



## All city mayors removed

### Mayors of 330 municipalities, chiefs of zilla, upazila parishads among 1,873 representatives booted out; administrators replace them

HELEMUL ALAM and BAHARAM KHAN

The interim government yesterday removed all mayors of 12 city corporations and 1,873 public representatives at three other tiers of local government.

It also got rid of mayors and administrators of all 330 municipalities; 61 zilla parishad chairmen; 493 out of 495 upazila parishad chairmen, and 988 vice-chairmen and women vice-chairmen of upazila parishads, said gazette notifications issued by the LGRD ministry yesterday.

The government also appointed administrators to carry out the responsibilities of the mayors of the city corporations and the municipalities.

Md Sher Ali, additional secretary of Local Government Division (LGD), was appointed administrator of Dhaka South City Corporation and Md Mahmudul Hasan, director general (additional secretary) LGD, of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Divisional commissioners of Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Rangpur, and Mymensingh were given the charges of their respective city corporations. The divisional commissioner of Dhaka will administer Gazipur City Corporation.

AHM Kamruzzaman, additional secretary of LGD, was appointed Narayanganj City Corporation, and Saif Uddin Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Cumilla City Corporation administrators.

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Members of different organisations, including the Gram (village) Police Bahini, stage demonstrations blocking Abdul Gani Road in front of the Secretariat yesterday to press home their demands, including nationalisation of their jobs. The protests led to traffic snarls in the vicinity.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## BUSINESS

### 6 S Alam-linked banks lending now capped

Bangladesh Bank yesterday restricted six banks linked to S Alam Group from lending activities to prevent their situation from deteriorating further amid allegations of wrongdoing.

Experts say the restriction may help boost liquidity in the cash-strapped banks, which were running their activities by taking special liquidity support from the BB.

The lenders are Islami Bank, First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, and Bangladesh Commerce Bank.

STORY ON B1

## Dipu Moni arrested in Baridhara DOHS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dipu Moni, the social welfare minister in the Sheikh Hasina-led government that collapsed following a mass uprising, was picked up from the capital's Baridhara DOHS area last night.

Rabiu Hossain Bhuiyan, joint commissioner (north) of the Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.



"On information, a police team detained Dipu Moni around 7:30pm."

Later, she was taken to the DB office on Minto Road, where she was shown arrested in a murder case lodged with the Mohammadpur Police Station on August 13, according to DMP sources.

The case was filed over the death of grocery shop owner Abu Saeed in police firing in Mohammadpur during quota reform protests on July 19.

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## S ALAM GROUP, ASSOCIATES Tk 95,000cr loans taken from 6 banks

MD MEHEDI HASAN and AM JAHID

S Alam Group and its associate companies took out Tk 95,331 crore between 2017 and June this year from six banks, with 79 percent of the sum coming from Islami Bank.

This amount is equivalent to 5.78 percent of the banking sector's total outstanding loans as of March.

However, the total amount taken from these six banks is likely higher, according to Bangladesh Bank and bank officials with knowledge of the matter.

Documents pieced together by The Daily Star show that most of the loans were taken by bypassing banking rules and regulations, which is a testament to how the Chattogram-based conglomerate exerted its influence on the country's banking sector.

Founded in 1985 by Mohammad Saiful Alam, a relative of former Awami League politician Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and former Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, S Alam Group has grown into one of the largest conglomerates in Bangladesh.

For example, within one month of opening an account with Islami Bank's Chaktai branch in Chattogram, a modest corrugated tin seller Murad Enterprise was

### S ALAM-LINKED COMPANIES' LOANS

BANK	AMOUNT (in Tk)
Islami	74,900cr
Janata	13,400cr
Social Islami	4,200cr
Union	2,000cr
Global Islami	574cr
First Security	257cr

SOURCE: BB, BANKS

given Tk 890 crore without even verifying the need for the funds and the company's financial capacity to pay back the sum.

A year later, another loan of Tk 110 crore was given to the company, which turned out to be a shadow company of S Alam Group, BB documents show.

What is worse is that the bank, where S Alam Group has controlling stakes, took very little collateral from Murad Enterprise.

The conglomerate and companies with ties to it took Tk 74,900 crore from Islami Bank, whose chairman since June last year is Alam's eldest son Ahsanul Alam.

Of the amount, Tk 26,000 crore was borrowed in the name of its subsidiaries, and the remaining amount was in the name of 29 associate companies, such as Nabil Group, Desh Bandhu Group, Unitech Group, and Anantex Group.

Islami Bank's Khatunganj branch in Chattogram is particularly noteworthy: a staggering Tk 35,924 crore was taken from the branch through 10 companies, documents show.

S Alam Group and its shadow companies, such as Nabil Foods, Nabil Auto Rice Mills, MS AJ Trade

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## Why scrapping of caretaker system not unconstitutional?

### HC issues rule on 15th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning the constitutionality of the 15th amendment that scrapped the nonparty caretaker government and brought some significant changes in the charter.

The 15th amendment bill was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad on June 30, 2011, and signed into law on July 3 the same year. It abolished the caretaker government system introduced by the 13th amendment in 1996.

The law also recognised Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation and increased the number of reserved seats for women in parliament to 50 from 45.

Following the amendment to the constitution, three general elections were held on January 5, 2014, December 30, 2018 and January 7 this year, with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in the prime minister's office. The scrapping of the 13th amendment created huge controversy and sparked outrage among the opposition political parties.

Yesterday, the HC also asked the respondents to the rule to show causes why the Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act, 2011 should not be declared unconstitutional, and why the previous actions and deeds done or taken in any manner under this act should not be treated as transactions past and closed.

Secretaries at the ministry of law and Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat have been made respondents to the rule, which is returnable in 10 days.

The HC bench of Justice Naïma Haider and Justice Sashanka Shekhar Sarkar issued the rule following a writ petition challenging the legality and constitutionality of the 15th amendment.

Speaking to reporters after the issuance of the HC rule, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman said Bangladesh was taken towards non-democratic rule through the 15th amendment to the constitution and a

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## CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS ACC to investigate 41 ex-ministers, MPs

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to initiate probes into allegations of graft against 41 who had been ministers, state ministers, and lawmakers of the Awami League between 2009 and 2024.

Of them, 12, including former law minister Anisul Huq; ex-foreign minister Hasan Mahmud; former education minister Mohibul Hasan Choudhury; ex-state minister for power and energy Nasrul Hamid; and former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak, held their offices in the last cabinet of the AL government.

The others seven are former food minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder; ex-social welfare minister Dipu Moni, who was also foreign and education minister in previous tenures; former local government

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## Khaleda's bank accounts unfrozen after 17 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue asked banks to unfreeze the accounts of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The move came 17 years after the NBR froze the accounts.

The Central Intelligence Cell of the tax administration in August 2007 directed banks to freeze the accounts of Khaleda, who served as prime minister thrice since 1991, based on the recommendation of a panel



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## P 8 The darkest hour

## P 9 After the euphoria, the concerns

**আলহাজ্ব সেলিম রহমান**  
চেয়ারম্যান  
আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.

আলহাজ্ব সেলিম রহমান আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদের চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। ৯৮ আগস্ট ২০২৪ ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের ৪০৩ তম সভায় এই সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হয়।

আলহাজ্ব সেলিম রহমান চট্টগ্রামের সম্মানিত মুসলিম পরিবারে জন্মগ্রহণ করেন। তাঁর পিতা আলহাজ্ব খলিলুর রহমান দেশের অন্যতম বৃহৎ শিল্পগোষ্ঠী কেডিএস গ্রুপের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা। বর্তমানে সেলিম রহমান কেডিএস গ্রুপের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করছেন। এ গ্রুপের কোম্পানিগুলোর মধ্যে রয়েছে কেডিএস গার্মেন্টস ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ, কেডিএস এক্সেসরিজ লিঃ, কেডিএস এ্যাপারেলস লিঃ, কেডিএস লজিস্টিকস লিঃ, কেডিএস আইডিআর লিঃ, কেওয়াইসিআর কয়েল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ, পিটল এক্সেসরিজ লিঃ এবং কেডিএস পলি ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ লিঃ।

আলহাজ্ব সেলিম রহমান আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংকসহ অন্যান্য বেসরকারি ব্যাংকে দীর্ঘ ২৪ বছর ধরে পরিচালনা পর্ষদের পরিচালক হিসেবে দায়িত্ব পালন করছেন।

আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিআরটিএ)  
সদর কার্যালয়, বিআরটিএ ভবন

**“বিআরটিএ'র সার্ভার সচল হওয়ায় গ্রাহক সেবা কার্যক্রম শুরু সংক্রান্ত”  
জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিআরটিএ ভবনে স্থাপিত সার্ভার ও আইএস সচল হওয়ায় বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক মোটরযান সংক্রান্ত সেবা যথাঃ রেজিস্ট্রেশন, মালিকানা বদলি, ফিটনেস, ট্যাক্স-টোকেন ও রুট-পারমিট এবং ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বা হালনাগাদ, ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ, অগ্রিম আয়কর প্রদান, ইত্যাদি সকল সেবা কার্যক্রম চালু হয়েছে। এমতাবস্থায় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে বিআরটিএ সার্কেল অফিস থেকে অনতিবিলম্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

বিআরটিএ

## AZIM MURDER West Bengal CID submits charge sheet

AGENCIES

The Criminal Investigation Department of West Bengal has submitted a charge sheet in the murder case of former Jhenaidah-4 MP Anwarul Azim Anar who was killed in Kolkata in May.

The 1,200-page charge sheet was placed before a Barasat court on Saturday, reported Anadabazar Patrika.

According to CID sources, Jihad Hawlader and Mohammad Siam, who allegedly dismembered the body after the murder, have been named in the charge sheet.

Jihad is in Kolkata police custody since the murder while Siam has reportedly fled to Nepal.

However, nothing was said about the motive for the murder.

CID sources said the motive cannot be disclosed now as the investigation is yet to be complete. Besides, the main accused in the case is yet to be cross examined, they added.

According to West Bengal CID sources, Azim's close friend Akhtaruzzaman Shaheen, a US citizen, is the main accused in the crime. He has fled to the US after the murder.

Akhtaruzzaman allegedly paid Rs 5 crore to the suspects involved in the crime.

Lawmaker Azim went to Kolkata on May 12. Nine days later, India and Bangladesh police said he was murdered at a Kolkata flat.

Police suspect that political rivalry and a feud over gold smuggling may have played key roles behind the murder of the Jhenaidah-4 lawmaker.



Families of the victims of enforced disappearance form a human chain in front of the Secretariat yesterday demanding their loved ones be returned to them and the detention centres, including "Aynaghor", be closed.

PHOTO: STAR

## Family of four meets tragic end on road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jasim Uddin, 65, of Bagmara upazila, Rajshahi, was brought to Dhaka a few days ago by his two sons so he could have better care for his chronic paralysis.

After the treatment, when Jasim, along with his wife and two sons, set out for their home on a rented microbus in the early hours of yesterday, they were met with a fatal collision with a truck in Sirajganj.

Following the incident, the bodies of Jasim Uddin, 65; his wife, Nargis Begum, 60; and their two sons, Jamal Uddin, 45, and Kamal Uddin, 40, were taken to their home in Noroshingapur village of Bagmara upazila around noon for burial. Jamal's wife and child are the only surviving members of the family.

Confirming the accident, Md Taj Uddin, inspector (investigation) of Solonga Police Station, said the accident took place around 3:30am in Hatikumrul area when the family was returning to their village home in Bagmara by microbus.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

The inspector said four members of the family died on the spot, and Md Ashik, the driver of the microbus, was taken to Shaheed M Monsur Ali Medical College in Sirajganj with critical injuries.

The police were now trying to track down the truck involved in the collision as soon as possible, he added.

## All city mayors removed

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Divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners (DCs), and upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) will also be administrators of their respective zilla and upazila parishads, the notifications said. They, however, did not mention who will perform the duties of upazila parishad vice chairmen and women vice chairmen.

On August 14, the LGD in an order said many mayors and panel mayors have been absent due to existing circumstances. The LGD tried to communicate with them but failed.

The order said their absence halted services and other work of city corporations and that was why a decision was made to give chief executive officers the full administrative and financial authority to run the city corporations in public interest.

Five days after the order, the government yesterday issued notifications, removing all public representatives and appointing administrators.

According to sources, several mayors, including the ones of the DNCC, the Chittogram, Khulna, Barishal, Mymensingh, and Cumilla city corporations, have been absent at work since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5.

All the absentee mayors had AL backing.

DNCC mayor Atiqul Islam went to his office on Sunday night but left soon afterwards as a group of people tried to chase him, sources said.

Talking to reporters at his office yesterday, LGRD Adviser AF Hassan Arif said, "The move is an attempt to clean up the entire local

government."

Basically, the administrator will perform the duties instead of the mayor and chairman, he said, adding that no decision was made regarding the councillors.

Dr Tofail Ahmed, a local government expert, welcomed the move saying the public representatives failed to prove themselves.

"As the elections were grossly faulty and since almost all public representatives - including the prime minister, ministers, lawmakers, under whom they were elected - are now on the run, these appointments have justification," he told The Daily Star.

Of the 12 mayors, nine are on the run. The rest are in the country but absent at work, according to sources.

The councillors are also absent for which the city corporations are dysfunctional, he added.

Their absence hampers day-to-day services and there is no good alternative to appointing administrators, Tofail said.

"These administrators are acceptable as interim management, but I hope they will do only day-to-day work and continue ongoing projects and not take up any new projects," he said.

On zilla parishads, Tofail said that these local government bodies were dysfunctional as people did not take part in the election. The representatives were not elected directly and zilla parishads were like "rehabilitation centres for Awami League leaders".

He added that upazila parishads too became dysfunctional to some extent as local lawmakers were made advisers to the parishads. There has

always been a feud between chairmen, MPs, UNOs, vice-chairmen, and members.

ZILLA, UPAZILA, UNION

The government appointed officials, including additional deputy commissioners and assistant commissioners (land), as administrators for the 330 municipalities.

With gazette notifications issued by the LGRD ministry, 323 municipality mayors and seven municipality administrators were removed. All municipalities now have new administrators at their helms.

The DCs will now serve as administrators of 53 zilla parishads.

Divisional commissioners will act as administrators of Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Barishal zilla parishads.

No change was made to the three zilla parishads in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The UNOs will be administrators of 495 upazila parishads until further notice following the removal of the chairmen of 493 upazila parishads.

Khulna's Koyra upazila parishad chairman passed away and polls to Madaripur's Dasar upazila parishad have not been held since it became an upazila.

In a notification issued last night, the LGD asked divisional commissioners and DCs to give panel chairmen the authority of unions if the chairmen were absent.

In case there are no panel chairmen, the divisional commissioners and DCs can assign the UNO and AC (land) concerned financial and administrative authority of the union parishads.

## ACC to investigate 41 ex-ministers, MPs

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Tazul Islam; ex-religious affairs minister Faridul Haque Khan; former state minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury; ex-state minister for disaster management and relief Mohibbur Rahman; and former state minister for Chittagong hill tracts affairs Kujendra Lal Tripura.

This decision was made yesterday by a full commission meeting at the ACC headquarters. Three separate teams, each led by a director, were formed to carry out the investigation, said multiple senior officials of the commission. None of them agreed to speak on record.

The decision comes a day after Supreme Court lawyer M Sarwar Hossain filed a complaint with the ACC on Sunday seeking probes into allegations of amassing illegal wealth by the 41.

Sarwar said he filed the complaint following a daily Samakal report which was based on research carried out by Transparency International Bangladesh.

He attached data that apparently showed how their wealth increased over the years. "Such a rise in assets is not possible without corruption," the complaint read.

Talking to the reporters on Sunday, ACC Secretary Khurshida Yasmin told reporters, "If a complaint against the 41 was made to the commission, the commission will look into it according to its rules. This is routine work for the commission."

Sarwar told The Daily Star, "I am happy with the quick action the ACC

has taken the day after I filed the complaint. This was something the ACC should have done on its own. Nonetheless, I appreciate the decision they made..."

The other former ministers and state ministers are Tipu Munshi (commerce); Zahid Maleque (health); Golam Dastagir Gazi (textiles and jute); Imran Ahmad (expatriate welfare); Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun (industries); Shajahan Khan (shipping); Hasanul Haq Inu (information); Faridul Haque Khan (religious affairs); Meher Afroz Chumki (women and children affairs); Swapan Bhattacharjee (LGRD, primary and mass education); Kamal Ahmed Majumdar (industries); Zahid Ahsan Russell (youth and sports); and Meher Afroz Chumki (women and children affairs).

The former AL lawmakers being probed are Benjir Ahmed (Dhaka-20); AKM Sarwar Jahan (Kushtia-1); Shariful Islam Jinnah (Bogura-2); Shahidul Islam Bakul (Natore-1); Sheikh Afil Uddin (Jashore-1); Salim Uddin Torofdar (Naogaon-3); Kazi Nabil Ahmed (Jashore-3); Enamul Haque (Rajshahi-4); Noor Alam Chowdhury Shaon (Madaripur-1); Sheikh Helal Uddin (Bagerhat-1); Mamunur Rashid Kiron (Noakhali-3); Kazim Uddin Ahmed (Mymensingh-11); Anwar Hossain (Pirojpur-2); Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan (Joypurhat-2); and Ziaur Rahman (Chapainawabganj-2).

