



White paper on state of economy in the offing

Debapriya to lead panel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will prepare a white paper on the state of the economy so that strategic steps can be taken to stabilise the economy, reach the SDGs, and mitigate the challenges after Bangladesh graduates from the LDC grouping.

Economist Debapriya Bhattacharya will be the chief of a panel of economists and eminent citizens, who will come up with the white paper.

Debapriya, convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs and a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, will choose the members of the committee after talking to the chief adviser.

He said, "It [the white paper] will be a very pertinent transparency exercise to establish the benchmark of the economy. It will inform the future reform measures. I am grateful to the chief adviser that he has recognised its necessity and has taken immediate action."

The panel was given 90 days, starting yesterday, to submit the paper to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, said a statement from his office.

Bangladesh's economy has been suffering for a decade and a half due to mismanagement, corruption, capital flight, and unnecessary projects, said the statement.

"In this situation, the interim government should have a clear picture of the economy and [an outline of] the way out of the challenging situation. So, it decided to form a committee to prepare the white paper," it read.

The focus of the white paper will be on public finance management, inflation, food management, external balance, energy and power, private sector assessment, and employment.

Regarding public finance management, the committee will SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A Bailey bridge over the Kalundi canal on Akhaura-Agartala road collapsed yesterday morning due to onrush of water fed by downpours upstream. At least 15 villages of Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila and the Akhaura land port have been hit by floods. PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYO

BB appoints administrator at Nagad

MD MEHEDI HASAN, MAHMUDUL HASAN and AM JAHHID

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday appointed an administrator to Nagad after one too many allegations of irregularities in the mobile financial service provider's operations and dealings.

M u h a m m a d Badiuzzaman Dider, who served as director of BB's Chattogram office, has been appointed as the administrator for a year, as per an internal order of the central bank. To support the overall operations of the administrator, six officers have been appointed.

Tanvir A Mishuk, the founder and managing director of Nagad, welcomed the move, saying it will put an end to the recent misinformation surrounding Nagad.

"In the last few days, we were discussing with Bangladesh Bank about all these issues of propaganda. Finally, they took a positive SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE Govt mulls over commission to ensure justice

Bangladesh to sign int'l convention to protect people

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and BAHARAM KHAN

The interim government is planning to formulate an ordinance to establish a commission to ensure justice for the victims of enforced disappearances and their families.

Bangladesh may sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance by August 30, chief adviser's Press Secretary Shaiful Alam said yesterday evening.

The matter was discussed at a meeting of the advisers to the interim government.

Briefing reporters at the Foreign Service Academy, Shaiful said as the interim government is committed to investigate each and every case of enforced disappearances, a National Security Adviser will be appointed soon.

The international convention is the first universally legally binding human rights instrument of the UN intended to prevent forced disappearances.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has started preparing a draft of the "Enforced Disappearance Commission Ordinance". The government is considering whether the commission should be able to exercise its power retrospectively, said an official.

A person with the rank of a High Court judge will be head of the commission. Those with experience in working on prevention of enforced disappearance will be members of the commission. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Islami Bank finally rid of S Alam

BB to confiscate S Alam's shares; reconstitute board

MD MEHEDI HASAN

After seven years, S Alam Group's control over Islami Bank ended yesterday after the Bangladesh Bank decided to dissolve the board of the country's largest private sector bank that was heavily dominated by individuals linked to the conglomerate.

"They have looted whatever is there to loot -- we now have to rescue the bank from this shattered state," said BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday in a press briefing.

The existing board, whose chairman since June last year is S Alam group chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam's eldest son Ahsanul Alam, will be dissolved in a day or two and a new board will be formed with BB-appointed independent directors.

The central bank will take over all the shares of S Alam against its liabilities as per law, Mansur said, adding that the Chattogram-based business giant can get back the shares if it repays the amount it owes the Shariah-based bank.

"But I don't think they intend to," Mansur said.

S Alam Group owns as much as 82 percent stakes in Islami Bank, documents show, but the conglomerate maintains it has 32 percent stakes.

