms aimed at salvaging the financial sector. Besides, a paper on the overall situation of the financial sector and a roadmap for the reforms will be published within the first 100 days of the interim government's tenure, the chief adviser's office said in a statement yesterday.

STORY ON BI

Plunged into DARKNESS

Hundreds lost vision partially or completely

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR, SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

"Help me! I cannot see anything..." Al Amin Howlader cried moments before he lost consciousness and fell to the ground as police opened fire on quota reform protesters indiscriminately.



Al Amin

Faruk

The seventh grader of a school in Barishal was rushed to a local health facility and then transferred to Dhaka, where the hospitals received hundreds of patients like him - blinded completely or partially by pellet wounds during the weeks of protests from mid-July to early August.

The National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital (NIOH) alone treated more than 700 patients who were shot in their eyes during the protests, according to its Director Professor Golam Mostafa.

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CPD suggests 3 steps to fix energy sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue yesterday proposed a three-step pathway for energy transition under the interim government that would holistically reform Bangladesh's energy sector.

The think-tank proposed an initial 100-day plan where the interim government would announce key priorities, followed by significant reforms over the next six months.

The reforms would include abolishing certain acts, implementing new policies such as energy audits, renewable energy laboratory and centralising databases on pricing and investment.

The CPD identified four critical acts and policies that need to be revised immediately to ensure competition, efficiency, transparency and accountability in the power and energy sector.

These are the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act, the Renewable Energy Policy and the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP).

"These acts and policies were initiated to benefit vested interest groups in the sector," said Khondaker

CPD'S PLANS FOR ENERGY SECTOR

Phase 1 (Within 6 months) Assessment and Planning

- Revise, amend and formulate acts, laws, rules
- Review contracts of existing power plants
- Phase out inefficient and quick rental power plants
- Stop upcoming projects on LNG import and building FSRUs

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Golam Moazzem, research director of CPD, while presenting the keynote paper at a media briefing titled "Power and Energy Sector Reform Agenda for the Interim Government".

Under the Quick Enhancement Act, the government awarded public works to conglomerates without issuing any tender notices.

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Power sector's indemnity act suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the activities under the much-criticised Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act 2010, commonly known as the Indemnity Act, in the power and energy sector will remain suspended, said the newly-appointed energy adviser to the interim government.

Initiated in 2010 when the power sector was struggling to meet the country's demand, the act stipulates there is no need to float any tender to award any power plant construction activities.

Procurement under this act does not need to go through the standard Public Procurement Rules that are followed by other ministries.

Though the process was meant to be for a short time, the Awami League government never abolished it. In 2021, it was

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Ex-ministers Lotus Kamal, Javed Chy face ACC probe

Former top cops Asaduzzaman, Harun also under investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday launched probes into the alleged corruption by former ministers Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, AHM Mustafa Kamal, and three ex-MPs.

It also initiated investigations into former DMP commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia, and former Detective Branch (DB) chief Harun or Rashid's alleged corruption.



A highly placed source in the ACC told The Daily Star that the graft watchdog would probe former land minister Javed in connection with amassing illegal wealth and money laundering.

He is alleged to have laundered thousands of crores of taka to the UK.

On August 12, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit froze the bank accounts of Javed, his wife Rukhmila Zaman Chowdhury, their children, and the institutions under their names. Their credit cards were

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Six banks still in shortfall despite BB support

Their current account deficit stands at Tk 14,621cr

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Six banks including four Shariah-based ones are still facing a deficit in their current accounts with the central bank despite special liquidity support.

The banks are National Bank, First Security Islami Bank (FSIBL), Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank and Bangladesh Commerce Bank. Chattogram-based business giant S Alam Group has controlling stakes in all banks save for National Bank.

As of August 7, the six lender's current account deficit with the Bangladesh Bank stood at Tk 14,621 crore. If their cash reserve ratio deficit is considered, their total shortfall is Tk 20,774 crore, according to data from the central bank.

The shortfall in the lenders' current accounts with the BB means they are in deep crisis, said a senior official of

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Traffic barely moved in many parts of the capital yesterday due to demonstrations by different groups in the capital's Doyel Chattar, Uttara, Shahbagh, Science Lab, and Jatiya Press Club. The photo was taken near Kakrail intersection in the afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ex-IGP, 16 others sued over Abu Sayed killing

30-35 unidentified people also made accused in the case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A case was filed accusing 17 named people, including former inspector general of police Abdullah Al Mamun, and some unidentified people yesterday for killing Abu Sayed, a student at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, during the quota reform protests last month.



At least 30-35 unknown people were accused in the case.

Ramjan Ali, elder brother of Abu Sayed, filed the murder case with the Rangpur Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The 16 other named accused are former DIG of Rangpur Range Abdul Baten, former commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police (RMP) Md Moniruzzaman, Deputy Commissioner (crime) Abu Maruf Hossain, assistant commissioners Al Imran Hossain

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