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the move might be viewed as a welcome news,

quite belated though, in the backdrop of self-inflicted credibility gap of the ACC.

"While people will expect to see specific progress to ensure exemplary accountability of such erstwhile high-profile individuals for their abuse of power, this will remain as yet another example that ACC tends to act against the so-called big fish only when they are out of power."

"It will not be unjustified to question that by failing to take action before their humiliating downfall, the ACC has in reality protected their corruption and violated their own mandate as well as the relevant law."

"Be that as it may, nothing can justify any underestimation of the imperatives for a thorough overhaul of this institution as part of state-restructure to meet the aspirations of a 'new Bangladesh' as articulated by the student-led people's uprising," he said.

TRAVEL BAN ON TAQSEM

The ACC sought a travel ban on former managing director of Dhaka Wasa, Taqsem A Khan. It wrote to the Special Branch of the police regarding this yesterday.

The ACC is probing alleged amassing of illegal wealth by Taqsem and has formed a committee, led by ACC Assistant Director Mahbul Alam, in this regard.

ACC Deputy Director Syed Nazrul Islam has written to the secretary of the Local Government Division requesting documents related to Taqsem's appointment, ACC sources said.

## Why scrapping of caretaker system

FROM PAGE 1

situation like interfering in the judicial functions was created.

During the hearing on the petition, Sharif Bhuiyan, counsel for the petitioners, told the HC bench that the basic structures of the constitution - democracy and election - have been damaged by the 15th constitutional amendment.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in its judgement in the 13th amendment (caretaker government system) case had asked for holding two national elections (10th and 11th) under caretaker governments, but the 15th amendment abolished the caretaker government system and therefore, those elections were held under political governments, he said.

Sharif said the 15th amendment states that the president would conduct a referendum within seven days from the date of the amendment bill presented to him, but no such referendum was held and therefore the 15th amendment is illegal.

The provision of the 15th amendment, which said that basic structures of the constitution cannot be amended, is unconstitutional as it has damaged the sovereignty of parliament which is elected by the people, the lawyer argued.

Five conscious citizens - Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of rights organisation Shushashoner Jonno

Nagorik, Tofail Ahmed, M Hafizuddin Khan, Md Jobirul Hoque Bhuiyan and Zahrah Rahman - submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on August 18.

They stated in the petition that following the abolition of the nonparty caretaker government system through the 15th amendment act, the nation saw three consecutive failed elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024 and it ultimately led to the July 2024 uprising by students and ordinary people and the fall of the government on August 5, 2024.

The 13th amendment was incorporated in the constitution to ensure free and fair election and strengthen democracy and therefore, the 13th amendment became part of the basic structure of the constitution since 1996.

The 13th amendment represented the "will of the people" and a "political consensus and settlement" as it was made in the context of the demand of major political parties, and the public, including civil society, the petitioners stated in the writ petition.

According to the writ petition, a 15-member special parliamentary committee was formed on July 21, 2010 to amend the constitution. Twelve members of the committee were senior Awami League leaders.

After consulting 104 distinguished citizens, the committee on March 29, 2011, unanimously recommended

amending the constitution by retaining the nonparty caretaker government system with a three-month tenure.

After holding a meeting with then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, the committee the following day changed its previous recommendation. It suggested amending the constitution to abolish the nonparty caretaker government system. Thus, it is clear that while the committee and other participants in the special parliamentary committee meetings were in agreement to retain the nonparty caretaker government system, the entire system was abolished only on the recommendation of then prime minister Hasina.

On June 30, 2011, the Jatiya Sangsad passed the 15th constitutional amendment bill. With the passage of the bill, Islam's status as the state religion was retained and the Arabic phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" with its translation "In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful/ In the name of the Creator, the Merciful" was made a part of the constitution.

The amendment also introduced the provisions for holding parliamentary polls in 90 days before the dissolution of parliament, secularism, Bangalee nationalism, more powers for the war crimes tribunal and displaying the portrait of Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in all government offices.

## Tk 95,000cr loans taken from 6 banks

FROM PAGE 1

International, and Anowara Trade International, secured loans amounting to Tk 29,575 crore from the Rajshahi branch of Islami Bank.

Another Tk 23,900 crore was taken from Islami's offshore banking unit and other branches over the years in violation of rules.

Rules were also not followed by state-run Janata when extending loans to the business giant, whose interests range from commodity trading to fishery, from construction materials to real estate, from textiles to media, from intercity buses to shipping, and from power and energy to banks and insurance.

S Alam Group and its affiliate companies took Tk 13,400 crore from state-run Janata Bank.

About Tk 10,449.45 crore was taken in the name of S Alam subsidiaries, with as much as 90 percent of the loans taken from Janata's Sadharan Bima Corporate Branch in Chattogram.

The remaining Tk 2,950.55 crore

was taken from Janata by its associate companies.

Janata's lending to S Alam Group breached the bank's single borrower exposure limit by an alarming margin.

According to banking law, a bank is prohibited from lending more than 25 percent of its paid-up capital to a single party. At the end of June this year, Janata's paid-up capital stood at Tk 2,314 crore.

Some Tk 4,200 crore was taken from Social Islami Bank (SIBL), whose chairman Belal Ahmed is Alam's son-in-law. Five more relatives of Alam are on the board of SIBL.

Some Tk 2,000 crore was taken from Union Bank, whose board consists of Alam's siblings Halima Begum, Osman Goni, and Md Rashedul Alam and his wife Marzina Sharmin. Their nephew, Mohammad Mostan Billah Adil, is also on the board.

S Alam Group and its associate companies took Tk 574 crore from Global Islami Bank (GIB), whose

vice-chairman is Alam's daughter Maimuna Khanam. Seven other relatives of Alam, including his brother Shahidul Alam and sister Rokea Yasmin, are on the board of the 11-year-old bank.

Some Tk 257 crore was taken from First Security Islami Bank (FSIBL), whose chairman is Alam himself. Alam's wife, Farzana Parveen, and four other relatives are on the board of FSIBL.

If the loans taken by its associate companies are added, the total amounts taken from SIBL, FSIBL, Union, and GIB will go up, according to industry insiders.

In light of the gross irregularities, the BB yesterday restricted the lending activities of the banks save for Janata.

Alam; Subrata Kumar Bhowmik, executive director of S Alam Group; the managing directors of the six banks; and BB spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque could not be reached for comment.

## Dipu Moni arrested in Baridhara DOHS

FROM PAGE 1

This was also the first case lodged against Hasina after she resigned and went to India amid an uprising on August 5.

Seven people were named as accused in the case. They are former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, former DB (Dhaka Metropolitan Police) chief Harun Or Rashid, former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman, and former DMP joint commissioner Biplob Kumar Sarker.

Besides, several unnamed top police officials and other government officials were accused in the case, Mamun Mia, a lawyer for the complainant, had told The Daily Star.

SM Amir Hamza Shatil, a resident of Mohammadpur, filed the murder case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury.

The complainant was not a relative of the victim and filed the case

voluntarily.

In his complaint, Shatil mentioned that Saeed was killed around 4:00pm on July 19, when police were firing indiscriminately on the protesters, following the accused's directives.

The victim's family members, who are very poor, live in Boda upazila of Panchagarh. They do not have the ability to file the case, he mentioned in the complaint.

Dipu Moni, a joint general secretary of the Awami League, was a member of parliament (MP) from Chandpur-3 constituency.

From 2019 to 2023, she was the education minister in the Awami League-led government. She faced criticism for the new curriculum passed during her tenure. Due to a lack of sufficient training, many teachers were confused about how to give classroom instructions, distribute group work to students, and evaluate the students' performances based on the new curriculum.

Between 2014 and 2018, she was chairperson of the Parliamentary

Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On January 6, 2009, she became the country's first female foreign minister, serving until 2013. When she was foreign minister, she made headlines for her frequent trips abroad.

Earlier in 2023, The Daily Star published a report on Dipu Moni's involvement in illegal sand lifting in Chandpur. Besides, Dipu Moni and her brother JR Wadud Tipu were found involved in illegal land acquisition at Chandpur Science and Technology University.

Following the fall of the AL government on August 5, law enforcers started arresting top leaders of the party.

So far, former law minister Anisul Huq, Hasina's private investment adviser Salman F Rahman, former ICT minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former deputy speaker of the 12th Jatiya Sangsad Shamsul Haque Tuku, and Chhatra League leader Tambir Hasan Shaikat have been arrested and are now in police custody for interrogation.

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## Improving law, order now main challenge

Says home adviser  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current challenge is to improve the law-and-order situation in the country, Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday.

He was addressing reporters at the secretariat. "The home ministry's main challenge is to improve law and order as soon as possible," he said.

Earlier around noon, the adviser met Gwyn Lewis, the UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh.

Asked in this regard, he said, "We discussed the types of help they [the UN] can provide in this situation and sectors in which we want cooperation."

He, however, did not elaborate on the situation or the discussions.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

This man cuts this old tree that is on its deathbed near Asad Gate. He sits on the tree without any harness for his own safety. At the same time, the road has not been blocked off underneath the tree, leaving passersby and vehicles at risk. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Support interim government to bring stability

Fakhrul urges party men; EU expresses willingness to help recover laundered money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged his party activists to support the interim government, stressing the need for stability.

"We have an interim government, and we all have to back them so that they can sustain," Fakhrul said at a discussion held at the Jatiya Press Club.

"The ones running the government now do not have political sense; they are not politicians. They have come for a short period to try and lift the state from its ruined condition," he said.

He further urged party members to avoid negativity, saying, "It would be wrong to undermine our efforts with negative words or actions at this time."

Expressing hope for a fair election, Fakhrul said, "Through a neutral election, we will be able to establish a representative parliament and form a government. Today, we must perform our duties with patience."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Shot six times, Amir lives to tell his tale

18-year-old shot by police while hanging from Rampura building escapes death

MASHFIQ MIZAN

After broadband internet was restored in selected areas on July 23, a video dated from July 19 began circulating on social media showing a boy hanging from the cornice of an under-construction building.

Two cops then arrive at the scene and several rounds of gunshots are heard. The video shows police pointing their guns at the boy, who is desperately hanging on for his life.

The footage led many to believe that the person in the video had been killed on the spot.

Social media and some mainstream outlets reported he was dead. This correspondent spoke to eyewitnesses and verified the authenticity of the video through geolocation tracking on July 24.

It was confirmed that the



footage was from a building near Meradia Bazar in Rampura.

Visiting the under-construction building, this correspondent saw bloodstains on the third and fourth floors.

However, this was all circumstantial evidence, and without tracing the body, The Daily Star could not confirm the death.

Despite efforts to track down the body to confirm the death, all

attempts failed.

However, recently, we got information that Amir Hossain, the subject in the video who everyone believed to be dead, is alive.

He is now recovering at his Dhaka residence in a slum in Noapara, Meradia.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Amir told us how he survived.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## End political dominance, bring reforms in higher edn

Demands University Teachers' Network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Teachers' Network yesterday proposed ending political dominance and ensuring both academic and administrative accountability within universities.

The network, comprising educators from both public and private universities, demanded for modern universities that support freedom of thought, and encourage students to ask questions.

They urged the government to be accommodating and to allow universities to operate autonomously, without any form of political interference.

They put forward the proposals while taking part in a discussion. Titled, "What kind of university we want: thoughts on reformation of universities" the session took place at the University of Dhaka's Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury auditorium yesterday.

Key proposals include holding teachers accountable for classroom performance and decentralising decision-making powers currently concentrated in vice-chancellors.

Former Jahangirnagar University Professor Anu Muhammad said, "Sycophants of the government should not be appointed as vice-chancellors, and individuals who lack interest in reading and teaching should not be hired as teachers."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



## DMP suspends cop for gagging student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector (Operations) Arshad Hossain of Shahbagh Police Station, who was pictured gagging the mouth of a student during a protest on July 31, was suspended on Sunday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner suspended him citing his unprofessional conduct.

Arshad gagged the mouth of Nahidul Islam, a student of political science department at New Model Degree College in Dhaka, during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement's "March for Justice" programme.

Despite being a member of a disciplined police force, his unprofessional actions have created adverse perception about the activities of police and tarnished the image of the police force, a DMP official said.

A photo of the incident was widely shared and also inspired graffiti on a wall of Dhaka University.

## HOUSING PROJECT IN RANGUNIA Environmental clearance cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The Department of Environment has cancelled the environmental clearance of a housing project of the National Housing Authority in Rangunia upazila of Chattogram.

The DoE director general approved the unanimous decision to cancel the project's environmental clearance in a meeting yesterday, according to a letter signed by Masud Iqbal Md Shamim, director (Environmental Clearance) of DoE.

The project titled "Site and Service Residential Plot Development at Rangunia Upazila in Chattogram" was earlier initiated upon a demi official letter from former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, when he was the chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Forest in 2014.

After a visit to the spot, the officials concerned found that a significant portion of the nine acres of land for the proposed project belong to hills, hillocks and waterbodies there.

Although there is 4.02-acre of plain land in the area, it is not enough for implementing a housing project with all sorts of utilities and civic amenities.

According to the officials, there is possibility of adverse impact on nature and financial loss to the authority if the project is implemented.

If the project is implemented, there is probability of an adverse impact on nature and financial losses to the authority.

Hasan Mahmud, also then lawmaker of Chattogram-7 (Rangunia) constituency, sent the DO letter on July 7, 2014, said officials.

Even though the project was initially returned without consent from the Prime Minister's Office, it was later approved by the PM in June this year, on conditions including preserving the hills, hillocks and water bodies in the area.

Following a letter issued on July 10, Bjoy Kumar Mandol, member of Planning, Design and Special Project of NHA, submitted a report on August 13 after visiting the site, deeming it not feasible for the project.



Employees and owners of the shops at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex protest in front of the building, demanding for the rent to be lowered, public holidays to be enforced and for operation hours of 11:00am to 8:00pm. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Office of East West Media Group vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants vandalised the East West Media Group's office in Bashundhara residential area yesterday.

They also assaulted a female journalist.

At around 2:45pm, the group entered the media house chanting slogans, reported Daily Sun, a concern of East West Media Group.

The miscreants first entered the Radio Capital office and vandalised doors, window panes, laptops, computers and broadcasting machinery.

A female journalist was also attacked. She was rescued by her colleagues. She sustained minor injuries.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## ABANDONED SUV Former home minister found to be its owner

UNB, Dhaka

An SUV valued at approximately Tk 2 crore was found abandoned in front of Baitul Aman Mosque in the capital's Dhanmondi on Sunday morning, sparking widespread curiosity.

The vehicle, a Land Cruiser with the licence plate Dhaka Metro-Gha 21-8456, was eventually towed to a secure location around midnight with the assistance of Bangladesh Army.

The mystery surrounding the unclaimed vehicle led to a flurry of questions about its ownership and origin, particularly after a post on social media.

Finally, information and photos obtained from various sources confirmed that the SUV belongs to former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

## PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
JAMAT 4:25	12:45	4:45	6:38	8:00
AZANAT 5:00	1:15	5:00	6:41	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## End political

FROM PAGE 3  
He said the state must decide whether a university will be a centre for the creation of knowledge or a centre for the creation of goons.

Syed Nizar, associate professor at Jahangirnagar University, called for the protection of academic freedom and argued against punitive actions for researchers.

He criticised existing repressive laws and noted the autocratic tendencies among some vice-chancellors.

Dhaka University Professor Mohammad Azam highlighted the inadequate education budget, urging the interim government to commit to increasing funding to 4 per cent of GDP.

Seuty Sabur from BRAC University called for a student-centric approach, with accountability for all university staff.

Professor Kamrul Hassan of Dhaka University proposed limiting the powers of vice-chancellors to prevent their control from extending over entire universities.

They criticised the previous governments' interference in university autonomy and the

influence of partisan politics on university appointments and promotions.

The teachers also criticised the 1973 order, arguing it allowed political activities to overshadow academic priorities, turning universities into election-centric institutions.

They stressed that teacher recruitment should prioritise merit over political connections and called for modifications to ensure economic freedom for both teachers and universities.

The network also recommended fixing teachers' working hours, involving senior students in teacher appointments, allowing visiting professorships, and setting a class size limit of 40 students.

They proposed using both Bangla and English as languages of instruction and ensuring students learn at least three languages.

The proposed reforms aim to restore academic integrity and autonomy, ensuring universities fulfill their educational mission without political interference.

## Shot six times, Amir

FROM PAGE 3

After attending Friday prayers, he was on his way home when BGB and police opened fire on protesters. Fearing for his life, he ran and took refuge on the fourth floor of the under-construction building.