The move to dissolve the board comes after a group of Islami Bank officials, former chairman of the board

ISLAMI BANK'S S ALAM ERA

- » Holds 82pc stakes in the bank
- » Took out loans amounting to Tk 74,900cr
- » Irregularities found in most cases

of directors and clients requested the BB governor to do so.

Once a well-run, profitable bank, its financial health took a turn for the worse after S Alam started exerting its influence following ownership change.

Between 2017 and June this year, the Chattogram-based conglomerate and its associates' companies took Tk 74,900 crore, which is 47 percent of Islami's total outstanding loans as of March.

The loans were taken in the name of Mohammad Saiful Alam, and his wife, daughter, relatives and other officials, SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ACC revives investigation into S Alam's S'pore wealth

It comes year after Star report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission has decided to resume its investigation into the alleged money laundering by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam alias S Alam.

A recently held meeting at the ACC headquarters decided this, a senior ACC official said.

An investigation by The Daily Star last year found that S Alam built a US \$1 billion empire in Singapore.

ACC sources said all relevant records regarding the allegations will be collected, including how much money he borrowed from banks, what assets he might have acquired illegally, and in which sectors the money was invested.

Citing an Appellate Division's ruling, Supreme Court lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star, "The ACC SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

3m stranded as flood hits 8 dists

Feni, Noakhali worst hit; vast areas inundated due to incessant rains, rise in water levels of rivers

STAR REPORT

The overall flood situation in Feni, Noakhali, Cumilla and Noakhali worsened yesterday due to downpours and swelling of many rivers.

A pregnant woman in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila died after being swept away as floodwater rushed into her home.

Vast tracts of land in Habiganj and Moulvibazar and parts of Brahmanbaria and Chattogram have gone under water.

The flooding in the eight districts has left over three million people stranded. Feni and Noakhali are the worst-affected districts.

In Feni, Parshuram, Fulgazi, and Chhagalnaiya upazilas have been badly affected. Besides, large areas under four unions of Feni Sadar and Daganbhuiyan upazilas have been inundated due to rise in the water level of the Chhota Feni river.

Many areas of the district have been without electricity since Tuesday night. The Feni-Parshuram regional road became impassable as floodwater submerged it. One person was reportedly missing in Parshuram.

The Muhuri, Silonia and Kahua rivers swelled further yesterday.

Locals said they did not see such massive flooding in the last 37 years.

Mohammad Selim, a former member of Anandapur union parishad, said Fulgazi and Parshuram upazilas experience floods every year due to onrush of water from upstream, but severe flooding like this year's did SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Papon's exit a signal of new era?

BISHWAJIT ROY

Nazmul Hassan Papon's long reign at Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) came to an end yesterday when he resigned as president of the country's most coveted sports body, paving the way for former captain Faruque Ahmed to assume the lead role.

For the past 12 years, Papon -- a lawmaker from the Bangladesh Awami League and former Managing Director of BEXIMCO Pharmaceuticals -- was in the spotlight as BCB president but, unfortunately, mostly for the wrong reasons.

Papon had earned the tag of 'Mr. Interferer' during his tenure as he involved himself in all cricketing matters, undermining the independent functioning of the board's departments and committees.

His resignation predictably saw Faruque -- nominated by the National Sports Council (NSC) as one of its two new directors on the board alongside veteran coach Nazmul Abedeen Fahim -- elected as the new BCB president during an emergency meeting of the board of directors at the Ministry of Youth and Sports yesterday.

"He [Nazmul Hassan Papon] has resigned as president but he still remains as a director and councillor," a board director told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

There had been uncertainty surrounding BCB's activities following the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5, as Nazmul and many other board directors went into hiding since then.

With the election of the new president, BCB is set to start a new chapter under ex-chief selector Faruque, who is the first to take on the role of board president as a former captain. SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Red passports of former PM, ministers, MPs to be scrapped

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government has decided to cancel all diplomatic (red) passports, including those allocated for the former ministers, members of parliament, and their family members.

