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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.

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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 men 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."

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Shot six times, Amir lives to tell his tale

18-yr-old seen hanging from ledge of Rampura building while being shot by police miraculously escapes death

MASHFIQ MIZAN

After broadband internet was restored in select 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.

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

After attending Friday prayers, he was on his way home when BGB and police opened fire on

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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 of educators from both public and private universities, demanded for modern universities that supports freedom of thought, and encourages 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."

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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 Students' 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

East West Media Group's office 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.

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