According to Amir, two police officers suddenly entered the building and chased him. He retreated and hung onto the cornice of the fourth floor. When cops found Amir, they pointed their firearms at him, and yelled, "Jhap de, jhap de (Jump, jump)."

To intimidate him, one of the officers fired several blank shots while pointing their gun at him.

"But I knew that if I jumped, I would not survive the fall," Amir added.

Suddenly, another cop from the third floor shot at him six times, aiming at both of his legs.

He fell to the third floor, collapsed and began bleeding profusely. Then the officers left, completely disregarding whether Amir was alive.

"I tried to get up, but had no strength. I shouted, but sounds of gunfire muffled my pleas for help," Amir recounted.

"At one point, I almost gave up hope. I thought I would die. My vision was blurred, but a part of me didn't want to give up. I kept thinking, 'I can't die like this'. Thoughts of my elderly father and my sister, whose marriage I had been saving money for, kept me going. This wasn't how I would die," he added.

Gradually, the gunshots stop ringing through the area. After nearly three hours, a student rushed into the building and found Amir lying in a pool of blood.

Two doctors from a nearby hospital, who were in the area, quickly joined the rescue. They worked desperately to stop the bleeding.

"They kept telling me, 'Don't close your eyes. We won't let you die. Please, don't close your eyes'," Amir recalled.

They took him to Famous Hospital, where he received initial treatment that night, before being referred to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Amir experienced so much blood loss that

he required three bags of blood at the hospital. After three days, he was discharged from DMCH.

"He needed further treatment, but DMCH was flooded with people who had life-threatening injuries. Since Amir's condition was stable, doctors prescribed him medication for three months and sent him home," said Nasima Begum, Amir's aunt.

"After the video went viral, we heard police were searching for us. There were stories of raids where police were picking up people with bullet injuries, so we stayed quiet. Journalists were looking for him, but we only found our voices after hearing about Sheikh Hasina's fall on August 5," she added.

Amir showed this correspondent all of the bullet wounds he had to mark the horrific day.

In his right leg, a bullet struck the sole of his foot and pierced through his ankle, another hit his shin and exited through his calf, and a third struck his thigh, passing through his hip.

In his left leg, one bullet struck just below his knee and exited the other side, another hit the top of his thigh and exited through the opposite end. The last one was lodged below his thigh and exited through the other side.

We took photos of his medical reports, including the X-rays, and consulted physicians from Famous Hospital and Farazy Hospital, where Amir had a follow-up after being discharged from DMCH.

At Famous Hospital, doctors confirmed that Amir would have likely died from excessive bleeding if he had been brought in just 5-10 minutes later. Both hospitals noted that Amir's speedy recovery was due to the fact that none of the six bullets struck his bones; if they had, it might have been fatal.

However, Amir still can't stand on his own and needs assistance to use the washroom. The doctors noted that he lost a significant amount of blood and it would take time for him to fully recover.

## Withdraw VAT

FROM PAGE 5

standard service rules across all private universities in the country.

The statement said the former government previously attempted to impose VAT on private educational institutions in 2010 and 2015 but was forced to withdraw it in 2015 following strong opposition from students. However, the VAT was reimposed in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Citing that any imposition of VAT or taxes on private universities ultimately harms both teachers and students, the platform demanded that these funds be reserved for research, scholarships, and student welfare.

Nahin Mamun, general secretary of BSPUA, delivered the opening address at the event.

The event was also attended by key BSPUA members, along with teachers and students from nine universities.

## Office of East

FROM PAGE 3

Later, the attackers vandalised a number of cars and motorcycles parked inside the media complex.

East West Media Group PLC is a media conglomerate in Bangladesh and a subsidiary of Bashundhara Group.

The media complex houses two Bangla dailies, Kaler Kantho and Bangladesh Pratidin; an English daily, Daily Sun; an online news portal, banglanews24.com; a television news channel, News 24, and T Sports, a Bengali-language sports television channel.

## Support interim

FROM PAGE 3

"One form of fascism has left, but we cannot allow a new fascism to be imported," he said.

Criticising India, Fakhru said, "The enemies of Bangladesh had to flee the country, and I don't think providing them shelter will earn India any goodwill from the country's people."

Earlier in the morning, after placing wreaths at the shrine of party founder Ziaur Rahman, Fakhru said members of BNP and its affiliated organisations have no involvement in the recent "disturbances".

"Certain individuals are conspiring to undermine the students' victory. They are creating disturbances and unfairly targeting our party members," he added.

Meanwhile, Bernd Spanier, acting ambassador of the EU to Bangladesh, met Fakhru yesterday and discussed various issues related to Bangladesh's economic development and democratic transition.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said the EU has expressed willingness to assist in

the recovery of money laundered abroad.

"Over US \$100 billion has been laundered out of the country. Discussions have been held about bringing the money back, and they [the EU] are ready to cooperate in this matter," said Khasru.

During the hour-long meeting at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan, he said talks were held about Bangladesh's future, focusing on democratic, political, and overall development.

## Improving law

FROM PAGE 3

He also mentioned discussing the Rohingya issue and the details of the fact-finding mission.

"We sought more cooperation. Around 1.2 million Rohingyas reside here [in Bangladesh], with their population increasing every day... How much longer can we afford their expenses?" Jahangir said.

Asked about the arrival of UN fact-finding mission to probe atrocities committed during the student-led protests in July and earlier this month, he said they may arrive next week.

## DHAKA COLLEGE Committee formed to probe idol vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Dhaka College formed a probe committee on Sunday over the vandalism of a Hindu temple by miscreants at West Hostel of the college.

Professor AKM Elius, chairman of the geography department, has been made the convener of the committee.

The probe committee was asked to submit the report soon, sources at the college authorities said.

On Saturday, a group of miscreants vandalised an idol inside the temple at West Hostel and stole valuables from there, said students.

Meanwhile, Hindu students protested over the incident and demanded justice after a proper investigation.

They also submitted a written complaint letter to the college authorities demanding justice.

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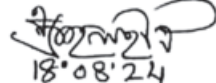
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1007575	e-Tender/PEDP4/LAL/AD12023-2024/W2A-06671	Construction of additional classroom at Mohistuli GPS under PEDP4	04/09/2024 15.00pm	05/09/2024 15.00pm	OTM
1007576	e-Tender/PEDP4/LAL/AD12023-2024/W2A-06671	Construction of additional classroom at Hajigonj GPS under PEDP4	04/09/2024 15.00pm	05/09/2024 15.00pm	OTM
1007577	e-Tender/PEDP4/LAL/AD12023-2024/W2A-06836	Construction of additional classroom at Mohishkocha Masterpara GPS under PEDP4	04/09/2024 15.00pm	05/09/2024 15.00pm	OTM
1007578	e-Tender/PEDP4/LAL/AD12023-2024/W2A-06853	Construction of additional classroom at Mohishkocha GPS under PEDP4	04/09/2024 15.00pm	05/09/2024 15.00pm	OTM
1007579	e-Tender/PEDP4/LAL/AD/2024-2025/W14-3440	Construction of Boundary Wall and Gate of Bhadai GPS under PEDP4	04/09/2024 15.00pm	05/09/2024 15.00pm	OTM
1008983	e-Tender/PEDP4/LAL/AD/2024-2025/W2A-07451	Construction of additional classroom at Sarpukur GPS under PEDP4.	04/09/2024 15.00pm	05/09/2024 15.00pm	OTM

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Khandaker Enamur Shalehin  
Upazila Engineer  
Aditmari, Lalmonirhat  
Mobile: 01708-161646  
Email: [ue.aditmari@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.aditmari@lged.gov.bd)

GD-212

**সার্টিফিকেট হারিয়েছে**

২০২৩ সালের জুন মাসে আমার নামে ইনস্টিটিউট কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর: G/06/619, রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর: G/06/620, রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর: ICB/1/1915 ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর: ICB/1/10667 এর অধীনে কিছু ইউনিটের সার্টিফিকেট হারানো হয়েছে। ধানমন্ডি বানান ১৪/৭/২০২৪ তারিখে জিডি করা হয়েছে। জিডি নং ৮৮৩। শাহনাম শহীদুল্লাহ

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ

স্মারক নং-১৩.০১.৬৯০০.০০১.৩৯.০২১.০৬.২৩২৯ তারিখ: ১৯/০৮/২০২৪খি

**গাছ বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ময়মনসিংহ জেলাধীন ময়মনসিংহ সিএসডি'র অভ্যন্তরে অবস্থিত ০৪টি বিভিন্ন প্রজাতির গাছ বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত কাঠ ব্যবসায়ী/বেথ লাইসেন্স প্রাপ্ত "স" শিলের মালিকগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ০২/০৯/২০২৪খি, তারিখ বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে এবং ০৩/০৯/২০২৪খি, তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১.০০ টা পর্যন্ত (১) জেলা প্রশাসক, ময়মনসিংহ, (২) জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, ময়মনসিংহ এবং (৩) ব্যবস্থাপক, ময়মনসিংহ সিএসডি, ময়মনসিংহ এর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। গাছ বিক্রয়ের বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি ও সিডিউল অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখা এবং [www.food.mymensingh.gov.bd](http://www.food.mymensingh.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক  
ময়মনসিংহ

GD-210

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়

সড়ক বিভাগ, খুলনা

টেলিফোন নং-০২-৪৪১১০৮৬৮

মোবাইল নং-০১৭৩০-৭৮২৭৫৬

ই-মেইল: [eeckhu@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eeckhu@rhd.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৪৭৫১.৪৩৬.১৬.০০১.২৪.৫৭০ তারিখ: ১৫-০৮-২০২৪খিঃ

**সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি (২য় বার) বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

**Invitation for Enlistment (IFE) No: Enlistment-02/BRD/2024-25**  
**Date: 15/08/2024**

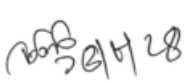
এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়সূচি মোতাবেক সড়ক বিভাগ, খুলনা-এর ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে। আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স নবায়ন/তালিকাভুক্তি করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

**ছক-১**

বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরমের মূল্য	তালিকাভুক্তি ফি	ভাট ১৫%	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদারী তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০.০০	৫০০০.০০	৭৫০.০০	১৫-০৮-২০২৪খিঃ হতে ০৫-০৯-২০২৪খিঃ পর্যন্ত

শর্তাবলীঃ

- ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের লাইসেন্স নবায়নের জন্য অত্র দপ্তরের হিসাব শাখায় লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ফি ও ভাট জমাপূর্বক মানি রশিদ সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
- ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যের তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম অত্র অফিস হতে সংগ্রহপূর্বক ফরমে উল্লেখিত সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণ করে দাখিল করতে হবে। তালিকাভুক্তি কমিটি কর্তৃক যাচাই-বাছাই অন্তে উত্তীর্ণ ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্তি ফি গ্রহণপূর্বক ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।
- নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোনক্রমে ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স তালিকাভুক্তি ফি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স তালিকাভুক্তির ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

  
মোঃ ফরিদ উদ্দিন  
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২১৮  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (অগ্রদায়), সওজ  
সড়ক বিভাগ, খুলনা

GD-203



Persistent waterlogging in Chattogram highlights the city's struggle with uncleaned drains, amid political unrest and heavy rains, leaving residents in knee-deep water and disrupting daily commutes. PHOTO: COLLECTED

SUSPENSION OF CCC ACTIVITIES

# Ctg areas waterlogged as drain cleaning stalls

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Multiple areas in Chattogram city have been facing waterlogging as regular drain cleaning activities have been suspended for much of the last one month.

Most activities of the Chattogram City Corporation have been on hold due to the unrest that started with the quota protests over a month ago.

Following the ousting of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League government, the situation has been improving gradually, and the city corporation initiated a crash programme to clean the major canals in the port city, targeting two canals each day.

The programme started with drives at Chawkbazar and Shulabhar on Sunday, while cleaning of drains in Katalganj and Sholashahar Gate-2 was scheduled for Monday.

Visiting the areas yesterday morning, this correspondent did not find any workers at the

forementioned spots.

"The CCC conservatory department was supposed to clean drains in our area today. However, no one arrived here since morning," said Abdur Rahaman, a resident of Katalganj.

Overnight rain inundated the area as the drains, not cleaned for over a month, were clogged with garbage, he added.

The situation is similar in Sholashahar area, with city corporation workers being a no-show since morning.

Many low-lying city areas, including Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Katalganj, Halishahar, Agrabad, Bakalia, and Chandganj, went under knee-deep water due to overnight rains.

Engine seizures in many three-wheelers and long tailbacks on waterlogged roads added to the woes of the locals.

According to CCC authorities, cleaning activities for yesterday were

suspended due to downpours.

Soil, washed off slopes due to rain, sedimented in the canals, blocking them, as per CCC's Chief Conservation Officer Commander Latiful Haque Kazmi.

"Workers could not work for 20 days due to the political situation in the country. We launched the crash programme as the situation is normalising. We started yesterday but could not continue today due to heavy rains," he said.

He said they are planning to resume the cleaning works today, if rain recedes.

The Chattogram Met Office recorded 124 millimetres of rain in the 24 hours preceding noon yesterday, said its forecasting officer Jahurul Islam, adding that the downpour may continue for the next couple of days due to low pressure over the Bay.

The Chattogram Port has been advised to hoist cautionary signal-3, he added.

# Withdraw VAT, taxes on private universities

## Demands BSPUA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Society for Private University Academics (BSPUA) yesterday demanded that the government withdraw all forms of VAT and taxes imposed on private universities, urging to redirect these funds towards research, scholarships, and student welfare instead.

At a press conference held at Jatiya Press Club, BSPUA, a platform representing private university faculty, also called for an end to politics in all educational institutions, including private universities.

Farid A Sobhani, professor at United International University and president of BSPUA, citing the 2024 QS World Rankings and Times Higher Education Rankings, said private universities have made substantial progress in educational quality and research, often surpassing public universities.

The long-standing discrimination against private universities is unacceptable, he added.

In a written statement outlining a nine-point demand, Prof Sobhani called for the inclusion of private university faculty in the University Grants Commission (UGC), Bangladesh Accreditation Council, Bangladesh Public Service Commission, and various government committees related to education.

He also demanded prioritising private university faculty for top administrative positions within the institutions.

Additionally, the BSPUA called for the establishment of a separate regulatory agency for private universities and an end to discriminatory practices against private university graduates in the job market.

They also demanded that private university graduates be allowed direct admission into PhD programmes at public universities.

"We demand equal opportunities for higher education based on merit and qualifications," said Prof Sobhani.

The BSPUA also urged the implementation of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# Abdul Muyeed new Biman chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, was appointed the new chairman of the board of directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism announced the appointment through a notification yesterday.

Abdul previously served as the managing director and CEO of Biman from 1991 to 1994.

He was a civil servant belonging to the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) cadre, which he joined in October 1967.

# Remove top health officials: protesters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group Directorate General of Health Services employees and pro-BNP doctors from the Doctors Association of Bangladesh yesterday demanded the resignation of the new acting director general and other pro-Awami League officials of DGHS.

Several doctors, nurses and health workers demonstrated in front of the main gate of DGHS. Later, they brought out a procession to Mohakhali's DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital where Health Adviser Nur Jahan Begum was attending a meeting.

Protesters demanded the resignation of Prof Robed Amin, DG of DGHS; Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional DG of DGHS; Prof Titu Miah, DG of health education department; Bayezid Khurshid Riaz, additional DG of health education department; Shamiul Islam Sadi, director of National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine, and all the pro-AL officials at the DGHS.

### সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

## Sylhet Gas Fields Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

বিশ্বাস ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা  
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ  
করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

সূত্র নং - ২৮.২০.১৯৫০.০৮৪.০১.০১০.০১৪/কন/সে/মানবাহন/২১ তারিখ: ১৮-০৮-২০২৪

**পুনঃনিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (এসজিএফএল)-এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ে এর কেন্দ্রীয় ভাণ্ডার-এ রক্ষিত কনডেমকৃত ৮(আট)টি গাড়ী "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে তিরিক্তে" নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে অগ্রাধিকারপ্রাপ্তদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১	মহলায়/ভিত্তিন	: বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মহলা/জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ
০২	সংস্থা	: বাংলাদেশ কোয়ালিটি ও খনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)
০৩	নিলামকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	: সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
০৪	নিলাম পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওপেন বিড)
০৫	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	: ২৮-২০-১৯৫০-০৮৪-০১-০১০-০১৪/কন/সে/মানবাহন/২১ তারিখ: ১৮-০৮-২০২৪
০৬	দরপত্র তফসীল এর মূল্য (অফার/ব্যাগ)	: প্রতি সেট ২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
০৭	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	: প্রতি সেট যানবাহনের বিপরীতে উন্মুক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা ১০ ভাগ) আবেদন/সিলেট/সিলেট সিকিউরিটি "সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড" এর অনুলিপি বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসীলকৃত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাক্টপে অর্ডার বহনকারী ব্যাংক থেকে সংকুল করতে হবে।
০৮	নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রস্তুতকৃত যানবাহন	: ৮ টি গাড়ী (ট্রাক, লীজ, মাইক্রোবাস ও কার)।
০৯	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রক্রিয়া স্থান	: (ক) হিসাব ও জরিপ বিভাগ, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর- চিকনাগু, সিলেট-৩১৫২ (খ) হিসাব শাখা, কোম্পানি গ্যাস ফিল্ডস, পেট্রোবাংলা, সিলেট। (গ) হিসাব শাখা, হসিলাপু গ্যাস ফিল্ডস, বাহাবু, হবিগঞ্জ। (ঘ) লাকা সিআইজি অফিস, পেট্রোলিয়ার, ১৪-৩৩, ও কাওরান বাজার বায়, ঢাকা-১২১৫
১০	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	: ২৪-০৯-২০২৪ হতে ২৭-০৯-২০২৪ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	: টিএস ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর-চিকনাগু, সিলেট-৩১৫২।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৪-০৯-২০২৪ হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ক্রমিক ১১ এ বর্ণিত স্থানে রক্ষিত দরপত্র ব্যাংক
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৬-০৯-২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪	ক্রয়/দরদাতাদের যোগাযোগ	: (ক) নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিবেশ সংক্রান্ত ডকুমেন্ট ও ভাট নিবন্ধন সমন্বিত বহনকারী সিলেট হতে দাখিল করতে হবে। (খ) নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের বিপরীতে ৩ (তিন) বছরের মধ্যে একক কার্যালয়ে সরকারি/আবাসনিক/শ্রমিক/শ্রমিকসহায়ক/শ্রমিক মালিকানাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ন্যূনতম ১০ লক্ষ ০০ হাজার টাকার মাসামাল নিলামে ক্রয়ের অভিজ্ঞতার কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। (গ) নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের বিপরীতে ৩ (তিন) বছরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ৩টি ভিন্ন ভিন্ন সরকারি/আবাসনিক/শ্রমিক/শ্রমিকসহায়ক/শ্রমিক মালিকানাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে নিলামে মাসামাল ক্রয় ও অফারের অফার/অফারের সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৫	শর্তাবলী	: টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য।
১৬	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	: (ক) দরপত্র প্রদান ও খোলার দিন কোন কারণেই কার্যদিবস বাতিল হলে পরবর্তী প্রথম কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র প্রদান ও খোলা হবে। (খ) মূল দরপত্র দাখিল দরদাতা কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষর ও সীল মোহরন দাখিল করতে হবে। (গ) বিক্রয়ে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রের প্রত্যক্ষদেয় হবে না। (ঘ) সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড কর্তৃক কোন কারণে নিলাম বাতিল হলে যে কোন ব্যাংক দরপত্র বাতিল করণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। (ঙ) এ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি <a href="http://www.sgfl.org.bd">www.sgfl.org.bd</a> ওয়েব সাইটে দেখা যাবে।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (হিসাব ও অর্থ)  
আলোয়াজ, স্বামী নিলাম কমিটি

GD-209

# JU pro-VC, treasurer resign

STAR REPORT

Jahangirnagar University's Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Sheikh Md Manzurul Huq and its treasurer Prof Rasheda Akhtar resigned yesterday.

They submitted their resignation letters via email to President and Chancellor of the university Mohammed Shahabuddin.

In their letters, they cited the country's "current situation" as the reason for their resignations, said JU Deputy Registrar ABM Azizur Rahman.

# 3 task forces to be formed to improve rail services

## Says railways adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railways Ministry Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan yesterday directed the ministry to form three task forces to deal with three issues to improve railway services.

One task force will work to prevent delays in train operations while another task force will work to prevent black-marketing of train tickets. One task force will work to recover occupied railway properties.

The adviser gave the instruction at his first meeting with the officials of railways ministry and Bangladesh Railway, said a ministry press release.

He also asked them to take necessary steps for reducing railway expenditure.

জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা  
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

### সুন্দরবন গ্যাস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

প্রধান কার্যালয়: ২১৮, এম, এ, বারী রোড, সোনাডাঙ্গা, খুলনা

সূত্র নং-২৮.২১.০০০০.১৩৫.০২.০০২.২৪/২৫৫

জাতীয় সম্পদ গ্যাসের  
অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয়  
দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

তারিখ: ১৯/০৮/২০২৪ইং

**২০২৪-২০২৫ ও ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থবছরের জন্য ১.১ শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত নবায়ন সময়সীমা আগামী ২০/০৯/২০২৪ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিতকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিশেষ কারণে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের তালিকাভুক্ত ১.১ শ্রেণীর (৪র্থ শ্রেণীর) ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০২৪-২০২৫ ও ২০২৫-২০২৬ দুই (০২) অর্থবছরের জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত নবায়ন সময়সীমা আগামী ২০/০৯/২০২৪ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হল। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন অনুযায়ী এই সময়সীমা নির্ধারিত হয়েছে। এ বিষয়ে ইতোপূর্বে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য বিষয়বস্তুী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

প্রকৌ. মোঃ সালাহউদ্দিন  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন)  
মোবাইল নং-০২৭০৪-২৭২২০৩

GD-205

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Department of Immigration and Passports

E-7, Agargaon, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka-1207

www.dip.gov.bd

**Invitation for Service procurement**

SL NO	Description	Detail
1.	Ministry/Division	Security Service Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2.	Agency	Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP)
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Director General, Department of Immigration and Passports, Agargaon, Dhaka
4.	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
6.	Invitation for	Selection of service provider for the supply of manpower
7.	Invitation Ref No.	58.01.0000.102.99.019.24-570
8.	Date	19-08-2024
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10.	Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
11.	Development Partners	None
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12.	Programme Code	N/A
13.	Programme Name	N/A
14.	Application Closing Date and Time	09/09/2024 at 1:00 PM (BST).
15.	Name & Address of the office	Availability of Tender document: Assistant Director (Procurement) Room No-9004, Department of Immigration & Passport, E-7 Shre-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. Receiving the Tender document: Assistant Director (Procurement) Room No-9004, Department of Immigration & Passport, E-7 Shre-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICATION</b>		
16.	Eligibility of Service provider	a) Vat Registration Certificate with last year pay slip of the Suppliers. b) TIN Certificate of the Supplier. c) Up-to-date Trade License. d) Proof of Solvency from bank issued within 3 months. e) Service provider must confirm that he has legal Capacity to enter into a contract under the authority with valid Power of Attorney. f) At least 7 year's experience certificates for the Supply of similar services. g) The minimum number of supplied Services is at least BDT 5 million within a year. h) The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facility of the Tenderer: BDT 5 million. i) According to Rule No.7 of Bangladesh labor Rules 2015, the contractor providing the service workers must have registration and renewed licence.
17.	Brief Description of Outsourcing staff Recruitment	Type of category: (Category: 1-5) a) Driver b) Electrician c) Pump Operator d) Dishpatch Rider e) Office sohayok f) Security Guard g) Lifterman h) Cleaner
18.	Brief Description of Related or Physical Services	Not Applicable
19.	Price of Application Form (TK)	2000.00 Payable with treasury Chalan (Code No: 1610501-133252-1422328)
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
20.	Name of Official inviting Application	Director General.
21.	Designation of Official Inviting Application	Director General.
22.	Address of Official Inviting Application	Department of Immigration & Passport, E-7 Shre-e Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
23.	Contact details of Official Inviting Application	Telephone No: 02-55007118

**The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all the Application without assigning any reason.**

19.08.2024  
(Al Amin Mridha)  
Deputy Director (Procurement)  
For Director General.

GD-204

## I stepped out to witness the people's victory: MEHAZABIEN CHOWDHURY

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mehazabien Chowdhury's debut film *Saba* is set to make a remarkable entry at the 45th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival, before its official release. The film has been selected for the prestigious Discovery programme, a significant recognition that highlights the anticipation surrounding the film and marks a major milestone in Mehazabien's career, as she steps into the world of cinema.

Expressing her heartfelt emotions, the actress shared, "I am absolutely thrilled and overjoyed by this news. It's a special moment for those living abroad, especially in Canada, and for everyone attending the festival—they'll have the chance to watch *Saba*, at its world premiere."

The *Punorjonmo* actress added, "It's truly a matter of pride for me because *Saba* is my first film. It has made a place along with a total of 25 movies from around the world which will be showcased at this festival. This is a significant achievement for me."

Speaking about the world premiere of a Bangladeshi film abroad, she remarked, "Very few films from our country have had the opportunity to reach international film festivals. Previously, *Rehana Maryam Noor* was praised on the global stage. Now, *Saba* will be part of that legacy, which is a significant accomplishment for Bangladeshi cinema and a proud moment in my career."

Even before the film's release, her long-time colleagues and directors in the industry are highly optimistic about it, and discussions have already sparked on social media. When asked about her satisfaction with the experience, she shared, "I'm absolutely content with my performance in the project. There's a unique emotion that comes with the first silver-screen project, and that feeling has stayed with me."

Mehazabien also noted, "*Saba* is not just my debut film, but the first film for director Maksud Hossain. I had hoped it would be released in Bangladesh first, so I could experience it in theatres with my family, friends, and loved

ones."

She believes that it is a great achievement for her that many renowned filmmakers from around the world will be watching the film at the Toronto International Film Festival.

When asked about how well *Saba* will resonate with Bangladeshi audiences, Mehazabien said, "The film's budget isn't extravagant, but my genuine aim was to be part of a compelling story, and I'm glad to say we've achieved that. I believe the story of *Saba* has the potential to connect with viewers from all walks of life. The entire team has done an excellent job, and I've given my best performance."

Meanwhile, from the very beginning of the recent anti-discrimination student movement, the former Lux Superstar has been actively supporting the students on social media.

"The country has gained a new form of independence. On the day of the students' and people's victory, I stepped out of my home to witness the joy and celebrations firsthand. The experience was amazing," said Mehazabien.

When asked about her vocal support for the students, despite some hesitating to speak out, she responded, "I believe that personal freedom is essential in all aspects. Ultimately, one must stand up against injustice. I protested in my own way and supported the students' movement."

Mehazabien also spoke about the language of protest for artists. She said, "The language of protest for artists should be artistic. Everyone should have the freedom to protest against injustice in their own way. It's important to allow individuals the freedom to make their own choices."

The 45th Toronto



International Film Festival is set to begin on September 5 and will run for ten days. The actress plans to attend the festival in full glory.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## FAROOKI demands reform in censorship system

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki called for the dissolution of Bangladesh's film censorship laws, advocating for a rating system to replace outdated censorship policies. His film, *Saturday Afternoon*, remains censored for undisclosed reasons, prompting his demand for change. Farooki criticised the censorship board for silencing dissenting voices, particularly those challenging the ruling Awami League's historical narratives.

Farooki proposed safeguards to address concerns over historical misrepresentation while protecting creative freedom. He also criticised former state minister Mohammad Ali Arafat for tightening regulations on OTT platforms instead of reforming censorship laws.

The filmmaker called for the removal of outdated figures from the censorship board and grant committee, pushing for more progressive and sensible leadership in Bangladesh's film industry.



## Warfaze celebrates 4 decades with concerts worldwide

Prominent rock-metal band Warfaze celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, marking their four glorious decades in the music industry. To commemorate, the band is planning a series of domestic and international concerts, beginning with a US tour in September.

A grand reunion with former and current members is also in the works, followed by an international concert series. Founding member Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu expressed pride in the band's enduring journey, attributing their success to innovation and fan support.

Meanwhile, Warfaze is set to release a remake album featuring iconic tracks like *Poth Chola 2*, with three of its singles—*Hariye Tomake, Alo*, and *Onkho Jibon*—already receiving positive feedback.

# NEWS

## Hasina faces another ICT case

FROM PAGE 12

Among the others are former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, former minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for information Mohammad Ali Arafat, former state minister Kamal Ahmed Majumder, former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, and former RAB director general Md Shafiqur Rahman.

According to the complaint, Alvi died after being shot by police at the behest of the accused. It mentioned the entire country of Bangladesh as the location of the incident. It also said that the incident took place between July 15 and August 5, the day Hasina was ousted.

### 5 MORE MURDER CASES

Hasina has been accused in five more murder cases over killings in different parts of Bangladesh during the student-led movement that led to her ouster and escape.

With these, she is now facing 21 cases, including 18 on murder charges, two over alleged crimes against humanity and genocide, and one on allegation of abduction.

Several members of her cabinet, ex-Awami League lawmakers, leaders and activists of the party, and police officers are Hasina's co-accused in these cases.

One of the three latest cases in Dhaka was filed by Afsana Akhter Islam over the killing of her husband Jubo Dal leader Abdullah Kabir Khan, 50, at Mirpur-10 on August 4. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mehedi Hasan ordered Mirpur police to register the complaint as a first information report (FIR).

Among the 66 other accused are

AL General Secretary Quader, ex-home minister Asaduzzaman, former Mirpur MPs Majumder and Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, ex-IGP Mamun, ex-DMP chief Habibur Rahman, former chief of DMP's DB Harunor Rashid, and former DMP joint commissioner Biplob Kumar Sarkar.

In another case, Hasina is among 148 accused of killing protester Liton Hasan Lulu in Mirpur-10 on August 4. The others include Quader, Asaduzzaman, Kamal Majumder, Nikhil and the top police officers names in the previous case. Lulu's brother Md Milon Hasan filed a complaint with a magistrate's court that ordered police to register it as an FIR.

In the other case in the capital, Hasina and 12 others were sued over the death of carpenter Tarique Hossain, 18, who passed away on August 9 after being shot in front of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on August 5.

A Dhaka metropolitan magistrate ordered the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit an investigation report by September 30 in the case filed by Tarique's mother Fidusi Khatun.

Along with Quader, Asaduzzaman, Majumder, Nikhil, Mamun, Harun, Habibur and Biplob, former law minister Anisul was named in the case.

In Chattogram, Hasina, Quader and 106 other people were sued in a case over the killing of college student Wasim Akram in a clash between Chhatra League and protesters in the Muradpur area on July 16—one of the first killings that turned the quota reform movement into a mass uprising. Wasim's mother

Jyotsna lodged the case last night at Panchlaish Police Station.

Wasim, a third-year social science student at Chattogram College, was involved with Chhatra Dal, the BNP's student wing, according to police and his family members.

The other accused include Chattogram-based former ministers Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury Nowfel, Hasan Mahmud, former Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) mayor Rezaul Karim, city unit AL's General Secretary AJM Nasir Uddin, former Chattogram-10 MP Mohiuddin Bachchu, and 12 AL-backed CCC ward councillors. Some 100 to 150 unnamed people were also accused in the case.

In Narayanganj, the case was filed against Hasina, Quader, Asaduzzaman, former MP Shamim Osman and 58 others on Sunday. Shamim Osman's son Intinan Osman Ayon, nephew Azmery Osman and many of his followers were also accused in the case. Plaintiff Shahnaz is the widow of victim Md Milon, a fish trader.

On July 21, law enforcers and Awami League men clashed with the protesters between Signboard and Shimrail on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway. Milon, who lived with his family in the Mizmizi Purbapara area in Siddhirganj, was shot in the chest while returning home from a fish warehouse on that day.

Two journalists were also accused in the case over Milon's killing. They are Billal Hossain Robin, staff reporter of The Daily Manabzamin and correspondent of NTV, and Forhad Hossain, Siddhirganj Thana correspondent of The Daily Bhorer Kagoj.

## Khaleda's bank accounts unfrozen

FROM PAGE 1

formed during the then Army-backed caretaker government, said a senior official of the NBR.

Khaleda's accounts had been blocked since then although the BNP on several occasions demanded unfreeze.

The latest move by the NBR comes

after a mass uprising toppled the government of Sheikh Hasina, a long-time rival of Khaleda, on August 5, ending the 15-year Awami League rule.

The NBR said they received an application from Khaleda's lawyer on Sunday seeking unfreezing of the

bank accounts.

"As there are no tax-related issues pending investigation relating to Khaleda Zia, we have advised banks to unfreeze all her accounts. We have asked them to take immediate action and provide a compliance report," the official said.

## Internet blackout had no legal basis

FROM PAGE 12

"The question is whose opinion would constitute the opinion of the government? Can the telecom minister form the opinion of the government? Generally speaking, the government means the cabinet," said an eminent telecom lawyer who asked not to be named.

Most importantly, since there is a positive requirement of "opinion", the exercise of power under this section must be preceded by a written record of forming the opinion.

"Such opinions must also be objective," he said.

No administrative approval of the posts and telecommunication ministry was taken while issuing the directive to shut down the internet, according to a probe report of the ministry.

The government and its agents acquire their powers and authority from statute, and there is currently no statute in force that can be used to legitimise the unprecedented mobile

and internet blackout, said Fatema Anwar, a Supreme Court advocate.

"A fundamental principle is that one cannot rely on an extenuating circumstance that is self-induced to justify one's illegal action," she said, adding that the entire episode was "clearly and unequivocally escalated and exacerbated" by the last government.