It has already started the process of taking necessary steps in this regard, said Md Mashiur Rahman, senior secretary of the home ministry's Security Service Division.

A discussion was held recently at the ministry in this regard, and an order will be issued within the shortest time.

"We have already directed the Department of Immigration and Passports in this regard. They already started the process and hopefully, the order will be issued soon," the secretary told The Daily Star yesterday.

The move comes over two weeks after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

Along with MPs, their family members also carry diplomatic passports. SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



অনুদিনন্দন

মোহাম্মদ আবদুল আজিজ
চেয়ারম্যান
স্ট্যাভার্ড ব্যাংক পিএলসি.

বিশিষ্ট ব্যবসায়ী ও সমাজসেবক লায়ন মোহাম্মদ আবদুল আজিজ স্ট্যাভার্ড ব্যাংক পিএলসি.-এর চেয়ারম্যান নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন।
২১ আগস্ট ২০২৪ তারিখে ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে অনুষ্ঠিত ৩৯৬তম বোর্ড সভায় সর্বসম্মতিক্রমে
জনাব মোহাম্মদ আবদুল আজিজ চেয়ারম্যান নির্বাচিত হন। ১৯৯৯ সাল থেকে তিনি ব্যাংকটির প্রতিষ্ঠাতা পরিচালক হিসেবে
পরিচালনা পর্ষদে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছেন।

তিনি ফারহিস্ট ইন্টারন্যাশনাল ইউনিভার্সিটির প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সদস্য ও ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের সদস্য। মানবহিতৈষী লায়ন মোহাম্মদ আবদুল আজিজ
১৯৮৫ সালে লায়নস্ ক্লাবস্ ইন্টারন্যাশনালে যুক্ত হন এবং ২০০৫-০৬ মেয়াদে ডিস্ট্রিক্ট ৩১৫ বি২, বাংলাদেশ-এর গভর্নর নির্বাচিত হন।
তিনি লায়নস্ ক্লাব অব ঢাকা প্রোগ্রেসিভ আই হসপিটাল নামে তিনটি চক্ষু হাসপাতালের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান।

স্ট্যাভার্ড ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
শরি'আহ্ ডিভিক ইসলামি ব্যাংক

Help us get back laundered money

CA asks UK envoy; meets Japanese ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday sought UK support as Bangladesh wants to bring back the money laundered abroad over the years.

He sought the cooperation when British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke called on him at his office in State Guesthouse Jamuna, said Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam at a briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

"The high commissioner assured him [Prof Yunus] of looking into it."

In a statement, the UK high commission said Prof Yunus and Sarah Cooke discussed how the UK government can support the interim government, as it charts a new inclusive and democratic future for Bangladesh.

"Discussions also covered the importance of youth engagement to navigate the challenges that lie ahead," said the statement.

It said the UK is a longstanding partner and friend of Bangladesh and the two countries share a strong and enduring relationship, solidified by their deep people-to-people links and shared Commonwealth values.

Earlier in the day, during a call on by Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori, Prof Yunus sought Japan's financial assistance to reconstruct and rebuild the country.

The chief adviser mentioned that huge funding will be required for this, said Shafiqul, reports UNB.

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British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

Islami Bank

FROM PAGE 1 according to central 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, in a testament to how the Chattogram-based conglomerate exerted its influence on the country's banking sector.

Founded in 1985 by 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.

The amount given to S Alam and its associate companies has left the bank with a deficit in its current account balance with the central bank for more than a year.

To plug the deficit, the central bank provided special liquidity support to the lender without any collateral on the orders of former BB governor Abdur Rouf Talukder.

The liquidity support was stopped after Mansur took charge last week.

Islami Bank started its banking activities in 1983 with 71.50 percent capital from Middle-eastern investors and 28.50 percent from local investors.

Until 2015, S Alam Group had no stake in the bank. In 2016, the business group started buying the bank's shares through seven shadow companies, documents show.