State agencies who facilitated the said aggravation cannot now turn back and claim that they have a legal justification for a law-and-order situation that they created, Anwar said.

The widely referred provisions of the telecom act are inappropriate given the circumstances of those days.

"Interpreting statutes to justify their misconduct is legally fallacious. There was no war or warlike situation against Bangladesh. There was no external threat to our national security or sovereignty."

As for the internal law and

order situation, the government is entitled to preferential use of telecommunication apparatus, equipment and systems.

"I do not see how this provision can be interpreted to mean blocking the service altogether. Moreover, there was no state of emergency declared," Anwar added.

In its response, the BTRC also said: "It is to be noted here that the former state minister gave his own confessions regarding internet shutdown and took the responsibility on his own which has been widely published in various media platforms."

The total losses from the internet shutdowns amounted to Tk 100,000 crore, said Mohiuddin Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Mobile Phone Consumer Association.

"This action violated human and economic rights and those responsible must be held accountable and face trial—it is a severe criminal offence," Ahmed added.

## 2 DU deans step down in face of protests

FROM PAGE 12

Students said the three deans were asked to resign for supporting the Awami League government's mass killings during the July movement.

Around 11:30am, around 50 students gathered in front of the arts faculty building, demanding Prof Bachir's resignation, alleging that he was an aide of the ousted autocratic government and had previously issued show cause notices to students who attended a Quran recitation programme on campus during last Ramadan.

Around an hour later, Prof Abdul

Bachir wrote his resignation letter and signed it.

"I'm resigning from the post of dean of the arts faculty. Please take the necessary measures in this regard," reads the resignation letter addressed to the DU vice-chancellor.

At that time, the protesting students recited verses from the Quran and prayed for guidance for the dean in his office with his participation.

Meanwhile, Prof Nisar Hossain, fine arts faculty dean, in his resignation letter also addressed to the DU VC, wrote, "I've received

a letter with a four-point demand, including the resignation of the dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts for taking a stance in favour of mass killing and autocracy during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement. There is currently no scope for me to verify how objective their allegations are and how logical the demand for resignation is, so I request that I be relieved of my duties as dean without regard to the allegations."

Contacted, DU Pro-VC Sitesh Chandra Bachar said the resignations will come into effect once the new VC is appointed.

## Hezbollah claims attacks on north Israel Says two of its fighters killed

AFP, Beirut

Lebanese group Hezbollah said yesterday two of its fighters were killed and claimed attacks on northern Israel, including with drones, the latest cross-border violence amid fears of full-blown war.

The powerful Iran-backed group has exchanged regular cross-border fire with Israeli army in support of ally Hamas since the Israeli offensive in Gaza began on October 7.

Hezbollah said two of its fighters were "martyred on the road to Jerusalem", the phrase it has used to refer to members killed by Israeli fire since October.

The Israeli military said air forces struck "Hezbollah terrorists" in the Hula area and "Hezbollah military structures" elsewhere in south Lebanon.

Lebanon media reported Israeli shelling and raids on several southern areas.

## TERROR ATTACK Paramilitary officer killed in India's J&K

NDTV ONLINE

An officer from the Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was killed in action after terrorists fired on a patrol team in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur yesterday.

A counter terror operation has been launched in the area. A joint party of the CRPF and the Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police came under fire from the terrorists in Dadu area.

Yesterday's attack took place in Jammu region, which for several years, remained relatively silent compared to Kashmir. There has been a spurt of terror activities in Jammu, particularly in the Pir Panjal range.



Calcutta High Court advocates hold posters during a protest to condemn the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, West Bengal, India yesterday. Thousands of outraged Indian protesters, including arch-rival football fans, called for justice after the rape and murder of the doctor as widespread strikes by healthcare workers entered a second week.

PHOTO: AFP

## Ukraine 'achieving our goals' in Kursk assault

Says Zelensky; Russia rules out peace talks with Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday said his troops were meeting their objectives during their offensive in Russia's Kursk region, launched almost two weeks ago.

"We are achieving our goals. This morning we have another replenishment of the (prisoner of war) exchange fund for our country," Zelensky said, a day after saying Ukraine was attempting to create a "buffer zone" in Russia.

The Kremlin said yesterday it "will not talk" to Ukraine given its incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Kyiv sent troops over the border on August 6, and has since held onto a part of the Kursk region, going on the attack in an offensive that has rattled Moscow.

### Russian troops capture 'major' settlement in Ukraine's Donetsk region

"At the current stage, given this escapade, we will not talk," Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told the Russian Shot Telegram channel, adding that "at the moment it would be completely inappropriate to enter into a negotiating process".

Authorities in the southern Russian city of Proletarsk introduced a state of emergency yesterday as firefighters battle for more than 24 hours to extinguish a blaze at an oil facility hit by a

Ukrainian drone.

Russia said Kyiv struck the fuel storage warehouse - located in the city of 20,000 people in the southern Rostov region - on Sunday morning and that the blaze was raging for a second day.

Local governor Vasily Golubev said the "liquidation of the fire is continuing" and that 18 firefighters were hurt tackling the blaze.

Meanwhile, Russia said yesterday its troops captured a "major" settlement in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Moscow's forces are advancing.

Russia's defence ministry said it had "liberated" the village of Artemovo, describing it as one of the area's "major population centres," located outside the town of Toretsk, where there has been heavy fighting.

## Modi to visit Ukraine on Aug 23

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Ukraine on August 23, at the invitation of President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

Modi has trod a delicate balance between maintaining his country's historically warm ties with Moscow while courting closer security partnerships with Western nations as a bulwark against regional rival China.

His government has avoided explicit condemnations of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the more than two years since the conflict began, instead urging both sides to resolve their differences through dialogue.

## A record number of aid workers killed in 2023: UN

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations yesterday condemned the "unacceptable" level of violence becoming commonplace against humanitarian workers, a record 280 of whom were killed worldwide in 2023.

And it warned that the Israel's offensive in Gaza is potentially fueling even higher numbers of such deaths this year.

"The normalisation of violence against aid workers and the lack of accountability are unacceptable, unconscionable and enormously harmful for aid operations everywhere," Joyce Msuya, acting director of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said in a statement on World Humanitarian Day.

"With 280 aid workers killed in 33 countries last year, 2023 marked the deadliest year on record for the global humanitarian community," a 137 percent increase over 2022, when 118 aid workers died, OCHA said in the statement.

It cited the Aid Worker Security Database which has tracked such figures back to 1997.

The UN said more than half of the deaths in 2023, or 163, were aid workers killed in Gaza during the first three months of the offensive, mainly in air strikes.

South Sudan, wracked by civil strife, and Sudan, where a war between two rival generals has been raging since April 2023, are the next deadliest conflicts for humanitarians, with 34 and 25 deaths respectively.

## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION Biden to pass torch to Harris

AFP, Chicago

US President Joe Biden was due to give a bittersweet farewell address at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago yesterday, passing the torch to Kamala Harris as the party's nominee for November's election.

Less than a month after his stunning withdrawal and Harris's astonishing ascent, Biden can expect a hero's send-off from many of the same people who helped push him out due to concerns about his age.

The 81-year-old is expected to say that Harris - America's first female, Black and South Asian vice president - is the best person to finish the job he started of protecting American democracy from Republican rival Donald Trump.



### SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW

## Philippines, China trade blame after vessels collide

REUTERS, Beijing

The Philippines and China yesterday accused each other of ramming vessels and performing dangerous manoeuvres in the South China Sea, the latest flare up after the two nations agreed last month to try to manage disagreements at sea.

China's Coast Guard said in a statement a Philippine vessel which had ignored its repeated warnings had "deliberately collided" with a Chinese vessel in an "unprofessional and dangerous" manner in the disputed waterway early yesterday.

The Philippines disputed Beijing's account and accused it of "imposing its version of facts." It said two of its coast guard vessels "encountered unlawful and aggressive manoeuvres" from Chinese vessels near Sabina Shoal, while on their way to supply Filipino personnel stationed in two occupied islands.

"These dangerous manoeuvres resulted in collisions, causing structural damage to both PCG (Philippine Coast Guard) vessels," said Jonathan Malaya, a spokesperson for the national security council.

At a regular news briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters that China would continue to take lawful "resolute and forceful measures" to safeguard its territorial sovereignty.

"We hope that the Philippines can keep its commitments (and) earnestly abide by the temporary arrangements reached with China," Mao said.

The US condemned China's actions. Its ambassador to Manila, Mary Kay Carlson, said on X the US "stands with the Philippines in condemning the China Coast Guard's dangerous manoeuvres".

## Ex-judge, 4 former ministers

FROM PAGE 12

Around 400 AL men, including ex-lawmakers AKM Bahauddin Bahar and her daughter Tahseen Bahar Shuchona, were sued over the killing of a youth named Masum Mia in Cumilla.

A BNP activist filed the case at Cumilla Sadar South Police Station on Sunday night.

Masum, a resident of the city's Uttar Rampur area, was killed during a clash between protesters and law enforcers on August 4 in the Nandanpur area on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway.

In Dhaka's Savar, former state minister for disaster management and relief Md Enamur Rahman and former Savar Upazila Parishad chairman Manjurul Alam Rajiv were sued over the killing of a student named Sajjad Hossain. Sajjad's father Md

Alamgir filed the case at Savar Model Police Station yesterday. Sajjad, a student of Sonargaon University in Narayanganj, suffered bullet injuries during a clash on August 5 and died a day later while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

In the district's Ashulia, former Dhaka-19 MP Muhammad Saiful Islam and 40 other AL men were accused of killing 10th grader Ash Sabur during protests on August 5.

The victim's mother Rahen Jannat Ferdousi filed the case at Ashulia Police Station on Sunday night. Ash Sabur joined the protests in the Baipal area on August 5. His charred body was found at the Baipal intersection the next day.

Former MPs Mohammad Ekramul Karim Chowdhury and AHM Ibrahim are among 39 people sued over the killing

of a youth named Asif, 24, in Noakhali. Asif was shot during clashes between protesters and police on August 5. He succumbed to his injuries on August 16. His father Morshed Alam filed the case with a court in Noakhali yesterday.

Another case was filed against a police officer and 17 AL men on charges of attacking and vandalising the houses of BNP men in 2018. A local BNP leader filed the case on Sunday night at Senbagh Police Station.

In Jashore, a case was filed yesterday against a deputy inspector general, an SP and three other police officers on charges of extrajudicial killing of a BNP activist in 2015.

Parveen Khatun, the widow of victim Abu Sayed of Manirampur upazila's Jaipur village, lodged the case with the Manirampur Cognisance Court.

Sayed was arrested on February 17, 2015, before


being killed in "crossfire". In Patuakhali, a case was filed against 51 AL men, including

Former state minister for disaster management and relief Mohibbur Rahman and 50 other AL men were sued by a local BNP activist in Patuakhali's Kalapara Police Station on Sunday night for allegedly attacking and vandalising a BNP office in Kalapara upazila on August 30 last year.

In Chattogram, a case was filed against 27 people, including former MP ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, on charges of kidnapping, extortion and attempt to murder.

Sirajuddaula, the former chairman of Paschimujra union under Raozan upazila, filed the case with a court in Chattogram yesterday.

[Our Correspondents from respective districts contributed to the report]



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তারিখঃ ০৩ ভাদ্র ১৪৩১  
১৮ আগস্ট ২০২৪

### উচ্চশিক্ষান্তরে মৌলিক ও অনুবাদ পুস্তক প্রকাশের জন্য পাণ্ডুলিপি আহ্বান

বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন উচ্চশিক্ষান্তরে মৌলিক ও অনুবাদ পুস্তক প্রকাশ করে আসছে। প্রতিবছরের মতো এবছরও (২০২৪ সাল) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক, অবসরপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষক, বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/সংস্থার শিক্ষক/গবেষক, কমিশন কর্তৃপক্ষ ও কর্মকর্তাদের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে পাণ্ডুলিপি আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

**শর্তাবলিঃ**

- (১) ইউজিসি পুস্তক প্রকাশনা নীতিমালা, ২০২০ অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত লেখককে প্রকাশিত পুস্তকের জন্য এককালীন ১,০০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ) টাকা সম্মানী প্রদান করা হবে।
- (২) বাংলায় সর্বোচ্চ ১২ ফন্ট ও ইংরেজিতে সর্বোচ্চ ১০ ফন্ট কম্পিউটার কম্পোজ করে ০৪ (চার) কপি পাণ্ডুলিপি A4 সাইজের কাগজে স্পাইরেল অথবা খোলা বাঁধাইপূর্বক কমিশনে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- (৩) পাণ্ডুলিপি ১/১৬ ডবল ডিমায়ে বা ১/৮ ডবল ডিমায়ে/ক্রানউন সাইজে সিসেল লাইনে স্পেসে ফরমেটিং করে পেনড্রাইভে কমিশনের রিসার্চ সাপোর্ট এন্ড পাবলিকেশন ডিভিশনে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- (৪) নির্বাচিত পাণ্ডুলিপি সাধারণভাবে ১/১৬ ডবল ডিমায়ে সাইজে ৩০০ পৃষ্ঠা বা ১/৮ ডবল ডিমায়ে/ক্রানউন সাইজের ক্ষেত্রে ২৫০ পৃষ্ঠার মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ থাকবে। তবে এ ক্ষেত্রে কমিশন কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- (৫) লেখক কর্তৃক প্রিজিয়ারিজম (Plagiarism) সফটওয়্যারের রিপোর্টসহ পাণ্ডুলিপির মৌলিকত্বের ঘোষণাপত্র এবং প্রকাশিত বইয়ের কন্টেন্ট অংশ স্লাভক ও স্লাভকান্তর পর্যায়ের সিলেবাস সংশ্লিষ্ট (Cover of Syllabus) তা উল্লেখপূর্বক প্রামাণ্যকসহ আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে জমা দিতে হবে।
- (৬) বাংলা ও ইংরেজি উভয় ভাষায় পাণ্ডুলিপি প্রণয়ন করা যাবে। পুস্তক প্রকাশনা নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী পাণ্ডুলিপি নির্বাচন করা হবে। অন্য কোনো প্রকাশক বা ব্যক্তি উদ্যোগে পূর্বে প্রকাশিত পুস্তক পুনঃমুদ্রণ বা পুনঃসংস্করণের জন্য গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- (৭) অনুবাদ পুস্তক প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে উদ্যোগী ব্যক্তি হলে ব্যক্তি এবং প্রতিষ্ঠান হলে প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক লেখক ও প্রকাশকের (যিনি মূলকপি রাইটের অধিকারী তার নিকট হতে) অনুমতিপত্র সংগ্রহ করে তা আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযোজন করতে হবে।
- (৮) পাণ্ডুলিপির বানান রীতিতে প্রমিত নিয়ম অনুসরণ করতে হবে এবং বিশেষজ্ঞের মতামত নিয়ে পাণ্ডুলিপি মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা প্রক্রিয়া গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- (৯) পুস্তক প্রকাশনা কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচনের পর বিষয় বিশেষজ্ঞের মতামত অনুযায়ী যদি পাণ্ডুলিপির বিষয়গত ও ভাষাগত মানোন্নয়নের আবশ্যিকতা দেখা দেয়, সেক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট পাণ্ডুলিপি প্রণেতার সঙ্গে কমিশনের পক্ষ থেকে যোগাযোগ করা হবে।
- (১০) সাধারণভাবে নির্বাচিত পাণ্ডুলিপির প্রথম সংস্করণ ৫৫০ (পাঁচশত পঞ্চাশ) কপি প্রকাশ করা হবে। তবে চাহিদার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে কত কপি পুস্তক প্রকাশ করা যাবে তার সংখ্যা কমিশন কর্তৃক নির্ধারণ করা হবে।
- (১১) ইউজিসি পুস্তক প্রকাশনা কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত পাণ্ডুলিপি সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ের এক বা একাধিক বিশেষজ্ঞ দ্বারা মূল্যায়ন এবং আনুষ্ঠানিক সম্পাদনার কাজ শেষে চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে পাণ্ডুলিপি পুস্তক আকারে প্রকাশের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- (১২) চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত পাণ্ডুলিপি পুস্তক আকারে মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশের জন্য লেখককে, কমিশনের সাথে নন-জুডিসিয়াল স্ট্যাম্প পুস্তক মুদ্রণ এবং প্রকাশের জন্য সমঝোতা স্মারকে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হতে হবে।

পুস্তক প্রকাশে আত্মহী লেখকগণকে আগামী ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে ৪ (চার) কপি পাণ্ডুলিপি কমিশনের রিসার্চ সাপোর্ট এন্ড পাবলিকেশন ডিভিশনের পরিচালক বরাবর জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মোঃ শাহীন সিরাজ  
অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক  
রিসার্চ সাপোর্ট এন্ড পাবলিকেশন ডিভিশন  
ও  
সদস্যসচিব, ইউজিসি পুস্তক প্রকাশনা কমিটি  
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GD-202

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Bring discipline back in civil admin

### Stability needed to keep public offices running smoothly

We are concerned about the chaos gripping the civil administration following the fall of the Awami League government two weeks ago, resulting in disruptions in regular activities and services. According to a report by this daily, disorder, mainly due to a lack of qualified leadership, has been reigning in the ministries housed at the Secretariat Building, with frequent processions seen throughout last week. This situation must be handled deftly, lest the chaos leads to a deadlock in public services.