After taking charge in 2017, S Alam Group appointed 7,240 employees-officials violating the rules and regulations. Most of them hailed from Alam's hometown of Patiya in Chattogram.

A day after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, a group of officials and staff of the Shariah-based bank started a demonstration at the bank's head office demanding the resignation of S Alam-appointed employees.

On August 11, a clash broke out between the two factions resulting in gunfire that left six injured.

Later on August 19, the bank terminated the contracts of eight top officials - including an additional managing director and deputy managing director - who were considered close allies of S Alam Group.

3m stranded

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not occur since 1988.

He said floodwater entered almost every house in Parshuram, Fulgazi, and Chhagalnaiya upazilas.

In Noakhali, the flood situation deteriorated yesterday due to incessant rains and tidal surges.

Flooding has left over 1.9 million people stranded in eight upazilas, including Kabirhat, Senbagh, Companiganj and Begumganj, and several municipalities, said Dewan Mahbubur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Noakhali.

Among them are over one lakh people in the municipalities.

In Cumilla, the Gumti and the Muhuri swelled yesterday, thanks to incessant rain and the opening of a sluice gate at the Dumber Lake in Tripura, India. The flooding has affected over 50,000 people.

Floods have hit Adarsha Sadar, Burichang, Brahmanpara, Debidwar, and Muradnagar upazilas, according to the Water Development Board.

The death toll from floods caused by incessant rains and landslides has risen to eight in Tripura, according to Indian media reports.

In Brahmanbaria, the Akhaura land port went under water due to onrush of water from upstream in Indian's Tripura. At least 15 villages near the port have been affected by floods, leaving around 3,000 people stranded.

Traffic on the Akhaura-Agartala road was suspended yesterday morning after a Bailey bridge over the Kalundi canal collapsed.

In Akhaura upazila, a pregnant woman died after being swept away by floodwater.

The deceased was identified as Subarna Akhter, a resident of Birchandrapur village, said Lutfur Rahman, resident medical officer of Akhaura Upazila Health Complex.

Quoting locals, Jalal Uddin, chairman of Akhaura Dakkhin Union Parishad, said the onrush of water from Tripura broke the dam of Howrah river yesterday morning, inundating at least 15 nearby villages, including Birchandrapur.

As the floodwater suddenly entered Subarna's house, she tried to leave the house hurriedly to save herself, and fell into the strong current, he said.

As she was pregnant, she failed to swim ashore, he added.

The overall flood situation in Habiganj and Moulvibazar worsened yesterday as the Khowai, the Kushiara, the Manu, the Dhala, and the Juri were overflowing at many points.

More than 80,000 people were stranded as 208 villages in Moulvibazar went under water.

The flood situation in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila and its nearby areas deteriorated yesterday due to incessant rain. The Halda was flowing above the danger level.

A part of a dyke at the mouth of Shikder canal in Sitakunda upazila's Banshabaria area was damaged yesterday.

"A portion of the dyke was damaged due to onrush of water from upstream," said SM Tarek, sub divisional engineer of the Water Development Board.

The interim government has taken adequate preparation to tackle the floods in the country.

"We have adequate preparation," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters yesterday.

Briefing reporters at the Secretariat yesterday afternoon, KM Ali Reza, additional secretary of the disaster management and relief ministry, expressed concern that more areas may be flooded in the next few days.

He said they have already sent relief materials and dry food to the affected districts.

"The local administration is working in coordination with the deputy commissioners of the flood-affected districts, the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, the army and volunteers," he added.

BB appoints administrator at Nagad

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decision like appointing an administrator. We believe this will be a significant step forward in the country's cashless journey."

Earlier, the government had also appointed administrators to several major institutions of the country's financial sector, including some banks and top mobile operators, Mishuk said.

"We think that the decision of Bangladesh Bank will stop the conspiracy of a circle of people against Nagad. Nagad believes it will remain on top in providing service to customers as it was in the past five years," he added.

Nagad, which entered the market back in March 2019 as the digital financial services arm of the Bangladesh Post Office (BPO), is still running on a temporary licence from the BB.

In June, the central bank extended the tenure of its temporary licence for the seventh time. The licence will expire in June next year.

The post office, however, does not have any ownership of Nagad and only gets a share of Nagad's revenue, documents show.

"We used to know that Nagad is a digital financial service provider of the Bangladesh Post Office and the central bank issued an interim licence to the Directorate of Posts to run the MFS," said BB spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque.

The central bank extended the deadline for Nagad to transition into a company in accordance with regulatory requirements to operate as an MFS, Haque said.

"But it has not been able to do it yet despite getting the extended time. We heard that the Directorate of Posts has a profit sharing agreement with a company named Third Wave Technologies. But they have yet to send the details of the agreement," he added.

Third Wave Technologies, which is owned by Mishuk, was later renamed as 'Nagad Ltd'.

Mishuk maintains that Nagad Ltd has a revenue-sharing agreement with BPO, under which BPO receives 51

percent of revenue. Nagad has provided Tk 14.60 crore as revenue share to BPO.

"This partnership has been instrumental in extending our services to a wider population across Bangladesh, particularly in remote and underserved areas," he added.

The central bank though has been accommodating to Nagad all along.

For instance, in February 2022, the central bank issued a new MFS regulation 'Bangladesh Mobile Financial Services Regulations, 2022' replacing the Bangladesh MFS Regulations, 2018 issued in July 2018.

The new regulation allowed non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) and government entities, alongside banks, to run MFS. Previously, only banks could run MFS services, which made Nagad ineligible for a full-fledged licence.

A month later, Nagad Ltd applied to the BB for an NBF licence. A year later, the BB issued an NBF licence for Nagad Finance, removing any licensing ambiguities for Nagad's MFS operations.

However, Nagad surrendered the NBF licence less than three months later as its backers manoeuvred to gain regulatory legitimacy by way of a digital bank licence.

In June last year, the central bank invited applications for digital bank licences.

The BB got 52 applications and but only two got the licence: Nagad and Kori.

Nagad also got preferential treatment from various other ministries during the Awami League regime, which helped boost its customer base.

For example, the government's stipend for secondary and higher secondary students was initially distributed through payment methods such as bKash, Nagad, Rocket and various banks chosen by the beneficiaries.

However, in January 2024, without following any tender or competitive process, the Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Education

Ministry issued a directive granting Nagad exclusive rights to disburse the stipends.

At that time, 5.4 million beneficiaries were receiving stipends through their preferred channels, with Nagad serving only 20 lakhs. However, the division stated that the remaining 34 lakh beneficiaries would have to convert their MFS accounts to Nagad.

In the directive's headline, the division mentioned that it has approved the disbursement of stipends through Nagad, which had 'signed a deal' with BPO.

Despite this, Nagad failed to disburse the stipends properly and was given multiple time extensions until the end of June.

Eventually, the government directed that the stipends for 19 lakh beneficiaries be disbursed through other MFS providers out of the current 65 lakh beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) in 2021 found some anomalies when Nagad applied to raise capital through zero-coupon bonds.

The company's liability for digital money increased unexpectedly from Tk 447.1 crore in June 2020 to Tk 858 crore in April 2021. At that time, Nagad's losses stood at Tk 147.6 crore while its paid-up capital was Tk 3.5 crore, as per its audited financial statements as of April 30 that year.

The BSEC report said that the company's main function is providing mobile financial services but as per the submitted memorandum of articles and the articles of association, it is not clear whether the company can provide MFS or can act as a payment services provider.

"There were few clarifications requested by the BSEC and we have provided those clarifications and it was fully convinced with those clarifications," Mishuk said, adding that Nagad adheres strictly to all regulatory guidelines and maintains robust financial controls to ensure accuracy and compliance in all our operations.

Papon's exit a signal of new era?

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Faruque began his tenure yesterday with a huge task ahead, as the country's premier sport has struggled to progress in the right direction during Papon's tenure.