One issue highlighted by some mid-level officials is accumulated anger over top officials failing to lead by example. During the 15-year rule of Sheikh Hasina, these officials—mostly secretaries—spent their time running after various benefits. As the regime fell, a number of them did not show up at work—some even switching off their phones—when their presence was needed. Moreover, there are no specific instructions yet about the general administration from the interim government, which took office on August 8.

On the other hand, officers from different ministries, mainly BCS cadres, have been demonstrating with various demands. Their grievances range from denial of promotions to unfavourable transfer orders to change of designation. What is astonishing is that a majority of them are seeking to safeguard their personal interests during a crisis. Given how the top officials acted so far, it is perhaps natural that those below them would follow suit. One secretary lamented that “it is unimaginable that BCS cadres... can behave like this.” We can't say we are surprised, though. When competent and sincere officers are pushed aside while incompetent and corrupt officials are favoured, such an outcome is inevitable. There have been no administrative reforms over the last 15 years; those who sought such reforms were ignored or not allowed to work, said a joint secretary.

Crisis has taken hold of the police administration as well. According to a report in Prothom Alo, there, too, partisanship has helped some police officials make impressive gains while those deemed remotely affiliated with the opposition were deprived of due benefits. Now, many of the police officers are in hiding while many have been dismissed from duty or made to retire because of past records. This has led to a sense of uncertainty among the junior and low-ranked officials.

This state of affairs cannot continue. A civil administration cannot continue to be dysfunctional, just as the police force cannot wallow in uncertainty. We would like to remind public servants that their job requires a bit of compromise, especially during a crisis. We know that some of their grievances are genuine and need attention of the authorities. But given the current situation, they need to be patient and follow due process to get what they have been deprived of. The interim government, meanwhile, must deal with this situation firmly and judiciously to restore discipline, getting rid of the unruliness. It must also address all genuine grievances and bring to the fore competent, honest officials with good track records. Lastly, an administrative overhaul is crucial to ensure that the civil and police administrations are able to operate independently and efficiently, regardless of who sits at the helm of the government.

## Energy reforms are long overdue

### CPD's three-step proposal deserves consideration

The Awami League government's questionable policies in the power and energy sector badly affected the economy over the last 15 years, prompting experts to frequently call for reforms but to no avail. Now that the interim government has taken charge, we hope to see the initiation of some much-needed actions in that regard. The three-step proposal given by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) shows where the focus should be. It has put forth a 100-day plan highlighting the key priorities, followed by significant reforms stretching over the next six months.

In particular, four acts and policies highlighted by the CPD need immediate revisions since those were made primarily to benefit vested interest groups. For instance, through the enactment of the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act, also known as the Indemnity Act, the erstwhile government awarded public works to conglomerates without issuing any tender notices, while no public procurement rules were followed either. This act should be repealed immediately. The other acts that need revisions are the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Act, the Renewable Energy Policy, and the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP).

The need for the BERC to operate independently cannot be stressed enough. The amendment to the relevant act, done in 2022 to empower the government to set power and energy tariffs on its own under “special circumstances,” without holding any public hearing, was a shady decision that frequently shot up energy prices. This needs to change. In addition, the IEPMP needs to be revised because the government allegedly projected faulty energy and power demand in it. Moreover, the suggestion to link the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority with the chief adviser's office also deserves consideration, as it will hopefully speed up phasing out of the fossil fuel-based power plants.

Phasing out the inefficient power plants should be another goal for the interim government. According to the CPD, the Awami League government paid a total of around Tk 105,000 crore as capacity payments to power plant owners in the 14 years up to August 2023, which is outrageous. So much money was squandered while citizens were either deprived of power or forced to pay exorbitantly for it. Revising the power purchase contracts and incorporating a “no electricity, no pay” clause will lessen the burden of capacity payments.

These are just a few key areas that need immediate attention from the interim government. There are many other short- and long-term suggestions given by the CPD which are quite well thought-out, and can, if properly implemented, ensure competition, efficiency, transparency and accountability in the power and energy sector.

# How a banking commission can address challenges in the sector



**MACRO MIRROR**  
Dr Fahmida Khatun  
is executive director at the Centre  
for Policy Dialogue and non-resident  
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Views expressed in this article are the  
author's own.

**FAHMIDA KHATUN**

In a welcome move, the Bangladesh interim government intends to establish a banking commission soon to introduce crucial reforms in the banking sector. This initiative is a response to our long-standing demand for taking meaningful measures to rescue the financial sector from inadequate governance.

It is unfortunate that the previous government fell short of its commitments to strengthen the banking sector, as outlined in various policy documents and strategic plans. This lack of action has left the sector exposed to increasing vulnerabilities.

Institutional challenges in the banking sector include the appointment of bank directors often influenced by political connections, loans granted for political reasons, the rescheduling of loans despite poor repayment records, writing off loans to reduce tax burdens and clean bank balance sheets, weak internal controls, inadequate compliance and risk management, and the failure of some banks to meet international standards.

Additionally, regulatory weaknesses have contributed to the sector's vulnerability. These include the lack of independence of the Bangladesh Bank, overlapping regulations by the Financial Institutions Division (FID) and the Bangladesh Bank, leniency towards defaulters by the Bangladesh Bank, arbitrary issuance of bank licenses to crony capitalists, government-led recapitalisation of banks, and the quasi-monopolistic power held by a few bank oligarchs.

The most alarming indicator of the banking sector's fragility is the substantial increase in non-performing loans (NPLs) accumulated over the past 15 years, exacerbated by both direct and indirect support from the previous government's policymakers. In 2009, NPLs in banks totalled Tk 22,480 crore, which surged to about Tk 1,82,000 crore by March 2024. The true extent of NPLs would be considerably higher if distressed assets, loans in special mention accounts, loans under court injunctions, and rescheduled loans were included.

High NPLs limit banks' fiscal flexibility by constraining their ability to expand lending and forcing them to forgo interest income. They also reduce banks' capacity to take on risks, leading to an increase in the cost of funds. Additionally, banks face capital shortfalls as they must set aside provisions to cover their NPLs, which

in turn negatively impacts their return on assets, equity, and capital liquidity.

Often, loans were approved without proper commercial considerations, heightening the risk of defaults during the previous regime. When the central bank is not allowed to operate independently, it is more likely to make poor decisions. Unfortunately, the Bangladesh Bank was unable to penalise wilful defaulters due to the loss of its independent decision-making authority, which has been overridden by politically connected



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

interest groups.

Given the worsening performance of the banking sector, we have consistently advocated for the establishment of a temporary banking commission to address these pressing issues. The purpose of this commission would be to thoroughly investigate and propose solutions to the challenges facing the sector. To ensure the commission is effective, its Terms of Reference (ToR) should be clearly outlined and may include the following objectives.

First, the objectives of the banking commission should be clearly defined and focused. These should include: i) conducting a critical assessment of the overall state of the sector; ii) ensuring transparency in data and information related to the sector; iii) identifying the root causes of current problems

customers, small savers, small and medium-sized businesses, experts, bank officials, economists, representatives of banking-related organisations, women, youth, grassroots organisations, and the media.

Fourth, to ensure transparency, the commission should regularly update the public on its progress. Interim reports should be prepared and made available to citizens, and a draft of the final report should be posted online to gather feedback from stakeholders.

Fifth, commission members should be highly competent, experienced, honest, and impartial, and they must carry out their responsibilities with the utmost professionalism.

Sixth, the commission must be allowed to operate independently, free from any external influence.

was formed in 1996, followed by the creation of a banking reform committee in 2002. In 2003, the Central Bank Strengthening Project was initiated to develop a robust and effective regulatory and supervisory framework for the banking sector. The Bangladesh Bank Amendment Bill, 2003, which granted Bangladesh Bank autonomy, was passed by the parliament. However, despite this mandate, Bangladesh Bank ultimately lost its independence.

The recommendations for the commission can only improve the banking sector if it is allowed to operate without political interference. While the interim government is dedicated to implementing institutional reforms during its term, it must also ensure that these reforms are sustained beyond its tenure.

## The darkest hour

**Manzur al-Matin**  
is an advocate of the Supreme Court and a  
freelance anchor at Channel 24.



**MANZUR-AL-MATIN**

After a decade of separation, my four sisters and parents had planned to finally meet in the US. My elder sister travelled across the Atlantic from the UK, my father from Bangladesh, another sister from the West Coast to meet the rest in the East Coast of the US. One of my sisters, Mouna (whom I have always addressed as Myna), almost managed to convince me to apply for a US visitor visa. But then, the attacks on Gaza happened. I could not get myself to travel to a country that continued to supply weapons and provide unconditional political support to the Netanyahu regime.

Then Abu Sayed appeared before all of us. With his outstretched arms, with his head held high, with his simple yet impenetrable courage! That changed everything.

I, who always thought it wise to stay out of the political binary, decided the time for patience and silence was over. As I stepped out of our apartment the next day, I found my wife, Sara, and my friend, Snehadri, by my side. I was certain of one thing, if we didn't go out and protest, the next child to receive a bullet in his chest would be mine.

Out there we found so many of

our children. Boys and girls alike. The age-old trifurcated system of English, Bangla, and Madrassa mediums of education had suddenly evaporated. They were all there. All chanting the same slogan, “WE WANT JUSTICE!”

To my surprise, I found the mothers closely following their sons and daughters. They were afraid. Afraid of the tear gas, the rubber bullets, the cleavers, and the live rounds. But falling back was not an option. Because falling back meant betraying Abu Sayed. And he was standing right there. All the while.

I managed to upload several images and video footages on social

media. One of these was particularly disturbing for my family, who had managed to come together in the East Coast by that point. I can hardly imagine what they went through when all communications in the country were severed by the government. I later learnt my 83-year-old father barely slept during those five days and nights. My mother, whose life revolves around

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her plants that have often made us siblings envious, went out to join a gathering outside the White House defying incessant rain. An umbrella in one hand, and a placard in another. The support I received from my family moved me to the core. Even my uncle, with whom I had fallen out of contact a long while ago, reached out, spoke out, and wholeheartedly supported our cause.

During the days of the internet blackout, all social media platforms were hushed. All we had remaining on TV was the voice of Tanvir Chowdhury on Al Jazeera English. BBC would follow his lead a couple of days later.

But at least four newspapers kept fighting: *Prothom Alo*, *The Daily Star*, *Samakal* and last but not the least, *New Age* with the uncompromising Nurul Kabir as its editor. I must thank all the brave journalists who fought on despite all odds, risking their lives. Within my TV station, Channel 24, Zumatull Bida was my inspiration. Despite being hit by shotgun pellets, despite the attempts to seek her out when she was hiding among the students, she somehow managed to gather the courage to fight on. She went back out onto the field the very next day after being shot. That night, she had to keep her location a secret, even from her colleagues. You will always be remembered as the pioneers of truth, strength, and courage!

These people have shown us, no matter how ruthless an oppressor gets, no matter how much pressure is there to silence the media, there are always ways to keep on fighting. As individuals entrusted to inform the public, journalists must ask themselves at the end of each day, whether they have done justice to the duty they have taken up on their shoulders. It is a very personal burden that each news crew carries.

In Zumma's own words, “If at the end of a day's work we can look at the mirror and see no shame or guilt in our eyes, we are then fit for the next day's work.”

These dark days and nights have taught us plenty. My only hope is that we remember the strength that lies with every individual. The strength to call a spade a spade, to speak out, when everyone else falls silent.



# After the euphoria, the concerns



Dr Ahrar Ahmad is professor emeritus at Black Hills State University in the US, and director general of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation in Dhaka.

AHRAR AHMAD

The young people of the country deserve to be congratulated, their heroism celebrated, and their momentous accomplishments acknowledged. Their dedication, bravery and sacrifices to free the country from a deeply unpopular regime justly earned them the affection, admiration and gratitude of the people.

However, the pace and abruptness of these unprecedented developments must give us pause. After all, the actual movement and the fall of the regime occurred within only one month of turmoil and bloodshed. Moreover, the political and psychological legacy left by the previous regime heightens some concerns.

First and foremost, some resentments and frustrations of the people that had accumulated over several years, some sentiments of revenge and retribution among those who had suffered injustice, and some opportunists simply taking advantage of a fluid situation, have all led to various incidents of violence and vandalism. While some of this is expected, it must be resisted.

This lawlessness is particularly worrisome since some people have ransacked government (read people's) properties, destroyed revered historical markers relating to our Liberation War, and attacked minority communities simply because they are vulnerable. Given the fact that the police themselves remain discredited and demoralised, such crowd gangsterism becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy and invites disaster.

Even though people like Gustave Le Bon, Sigmund Freud, Nobel Laureate Elias Canetti and others have studied the psychology of mob behaviour, the phenomenon remains unclear. There are theories of deindividuation when people supposedly lose their sense of individual identity, personal responsibility or moral authority; of people demonstrating "bystander effects" that attract random participants by appealing to their sense of enhanced power; of people responding to simplistic, exaggerated and overly sentimental rhetoric, signs and codes; or of people becoming emboldened to do what they can get away with in the culture of impunity typically associated with the fall of an autocrat.

These groups must be calmed and

contained as soon as possible, or it will become progressively difficult to do so later. It is uplifting to witness courageous and committed young people volunteering to combat such sinister forces and protect public order and minority communities. The worst seems to be over. But the anxieties persist, made sharper in the age of social media, AI bots, and deep fakes. One hopes, like Lincoln, that "the better angels of our nature" will prevail. But let us not forget that he himself was killed.

Second, the rapidity and drama with which the situation unfolded made it impossible for any "day after" scenarios to emerge. There was no time or opportunity to develop any ideals, programmes, goals, or a clear direction forward. So, the situation remains fraught and fragile. This becomes more problematic in the moral vacuum, personal distrust and social erosion that resulted from years of misrule and mischief, and the hyper-politicalised political environment that had been created.

Moreover, the very idea of "politics" had

**The problems Bangladesh faces today are surely daunting. But an incredible opportunity has been created to build a more democratic, just and beautiful country. The youngsters have fulfilled their responsibilities. Will the elders find the moral clarity, economic foresight and political courage to fulfil theirs?**

been devalued and mangled by successive regimes. The classical notion of "politics" was built around concepts of public service, the common good, and the people's welfare. But in Bangladesh it had become a sport (the word "khela" had been routinely used) in which cynical, cunning and self-serving people desperately and shamelessly pursued the

acquisition of personal profit and power.

Additionally, the guardrails that protect democracy, such as independent judiciaries, robust parliamentary oppositions, vigilant media houses, lively civil society platforms, or autonomous institutions of higher education had all been overwhelmed, finessed out of existence, or serially threatened and undermined.

Similarly, political parties that exist are not

and navigating through serpentine and costly procedures and paperwork.

The economy, suffering from inequality, inflation, unemployment, low forex reserves, and a banking sector in shambles, was turned into a vast kleptocracy of the lumpen-bourgeoisie and their bureaucratic enablers. It embraced the principles of predatory capitalism and concentrated on maximising aggregate indicators of growth

and misjudgements later.

Along the same lines, weaponising "official" narratives by claiming exclusive partisan ownership over the war (even pitting freedom fighters against the people e.g., through "quotas") and interjecting the hateful word "Razakar" during the current unrest, were all crude and cruel interventions. However, the war itself, and the artefacts and relics of that glorious period of our national history, must not be tarnished but appreciated, preserved and studied (hopefully by scholars and researchers and not slogan-mongering party hacks).

Finally, the "India factor" lurks around the corner. There is no doubt that India deserves our respect and gratitude for its actions and sacrifices in our Liberation War. It had harboured millions of our refugees, hosted our government in exile, provided weapons and training to our freedom fighters, offered critical diplomatic support and, eventually, fought a war with Pakistan in which 3,843 of its soldiers were killed and 9,851 wounded.

The initial relationship was predictably rosy but soured later. Many bilateral issues (such as trade barriers, market access, illegal immigration, borders, water sharing, etc.) could all be resolved if good faith negotiations between equals had been pursued. However, India's patronising attitudes and the insensitivity to the interests and demands of Bangladesh increasingly forced the latter to look weak and dependent. In popular perception, India turned from a "good neighbour" into a "neighbourhood bully."

The relationship became more complicated through the unleashing of communal forces in India through the ascent of proto-fascist forces pursuing a Hindutva agenda of supremacy and intolerance which led to systematic assaults on India's Muslim history and heritage, as well as the rights and practices of minorities. This would affect the people of Bangladesh as well.

Finally, India left the impression that it was more interested in cultivating a relationship with a particular "party" than with the sovereign country that international law and norms dictate. This politicised its role and compromised its neutrality. And since that "party" stands discredited in Bangladesh today, and its leader has found protection in India, the situation becomes murkier yet.