Bangladesh saw some sporadic success since he took charge in 2012, and he was credited with uncovering the darkest chapters of the country's sporting history, such as the franchise-based Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) match-fixing scandal in 2013.

However, under his leadership, domestic cricket lost its charm and credibility, and alleged corruption further hindered the game's progress.

Papon was elected board president three times, but these elections were marred by fraud and manipulation, with no competition due to the interference of his supporters who manipulated the process to ensure their own councillorship. As a result, the board was filled with 'yes-men' who came through the influence of Papon's allies.

Over time, competitiveness in domestic leagues evaporated due to manipulation by the core group in the board. On the other hand, the first-class tournaments were far from competitive, resembling 'picnic cricket'.

Also, the cash-rich BPL, the lone domestic T20 competition, gradually lost its credibility, which adversely affected the national team's development. Moreover, BCB had never been transparent about the BPL's financial issues.

While Papon had repeatedly

promised after every election to implement the long-desired regional cricket associations to decentralise the game, he failed to execute these plans.

He apparently focused all his efforts on interfering with national team issues, where the new president was also a victim, while his selected group allegedly dealt with all corruption matters.

There was no accountability or transparency in the functioning of the board, which was essentially a one-man show. Under these circumstances, everyone will be watching to see whether Faruque can reform the board's activities.

There have been widespread allegations of corruption within the board, and Faruque's first duty will be to take proper measures to uncover the truth.

The new BCB boss will need to focus on domestic cricket if he wants to set things on the right track. He must create an environment where genuine organisers feel comfortable.

Faruque was most successful as a chief selector, but he is now embarking on a much bigger role. He must ensure that the right people are in the right positions and that every committee can perform its duties with freedom.

It's worth remembering that despite the presence of a number of former cricketers at BCB, their presence made hardly any difference to the progress of the game in the country.

Can Faruque make a difference now, with reform being the buzzword in the country following a historic student-led mass protest?

White paper

FROM PAGE 1

concentrate on domestic resource collection, public expenditure (public investment, annual development programme, subsidies and debt), and financing of budget deficit.

To get the picture of inflation and food management, it will analyse production, public procurement, and food distribution.

For understanding the challenges of external balance, the committee will focus on export, import, remittance, foreign direct investment, foreign exchange reserves, foreign finance flow and debt.

The panel will also delve into power demand, supply, pricing, costs and purchase agreements to get a clear idea of the problems in the energy and power sector.

Regarding private investment, it will focus on access to credit, electricity, connectivity, and logistics. It will also emphasise on employment at home and overseas, formal and informal wages, and youth employment issues.

The committee members will work

for free. The committee will have its office at the Planning Commission and have secretarial support from the General Economic Division of the commission.

The chief adviser's office in the statement said the Hasina-led government left a loan burden of Tk 18,36,000 crore. The government borrowed from internal and external sources to meet its budget deficit without driving hard to raise tax collection.

Although the government's plan was to raise the tax-to-GDP ratio to 14 percent in the current fiscal year, it is now 8 percent. This is an example of economic mismanagement, it said.

In general, people are suffering mainly due to corruption, opportunity of capital flight, and syndication in the market.

Inflation was around 12 percent in July while food inflation was above 14 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The economy lost its path during the regime of the previous government, it added.

Govt mulls over commission

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The steps come following the release of many victims of enforced disappearances from secret detention facilities, known as 'aynagarh'. Chilling details of the torture and inhuman living conditions are now emerging as the victims begin to speak about their distress.

The authorities under the Sheikh Hasina regime have for years denied the existence of such secret prisons.

On August 13, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus met the activists of Mayer Daak, a platform of the families of victims. He expressed deep concern after hearing the accounts of the families.

"It is uncertain whether some of the victims are alive. Therefore, the government is working to draft the ordinance," said an official.

Mayer Daak coordinator Sanjida Islam Tuli told The Daily Star that the family members of victims are eagerly waiting for the government to form a commission.

She added that an adviser to the interim government assured them that the ordinance will be finalised soon.