The problems Bangladesh faces today are surely daunting. But an incredible opportunity has been created to build a more democratic, just and beautiful country. The youngsters have fulfilled their responsibilities. Will the elders find the moral clarity, economic foresight and political courage to fulfil theirs? The nation wishes them success and waits in hope and prayers.



The economy was turned into a vast kleptocracy of the lumpen-bourgeoisie and their bureaucratic enablers.

VISUAL: STAR

based on policies, ideologies, or democratic practices. They merely represent some patron-client configurations where some sycophantic and opportunistic followers cluster around a "leader" who demands a cultish reverence (which is often shown in extravagant and comical ways).

The two organised parties which had held power in the past are burdened by their own history of bad governance, electoral abuses, violence against opponents (including assassination attempts and farcical cover-ups like Joj Miah), ethical lapses, constitutional tinkering, endemic corruption, and nepotistic family control. Other parties are shadowy and limited in their organisation and appeal. The consequent political vacuum in the country looks like an abyss staring back at us.

Even the "deep state" in Bangladesh has been debilitated by inefficiency, bribery and political patronage. Access to almost all government services (which are people's rights) as well as the regular functioning of the economy, became contingent upon payments to syndicates, power brokers and toll collectors,

and undertaking some dazzling megaprojects, while disregarding quality of life indicators such as human rights, civil liberties, ecological conservation, economic justice, gender equity, and public safety. To re-set directions and craft policies that would prioritise the interests of the people would be a complex undertaking.

Third, the previous regime is down, but not out. They may lie low for the time being, some may have fled, some arrested, some may announce retirement. But they are still there. The fact that so many of their followers are armed, are used to violence and, unlike most other parties, have a mass basis, makes their presence more ominous.

However, while we condemn their behaviour that brought us to this sad situation, that party's role in our national movement for independence and, particularly, the charismatic presence of Bangabandhu in that struggle, cannot be dismissed or minimised. One must demonstrate some maturity and objectivity in separating his inspiring leadership at that critical juncture in our national history from his obvious missteps

## 'Any VC or teacher is expected to stand by students'

Dr Gitiara Nasreen, professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at the University of Dhaka, talks with Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about ways to end the current stalemate in our public universities and the reforms needed to ensure a better educational environment.

After the July uprising, what kind of changes do you want to see in our public universities? What kind of reforms are needed for a better academic environment on the campuses? Many will admit that it is now difficult to call the public universities in Bangladesh "universities" in an ideal sense. They have gradually become stagnant, losing the environment for knowledge exploration. While their numbers have increased, their quality and standards have diminished. I believe the main reason behind this is, for many years those in power have maintained their control over the universities. Since there are many sagacious and conscious young people in the university, political power has been used to manage them through all spheres including students, teachers and administration. Now, to bring about positive changes in the universities, several changes need to be made in both the short-term and the long-term.

First, those who will lead the university, namely the vice-chancellors and pro-vice-chancellors, should not be appointed based on their educational and research qualifications only, they must have a clear goal to advance the institution and the capacity to fulfil that goal. Secondly, it is necessary to guarantee a proper educational environment for students with adequate accommodation and other necessary facilities. Thirdly, it is important to ensure teachers' accountability. Evaluation of teachers by students must be implemented quickly and effectively.

What should be done to end the stalemate that has been created in the public universities with the mass resignations of vice chancellors, pro-VCs and other key position holders? What should be the standard procedure for appointing new VCs?

The ideal method for the appointment of a vice-chancellor at a university should be through open competition so that qualified individuals are entrusted with this

responsibility. The vice-chancellor must be academically sound, and at the same time, a visionary who knows which direction he wants to lead the university. After the anti-discrimination movement, students now want a vice-chancellor who will stand by their side. This is what any vice-chancellor or a teacher is expected to do—stand by students. Since partisan politics has dominated these appointments until now, vice-chancellors were subservient to the dictates of those who appointed them. Therefore, the welfare or safety of the students did not get priority to the VCs. Another part of this control structure was the ruling party's

is sincere in teaching and related activities, and does not discriminate, no complications are created between the students and teachers. A teacher is a human being, and he can make mistakes, and he can also apologise for those mistakes. Sadly, many teachers and students do not think this way.

Do you think banning partisan student politics will bring the much-awaited change on our campuses?

We are observing a growing hatred towards politics among ordinary students. But this anti-discrimination movement is indeed a part of politics. In that case, it is their responsibility to

term teacher politics, we now only understand the sharing of positions and titles among the teachers affiliated with power and the various ways they gain personal benefits. We have seen that the members of the teachers' association in every university are mainly from the political party in power. Therefore, they are by no means the representatives of all teachers. We hope that the teachers' associations will engage in the necessary reforms with the participation of all types of teachers, without being influenced by those in power.

What immediate measures should be taken to make all the

in the universities.

The sexual harassment prevention cells that universities are supposed to have are either absent or not set up according to the rules. Students are often not aware of their existence. In some recent cases, it has been seen that even when complaints are filed with the cells, they often end up accusing the victim and absolving the accused.

There should be clear guidance on where

and how to file complaints in case of any harassment or bullying. There is a need to create policies to prevent any form of harassment that the proctorial team will implement. In addition, we, on behalf of the University Teachers' Network, have been calling for the formation of an education commission that will formulate policies and monitor them to bring about the necessary changes in university education.



Gitiara Nasreen

student organisation. They kept ordinary students in a state of fear through various forms of direct or indirect coercion.

During the student-led mass movement, the relationship between the teachers and students became strained for obvious reasons. What should be done to mend this relationship?

The positions of proctor, provost and resident teachers have so far been given on political considerations. And since the nature of their work is controlling, this creates a distance between them and the students. When students believe that a teacher

determine how they will organise to ensure their rights. However, it is important to re-establish all the hall councils and central student councils in the universities as soon as possible. It is also necessary to fix the method through which students can participate in the decision-making process at the Senate and all other levels.

What about teachers' politics? What kind of reforms are needed in the university teachers' recruitment process? It is natural for a teacher to be politically conscious. It is also not unusual for teachers to have their demands and claims and also their own unions. But by the

campuses and residential halls safe for the students? There are specific rules for seat distribution in the hall, which were not followed.

It is possible to ensure the security of the students if the seats are distributed according to the rules if no individual or group is allowed to dominate the halls, and if those involved in harassing the students are given appropriate punishment.

I feel as much pain in the abuse of the students as I do for those who are learning to abuse and torture. Eliminating discrimination means that no student—male or female—should be subjected to any kind of abuse

**CHITTAGONG PORT AUTHORITY**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (MECH)/ZONE-AB**

**Invitation for Tenders**

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Shipping
2. Procuring Entity Name	: Chittagong Port Authority
3. Procuring Entity District	: Chittagong
4. Invitation for	: Procurement of Kits Allowance (Iiveries & Commodities) of 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> class Employees for Financial Year 2023-24 of Zonal Workshop-AB.
5. Invitation Ref No	: 18.13.0000.382.07.081.24
6. Date	: 01/08/2024
7. Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method
8. Budget and Source of Funds	: CPA's own resources.
9. Development Partners	: Not Applicable
10.	
11. Tender Publication Date	: 25-08-2024 at 12.30 PM
12. Tender Last Selling Date	: 11-09-2024 at 17.00 PM
13. Tender Submission Date and Time	: 12-09-2024 at 12.00 PM
14. Tender Opening Date and Time	: 12-09-2024 at 12.30 PM
15. Place of Selling Tender Document	: Executive Engineer (Mechanical), Zonal Workshop-AB, (Near jetty gate no. 02), Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong-4100, Bangladesh.
16. Place of receiving & Opening Tender Document	: -Do-
17. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Tenderer who fulfill the qualification stated in the Tender Document and countries with which Bangladesh has commercial relation.
18. Price of Tender Document (Tk)	: 500.00 ( Five Hundred only)
19. Tender Security amount (Tk.)	: 16,000.00(Sixteen Thousand Taka only)
20. Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender	: Kishor Kanti Das Executive Engineer (Mechanical), Zonal Workshop-AB, (Near jetty gate no. 02), Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong-4100, Bangladesh.
21. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders	
22. Tender will be treated as cancelled due to one or more of the following reason:	
a. If the specified tender security is not submitted.	
b. No initial of contractor in the place where correction is made after over writing the quoted rate or fluid is used.	
c. If there is no signature of tenderer on each page of tender documents.	
d. If the tender submitted is substantially non responsive.	
23. No tender schedules will be sold on the date of opening tender. If selling/receiving/opening of tender is not possible on the last date of selling tender or the date of receiving tender or on the date of opening tender under unavoidable circumstances then the tender will be sold.	
24. The "Public Procurement Regulation-2008" will guide this tender.	

GD-206

Executive Engineer (Mech)  
Zonal Workshop-AB  
Chittagong Port Authority

**STARTUP ECOSYSTEM IN BANGLADESH**

**Key examples of success**  
bKash's rise to a \$2 billion valuation and Pathao's expansion from ride-sharing to a multi-service platform underscore the impact of strategic global funding and local ingenuity.

**Synergy of global investment and local innovation**  
International investments and local entrepreneurial initiatives are driving Bangladesh's startup ecosystem forward, with notable success stories like bKash and Pathao demonstrating the sector's potential for growth and innovation.

**Emerging hub for technology**  
Dhaka's tech-startup scene is attracting multinational attention, contributing to economic diversification, job creation, and technological advancement, positioning Bangladesh as a significant player in the global digital economy.

ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

# How international investment and local innovations shape our startup ecosystem

**The startup ecosystem in Bangladesh is on an impressive growth trajectory, powered by a blend of international investments and local innovations.**

IMAAD AHMED

The startup landscape in Bangladesh is undergoing rapid transformation, spurred by significant inflows of international investments and the innovative prowess of local entrepreneurs. This growth is evident across various sectors, with mobile financial services and tech-based startups leading the charge. With a strategic mix of global funding and local entrepreneurial flair, Bangladesh is carving a niche as an emerging hub for innovation in South Asia.

**The impact of remittances and foreign investments**

The interplay between local entrepreneurial spirit and foreign financial support has been pivotal. For instance, bKash, a mobile financial service provider that revolutionised digital payments in Bangladesh, emerged from this ecosystem. Starting with seed capital from



BRAC Bank and international backers like the Gates Foundation and Ant Financial, bKash has scaled to a valuation close to \$2 billion, highlighting the potential for local startups to achieve substantial growth. Beyond their own successes,

financial technology startups are playing a crucial role in the startup ecosystem by facilitating seamless transactions between investors and startup founders, thus enhancing the flow of capital within the sector. This capability has been instrumental in accelerating growth and allowing startups to rapidly scale and innovate.

**Case studies of innovation and success**

Pathao is another illustrative example, evolving from a ride-sharing service to a multifaceted platform offering delivery and logistic services, demonstrating the scalability of startups in addressing diverse consumer needs. This growth was supported by strategic investments from international venture capitalists, including Indonesian ride-sharing giant Go-Jek, showcasing the confidence of global investors in Bangladeshi startups.

Moreover, the tech-startup scene in Dhaka is becoming a hub for software and mobile application development, attracting attention from multinational corporations seeking to tap into the local talent pool. These startups are not only contributing to economic diversification but are also fostering job creation and technological advancement.

The startup ecosystem in Bangladesh is on an impressive growth trajectory, powered by a blend of international investments and local innovations. As this sector expands, it will play a crucial role in shaping the country's economic future, making it imperative for policies to align with the evolving needs of this dynamic sector. With continued support and investment, Bangladesh is poised to become a significant player in the global digital economy.

## JOBS SPOTLIGHT

**BRAC University**  
Manager, International and Scholarship Office  
Deadline: August 31  
Eligibility:  
• Minimum postgraduation from a reputed university and with excellent academic credentials.  
Minimum experience: 5 years

## MetLife

**MetLife Bangladesh**  
Manager, Financial Reporting  
Deadline: August 22  
Eligibilities:  
• Graduation or postgraduation in Accounting or Finance from a reputed university.  
Minimum experience: 2-3 years

**UNDP**  
Project Manager  
Deadline: August 31  
Eligibility:  
• Master's Degree or equivalent in Social Science, Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, Political Sciences, or any other relevant discipline.  
Minimum experience: 2-4 years

**H&M**  
Component Developer, Knit/Jersey  
Deadline: August 30  
Eligibility:  
• Academic background in Textile Engineering.  
Minimum experience: 5-6 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



# The art of embracing feedback for self-improvement

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

In today's fast-paced competitive workplace, a small positive comment like "Good job" from your employer can go a long way. Inversely, a negative comment can leave you feeling deflated - and repeated instances can even lead to burnout and wanting to quit. However, when approached with the right mindset, both types of feedback can significantly contribute to professional development.

**Keep an open mind**

The first step is to approach feedback, both positive and negative, with an open mind. It's natural to feel defensive with negative feedback or complacent with positive feedback, but inappropriate responses to either type could hinder your growth or leave a bad impression. When given feedback, listen carefully and focus on understanding the message without immediately reacting. Taking time to reflect helps differentiate emotional responses from constructive actions.

**Distil the core message**

Feedback often includes emotions and subjective opinions. To use the comment for your betterment, focus on the core message instead



of getting bogged down by the unnecessary details. For example, rather than fixating on a critique like "Your presentation lacked energy", focus on the actionable part: "Consider varying your tone to maintain audience engagement."

**Avoid complacency with positive feedback**

Positive feedback isn't just a pat on the back; it's an opportunity to understand what you're doing well and how to build on it. Rather than letting it lead to complacency, use it as a springboard for further improvement. Consider how the praised qualities can be developed further, such as by mentoring others, taking on more complex

projects, or refining your skills.

**Don't let negative feedback get you down**

Negative feedback, though often hard to swallow, is invaluable for pinpointing areas that need improvement. For example, if you receive feedback that your time management needs improvement, consider it a priority, as this skill affects many aspects of your work, and potentially, the work of your colleagues as well. Once you've identified key areas for development, create a concrete plan to address them. This might involve seeking additional training, asking for guidance from a mentor, or setting specific goals for yourself.

# Shikho was blacklisted from government funding, says CEO

NEXT STEP DESK

Shahir Chowdhury, the founder and CEO of the Bangladeshi edtech startup Shikho, recently stated in a Facebook post that his company had been blacklisted from receiving government funding. According to Chowdhury, Shikho was close to securing an investment, which included BDT 5 crore from Startup Bangladesh Limited (SBL) as part of a larger USD 1.5 million funding round. However, SBL abruptly withdrew its support just before the agreement was to be signed, citing political reasons.

In his post, Chowdhury claimed that SBL's decision was influenced by information from a third party, leading SBL to believe that it could not provide funds to Shikho due

to political concerns. In his post, he expressed his surprise and disappointment, noting that this situation has posed a significant challenge for the company.

Chowdhury also stated that it later became clear that Shikho had been "blacklisted" from all official activities of the government. Despite efforts to maintain contact and seek assistance, he said that the Ministry of ICT and SBL chose to support only the institutions of their choice.

In his Facebook post, Chowdhury referenced comments made by Bangladesh's new ICT advisor, who has called for a re-evaluation of the startup ecosystem. He highlighted the importance of supporting startups that have faced challenges,

alongside those that were previously supported by the government.

Earlier in March 2023, Shikho successfully raised USD 900,000 in a strategic funding round involving four investors, including three foreign venture capital funds: Goodwater, Sturgeon Capital, and Black Kite Capital. The Sajida Foundation, a charitable organisation, also participated in the fundraising effort.

To date, Shikho has raised USD 6.5 million, the highest amount secured by any edtech startup in Bangladesh, according to a previous company press release. Shikho's investor base includes notable global entities such as Learn Capital from Silicon Valley and Wavemaker Partners from Singapore.

# Ola electric hits \$7 billion valuation after e-motorcycle launch and battery plan

NEXT STEP DESK

Ola Electric Mobility, India's leading e-scooter manufacturer, saw its valuation soar to 586.64 billion rupees (\$6.99 billion) on Friday, following the launch of its new line of electric motorcycles. The company's shares surged by 20%, reflecting investor confidence in its plans to reduce

costs by manufacturing its own batteries.

The launch marks Ola Electric's entry into the highly competitive Indian two-wheeler market, where it will compete with established players like Bajaj Auto, TVS Motor, and Hero Motocorp. Two-wheelers are a dominant mode of transport in India, with 18 million units sold

last year. Ola Electric's stock has jumped 75% since its August 9 IPO, which raised \$734 million. Despite initially lowering its valuation target to \$4 billion due to global tech market corrections, the company's current growth trajectory has exceeded expectations.

"I'd find it hard to fathom playing [the Women's World Cup] there [in Bangladesh] at the moment, as a human being, I feel like it might be the wrong thing to do... but I'll leave it to the ICC to work out."