Rights activist Nur Khan Liton lauded the step, adding, "We have to ensure the implementation of the legal framework."

"Different state agencies are behind

the enforced disappearances; it is the responsibility of the state to save the victims," he said, adding that state agencies must be transparent and accountable.

"Intelligence agencies are above accountability and they get indemnity. This must stop. There should be independent authorities to monitor them," he said.

Ratification of the international convention is also a major step because it will make "Bangladesh answerable to the international forum."

Constitution expert and Supreme Court lawyer Arif Khan said the cases of enforced disappearances could be dealt with the existing laws.

"Courts can take assistance from international laws if they feel it is necessary. We need a localised law in line with international conventions."

According to rights organisation ODHAKAR, at least 708 people were victims of enforced disappearances between 2009 and June 2024.

The US in December, 2021, imposed sanctions on Rab and seven of its top officers, over serious rights abuses.

It said Rab and other Bangladeshi law enforcement forces are responsible for more than 600 enforced disappearances since 2009 and nearly 600 extrajudicial killings since 2018.

Red passports

FROM PAGE 1

Asked about cancelling those passports, the senior secretary said, "As we are cancelling the diplomatic passports of the primary passport holders, automatically their family members' passports will also be scrapped."

"If anyone [holding a diplomatic passport] wants to take a new passport, the person has to surrender the diplomatic passport first and then an ordinary passport will be issued as per law," he added.

Home ministry sources said once the red passports are cancelled, former ministers, and MPs who have been accused in criminal cases or have been arrested may have to go through a legal process to get ordinary passports.

In that case, they can apply for a general passport only after getting a court order.

Along with the MPs, the officials of Bangladeshi missions abroad also get red passports. Those with red passports do not need a visa to travel abroad. They get a visa on arrival landing in a particular country. Red passports or diplomatic passports are red in all countries.

Once the cancellation order is

issued, former MPs or ministers who are currently abroad have to surrender their red passports to the DIP office in the respective countries or after coming back to Bangladesh.

According to ministry sources, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was a red passport holder. In the face of a mass uprising against her government, Hasina took refuge in India on August 5 after the fall of her government.

Several former ministers and MPs of the AL government have already been arrested. Some fled abroad before the fall of Hasina's government to avoid arrest.

However, there were no reports of anyone fleeing abroad after the fall.

Many former ministers and MPs are still hiding in the country, and law enforcement agencies are conducting drives to arrest them as over two dozen cases have already been filed against them.

According to the passport department, the ministers and MPs get diplomatic passports for five years of the tenure of parliament after the formation of a new government.

When the term of parliament ends, the validity of the passport also expires.

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Farzana Rupa, Shakil held at airport

Shown arrested in murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former head of news at Ekattor Television Shakil Ahmed and its principal correspondent Farzana Rupa were arrested at Dhaka airport yesterday as they tried to leave the country.

"We completed the immigration but they were wanted in cases. A requisition was given by the Detective Branch (DB) against the case, and they were taken into custody from the airport," a senior official of the special branch (SB) told The Daily Star.

Airport sources said they were trying to take a Turkish Airlines flight to go to France via Turkey.

According to a notification of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Shakil and Rupa were shown arrested in a murder case filed with the Uttara East Police Station on Tuesday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Participants at a roundtable discussion titled "Vision of the Youth" organised by The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. Nine organisers of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement from different campuses joined the discussion alongside others. Story on back page.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BANNED FOR FORGERY Contractors pressurise RHD to withdraw ban

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A group of contractors who were banned by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) over the last year for indulging in forgeries to secure contracts are now putting pressure on the authority to withdraw their ban.

They have even threatened to besiege the RHD headquarters unless the authority withdraws the ban, which has debarred 47 contractors in the past year and demanded that RHD halt all ongoing work until their demands are met.

These contractors were among the highest beneficiaries under the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

On Sunday, under the banner of RHD's Affected Contractors' Coordination Committee, the group submitted a memorandum to the RHD chief engineer, incorporating 10 demands.