Australia women's cricket captain Alyssa Healy



## BCB in flux as key ICC meeting approaches

SPORTS REPORTER

There was plenty of activity in Bangladesh cricket yesterday, and while this will influence how the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is run, the focus will be on today's ICC virtual meeting, where the decision on whether Bangladesh will be able to host the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup will be made.

While the Youth and Sports Adviser, Asif Mahmud, visited the BCB headquarters for the first time, the highlight of the day was the resignation of board director and cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus, which signalled significant developments in store.

The BCB's modus operandi has garnered interest ever since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, which saw many board directors go into hiding, including its president, Nazmul Hassan Papon.

Although there were suggestions from various quarters that the BCB directors might resign altogether, the National Sports Council (NSC) route was ultimately chosen to keep the board functional.

The NSC has five councillors and nominated two board directors, Jalal Yunus and Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, in the BCB's 25-member board of directors. Eventually, Yunus resigned from his directorship role under the NSC quota. "I have resigned as director for the greater good of cricket," Jalal told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, Bobby informed The Daily Star that he will not follow Yunus's lead, having received a call from NSC secretary Aminul Islam earlier on Monday.

"The secretary called me in the morning. He said that I would have to resign from both the councillorship and directorship. I told him that the NSC nominated me as a Councillor for four years, and by that equation, I am a director. So they should decide what they want to do with this Councillorship and Directorship and then inform me of their decision," Sajjadul said.

According to BCB constitution, a councillor can only be ineligible for nomination or remain a member if the person has been convicted or declared bankrupt by a court or found to be mentally ill. Regarding the matter, The Daily Star attempted to contact NSC secretary Aminul but he did not pick up his phone.

Meanwhile, with the BCB president missing, questions have been raised about who will attend the ICC's virtual meeting on the board's behalf. "The meeting will be attended by the existing members of the board," BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said at a press conference yesterday, adding that the ICC's communications about the BCB's World Cup arrangements so far have been positive.

It is expected that Nizamuddin and another senior board director, Mahbub Anam, will attend the ICC meeting.



Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal and BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury show Asif Mahmud, the adviser of Youth and Sports Ministry of the interim government, around inside the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was Mahmud's first visit to Bangladesh's home of cricket since taking charge of the ministry. When asked in which capacity was Tamim accompanying the sports adviser, Nizamuddin said he did not know.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## We have all our bases covered against Pakistan, SAYS HATHURUSINGHA

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha feels that his side is ready to face any challenge thrown at them by their Pakistani counterparts in the first Test of the two-match series set to take place at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, starting Wednesday.

In a bold move, Pakistan named their playing XI for the opening Test yesterday, two days before the match begins, where they picked four pacers - Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Khuram Shahzad and Mohammad Ali - alongside seven genuine batters.

Bangladesh have packed five pacers in their 16-member squad, of which four will be available for the first Test as Taskin Ahmed is in the squad only for the second Test.

Pacers Khaled Ahmed, Nahid Rana, Hasan Mahmud and Shoriful Islam are available for selection and the Tigers also have two spin-bowling all-rounders in Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, which emboldened Hathurusingha to claim that they have 'all bases covered'.

"The Pindi pitch looks more favourable for fast bowling and batting. They [Pakistan] also didn't pick any spinners," Hathurusingha told reporters during a press conference in Rawalpindi yesterday.

"Lately, we have developed a lot of good fast bowlers in our rank as well. If the condition favours, they will do well. Shakib



Al Hasan and Miraz are two world-class allrounders. We have all our bases covered for whatever they throw at us," he added.

Batting department has been a real concern for Bangladesh for quite a long time and when it comes to the longest format, their performance has been especially poor.

Bangladesh could not go past the 200-run mark in five of their last eight innings in Tests. They went past the 300-run mark thrice with a highest total of 338 runs against New Zealand in November last year in Sylhet.

"Batting has been a concern for a while, but not for one reason. We play in result-oriented wickets back home. Sometimes 250 is a winning score in those pitches. Obviously when you play on these pitches, the batters have a tough time.

"The pitches in Pakistan generally favour batting. It is a good contest between

bat and ball. We will show better results on these pitches," he said, adding that Shakib is doing well with his batting despite his recent struggle with an eye problem.

"He is actually batting well. He has looked fitter. He has done some eye testing as well. He is saying that it helped him with the problem he had," said the Sri Lankan.

Meanwhile, Hathurusingha claimed that spin-bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed has gelled really well with the group and the players are taking his advice not only on bowling but also about other sectors as well.

**"I don't know what's happening back home. I have signed a contract till whatever the date [February 2025]. I am looking forward to serve the term. If the board changes, and the new people want to make a change, I am okay with that. If they want to continue with me, I am happy to continue."**

"I know Mushy. We met in 1988. That's how old we are. He has fitted into the coaching group really well. He has a lot of experience working with England and Pakistan. He has a lot of local knowledge and experience from other parts of the world. Not just bowling, we take his advice in certain decisions."

## Women's NCL to start from August 24

SPORTS REPORTER

The National Women's Cricket League, which will be held in T20 format keeping the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup in mind, will get underway on August 24 at two different venues in Rajshahi.

The league was originally scheduled to start on August 19 but due to the political crisis in the country, it was deferred by five days. Now the eight-team event will be held at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium and Bangla Trac Cricket Academy venue.

According to a BCB women's wing official, the players will travel to Rajshahi on August 22 before attending a training session on the following day.

The tournament will be held in round-robin league system and there will be a rest day after two rounds. Four matches will be held in two venues on each match day. The last league matches will be held on September 2.

The women's NCL will be the last preparatory tournament for the Tigresses ahead of the ninth edition of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, scheduled to start on October 3 in Bangladesh. However, the recent unrest and the subsequent fall of the Awami League government on August 5 has put a serious question mark over the fate of Bangladesh hosting the mega event.

## Cameroonian club field only eight players in continental tie

AFP, Johannesburg

Cameroon club Fovu Baham fielded only eight players in a CAF Confederation Cup qualifier on Sunday and suffered a 4-0 loss away to Paynesville of Liberia.

A Confederation of African Football official told AFP that "only eight of the Fovu players who travelled to Monrovia were registered to play in the competition".

It was not immediately known why the Cameroonian outfit did not take at least 11 eligible players to Liberia for the first round, first leg so they could field a full strength side.

Playing with a goalkeeper and seven outfield players, Baham were no match for the hosts, who scored twice in each half to build a convincing aggregate lead before the August 25 second leg.

Mark Paye netted in each half for African debutants Paynesville, whose other goals came from Lawrence Kumeh and Dean Weah.

The failure of Fovu to field 11 players came 24 hours after another unusual incident in the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League.

AS Otho from Congo Brazzaville travelled to Equatorial Guinea for a fixture against 15 de Agosto only for the match to be called off because the match venue was staging a concert.

CAF reacted by ordering both legs to be played in the Congo with the first on August 25 and the second three days later.

Nsoatreman of Ghana were another west African club to win convincingly at home as two goals from Mohammed Abdul Rahaman and one from Meider Kwabena earned a 3-0 win over Elect Sport of Chad.

## U-20s set sights on semis in SAFF opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are eager to make a strong start in the SAFF U-20 Championship as they face Sri Lanka in a Group A fixture at the ANFA Complex in Nepal today.

The match is set to kick off at 3:15 pm (Bangladesh time).

Bangladesh are still seeking their first title in this competition, having finished as runners-up three times in last five editions. In the previous edition, however, the boys in red and green were eliminated in the group stage after losses to India and Bhutan.

With Sri Lanka suffering a 1-0 defeat to hosts Nepal in their campaign opener, a winning start for Bangladesh will secure them a place in the semifinals before they face Nepal.

The team, under the guidance of coach Maruful Haque, are optimistic about overcoming the island nation - a team they defeated twice in the 2019 and 2022 editions of the competition.

"We are not taking Sri Lanka lightly as they

are good opponents, but we are hopeful of leaving the ground with a victory if the players can execute the coach's plan and remember their responsibilities on the field," said captain and goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon in an audio message provided by Bangladesh Football Federation after the practice session.

Srabon, who is also the second-choice goalkeeper for the senior side, believes their mission will be only half done if they can beat Sri Lanka today.

UEFA A licenced coach Maruful had nearly two weeks of preparation with his charges, most of whom have experience playing in the country's top-flight football league.

"Before coming to Nepal, we stated that our goal is to play in the final. I believe the boys are on the right track with the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices they have shown in training.

"We have analysed Sri Lanka's strengths and weaknesses and prepared our game plan accordingly. Playing in the final and winning the title is always a challenge, so the first match is very important," said Maruful, who has also coached the Bangladesh national team.



Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland (R) celebrates his team's first goal against Chelsea in their first match of the English Premier League season at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. It was Haaland's 91st goal in his 100th appearance for the English champions. Mateo Kovacic later added another as the Citizens won the match 2-0.

PHOTO: AFP



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# Internet blackout had no legal basis

Say legal experts

MAHMUDUL HASAN

No legislation explicitly permits the internet blackout enforced by the Sheikh Hasina government to quash protests centring the quota reform movement.

The disclosure came in the government's official response to a joint communication from three UN special rapporteurs Irene Khan, Morris Tidball-Binz and Gina Romero asking for the legal and factual basis for internet disruption in Bangladesh.

In its response on August 13, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Commission said the internet shutdown was done by the Awami League government to fulfil political interests.

"To fulfil the political interest of the former government, BTRC was forced several times to shut down

telecommunication networks by the former state minister. At the end, political government tried to achieve its own political interest," reads BTRC's response.

The BTRC cited Section 97 of the telecom law as the rationale for the internet shutdown.

The section states that the government will have preferential access to the internet during war or when a foreign power causes a warlike situation, internal rebellion or disorder.

Preferential rights of usage would also be given to the government "for any other reason the defence or other security of Bangladesh or any other urgent state-affair are required".

The sub-section (2) states that telecom services may be withheld if the president declares a state of emergency or if the government deems it fit to sustain law and order.

**"To fulfil the political interest of the former government, BTRC was forced several times to shut down telecommunication networks by the former state minister."**  
— BTRC



Since Sunday night, the coastal district of Bhola has experienced heavy rain due to a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal. As a result, the Meghna river swelled and flooded communities living near the village protection embankment in Razapur union of Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

## Hasina faces another ICT case

Inu, Menon, Manju also accused; 5 more murder cases filed against her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina faces charges of crimes against humanity in another complaint at the International Crimes Tribunal, this time with allies Hasanul Haq Inu, Rashed Khan Menon and Anwar Hossain Manju, among others, as her co-accused.

Besides Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Inu, Workers Party President Menon and Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman Manju, Tariqat Federation President Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandy from the Awami League-led 14-Party Alliance has also been named in the complaint.

Md Abul Hasan, father of Shahrir Hasan Alvi, a 15-year-old ninth grader of Desh Polytechnic College who was killed during the student-led uprising in Dhaka's Mirpur on August 4, filed the complaint yesterday afternoon.

The complainant also accused around 500 unidentified members of the Awami League, Jubo League, Chhatra League and police as a group.

The 27 people named in the case include former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former law minister Anisul Haq, former prime minister's adviser Salman F Rahman, and Awami League general secretary and minister Obaidul Quader.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# Last chance to end Gaza violence

Warns Blinken; 40 more Palestinians killed in strikes

AGENCIES

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned yesterday that the latest push for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal was probably the best and possibly last opportunity, urging Israel and Hamas towards an elusive agreement.

Palestinian group Hamas has cast doubt on the chances of reaching a deal since talks in Qatar last week paused without a breakthrough, but the negotiations are to resume this week based on a US "bridging proposal".

Blinken met Israeli President Isaac Herzog yesterday before heading into a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while in Gaza Israeli forces thrust further into Khan Younis, residents said, in the latest phase of their assault. At least 40 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours, according to Gaza health ministry figures.

"This is a decisive moment, probably the best, maybe the last opportunity to get the hostages home, to get a ceasefire and to put everyone on a better path to enduring peace and security," Blinken told reporters before meeting Herzog.

Months of on-off talks have circled the same issues, with Israel saying the offensive can only end with the destruction of Hamas

as a military and political force, and Hamas saying it will only accept a permanent, and not a temporary, ceasefire.

There are disagreements over Israel's continued military presence inside Gaza, particularly along the border with Egypt, over the free movement of Palestinians inside the territory, and over the identity and number of prisoners to be freed in a swap, reports Reuters. Hamas accused Netanyahu on Sunday of "thwarting the mediators' efforts", and Turkey said after meeting Hamas envoys that Gaza's ruling group had told it that US officials were "painting an overly optimistic picture" of the talks.

Netanyahu told Israel's cabinet on Sunday that "we are conducting negotiations and not a scenario in which we just give and give," his office said.

Israel's military campaign has levelled swathes of Gaza, driving nearly all of its 2.3 million people from their homes, giving rise to deadly hunger and disease, and killing at least 40,139 people, according to Palestinian health authorities.

The main UN agency in Gaza, UNRWA, said yesterday that 207 of its staff had been killed since the offensive began. "They were engineers, teachers, medical staff. They were humanitarian workers," UNRWA said in a statement.

- » Talks to resume this week based on US proposal
- » Israeli forces push north of Khan Younis in latest fighting
- » Death toll in Gaza rises to 40,139

## 2 DU deans step down in face of protests

DU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Abdul Bachir, dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Professor Nisar Hossain, dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, at Dhaka University, were forced to resign yesterday in the wake of student protests.

In the morning, students began separate demonstrations on campus, demanding the resignation of these two deans, who were elected from the Awami League-backed "Blue Panel" teachers' association.

However, their resignations will not take effect right away, as the vice-chancellor's post is currently vacant.

Additionally, students demanded the resignation of Professor Rahmatullah, dean of the Faculty of Law and a leader of the Blue Panel teachers' association.

As the dean was absent, it is not clear whether he had resigned till the writing of this report. In the meantime, his office was sealed off by protesting students.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## INSTIGATING VIOLENCE

# Ex-judge, 4 former ministers, 10 MPs sued in 8 districts

STAR REPORT

A retired Supreme Court judge, a former minister, three former state ministers, 10 former MPs and six police officers have been sued in the last two days over murder, vandalism, extortion and other charges in eight districts.

Police have confirmed the filing of the cases amid a barrage of charges being brought against AL leaders after the party's ouster.

In Dinajpur, retired Appellate Division judge Justice M Enayetur Rahim and his brother M Iqbalur Rahim, a former MP and whip of parliament, are among 20 people sued in a case filed yesterday.

A local BNP leader filed the case at Dinajpur Sadar Police Station over the killing of Rahul Islam, 18. The student of Raniganj Ahiya Hossain School and College was shot dead during a clash between protesters and law enforcers on August 4.

The case in Tangail was filed against six AL MPs, including two former cabinet members, on charges of killing 10th grader Md Maruf in a clash between protesters, police and AL men on August 5 during the anti-discrimination student movement.

Former agriculture minister and AL presidium member Abdur Razzaque, and former state minister for commerce Ahasanul Islam Titu are among the accused in the case filed by Maruf's mother Morsheida Begum at Tangail Sadar Police Station on Sunday night.



M Enayetur Rahim Abdur Razzaque

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## RAPE, MURDER OF DOCTOR

### Indian medics refuse to end protests

REUTERS, Kolkata

Thousands of Indian junior doctors yesterday refused to end protests over the rape and murder of a fellow medic, disrupting hospital services nearly a week after they launched a nationwide action demanding a safer workplace and swift criminal probe.

Doctors across the country have held protests and declined to see non-emergency patients following the August 9 killing of the 31-year-old medic, who police say was raped and murdered at a hospital in the eastern city of Kolkata where she was a trainee.

A police volunteer has been arrested and charged with the crime. Women activists say the incident has highlighted how women in India continue to suffer from sexual violence despite tougher laws brought in after the 2012 gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old student on a moving bus in New Delhi.



Friends and relatives mourn over the body of photojournalist Ibrahim Muhareb, who was killed while covering the advance of Israeli forces in north of Khan Yunis the previous day, at Al-Nasser hospital in Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Wreck of WWI warship found in 'amazing' condition

CNN ONLINE

For more than 100 years, the otherworldly wreck of a British warship sat lost on the seabed, covered in barnacles and seaweed, after it was torpedoed by a German U-boat during World War I.

Now, specialist divers working with Lost In Waters Deep say they believe they have found the wreck of the HMS Hawke, which sank on October 15, 1914, off the coast of Scotland, the organization posted on Facebook.

"She's lying on her starboard side and under there ... seems to be quite intact," Will Schwarz, one of the divers, told CNN in a phone interview on Friday.

"The guns look as if they're still active, they're so highly polished it's unbelievable ... I've never seen guns like that in such amazing condition, it's absolutely beautiful. But, we're very aware that 524 lads lost their lives on it."

It took just seven minutes for the warship to slip beneath the waves once it had been hit, Schwarz said, adding that historians believe the ship's magazine, where ammunition was stored, exploded.

As a result, 524 sailors lost their lives, including many cadets who were younger than 18 years old. The youngest to die in the shipwreck was a 14-year-old cadet, Schwarz said.