In this situation, the chief engineer yesterday held a meeting with the contractors to discuss their demands.

According to RHD sources, 44 contractors were banned between February and July this year for different periods for indulging in different kinds of forgeries to secure contracts. They will not be allowed to participate in any RHD bidding processes during the ban period.

Thirteen contractors, upon filing a writ with the High Court, got a stay against the debarred order, meaning the debarred order is still valid for 31 contractors, they said.

According to sources, the banned contractors had allegedly engaged in malpractice in collusion with a section of unscrupulous officials of the RHD.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

46TH ANNIVERSARY BNP declares 5-day event from Aug 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced a five-day programme, beginning on August 31, to observe its 46th founding anniversary.

Speaking at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan office, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir outlined the schedule.

The programme will kick off on August 31 with discussion meetings at the district and upazila levels. On September 1, the party will pay tribute to its founder, Ziaur Rahman, at his grave.

The activities will continue with rallies on September 2 at the metropolitan, district, and upazila levels. On September 3, the party plans to release fish fry in these areas.

Tree plantation drives are scheduled for September 4 across the metropolitan, district, upazila, and union levels, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

3 top police officials sent into forced retirement

All DIGs and metro commissioners transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government sent three top police officials on forced retirement and transferred all range Deputy Inspector General (DIGs), and metropolitan commissioners outside Dhaka.

Ten district superintendents of police (SPs) were also transferred. The Public Security Divisions of the Home Ministry issued five separate notifications regarding the developments yesterday.

The three top police officials, who were sent into forced retirement from service are identified as Police Headquarters (PHQ) Additional Inspector General of Police (additional IGP) Atikul Islam, addition IGP (supernumerary) Anwar Hossain; and the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief Md Asaduzzaman.

According to three separate home ministry circulars signed by Senior Secretary Mohammad Abdul, the move was taken in the public interest.

The circular invoked section 45 of the Public Service Act 2018.

In a separate circular signed by the ministry deputy secretary Mahbur Rahman Sheikh, seven range DIG were transferred and attached with other police units.

DIG of Dhaka Range Syed Nurul Islam has been transferred to Rajshahi Police Academy while

The three top police officials are Additional IGP Atikul Islam, addition IGP (supernumerary) Anwar Hossain; and CTTC unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief Md Asaduzzaman.

Chittagong Range DIG Nur-e-Alam Mina to Rajshahi Police Academy, Sylhet Range DIG Shah Mizan Shafiqur Rahman to Railway Police and Rajshahi Range DIG Md Anisur Rahman has been transferred to River Police.

Khulna Range DIG Moinul Haque also transferred to Rajshahi Police

Academy, Barisal Range DIG Ilias Sharif to the Anti-Terrorism Unit in Dhaka and DIG of Mymensingh Range Shah Abid Hossain has been attached to the tourist police.

Earlier on August 13, the Rangpur Range DIG Abdul Baten was sent on forced retirement.

In the same circular, the commissioner of the Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Gazipur, and Barisal were also transferred to different police units. On August 13, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner was sent on forced retirement, following his transfer to PHQ on August 7.

In another circular, ten districts - Chattogram, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Magura, Natore, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Hobiganj, and Patuakhali - SPs were also transferred to different police units.

Besides, the deputy commissioner of the Sylhet Metropolitan Police Azbahar Ali Sheikh has been transferred to the Rajshahi Range DIG office, reads the notifications.

According to PHQ sources, these officials have played major

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Khaleda Zia back home from hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia returned to her residence in Gulshan yesterday after more than a month's treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital.

Having been under house arrest for the past five years, she finally went home as a free person following a presidential pardon earlier this month.

She was acquitted of all charges against her following the fall of the AL government on August 5.

Party activists and senior leaders escorted her home as she left the hospital around 7:00pm, said Shayrul Kabir Khan, a BNP media cell member.

Suffering from various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and issues related to kidney, lungs, heart, and eyes, the 79-year-old former prime minister was admitted on July 8.



RECOGNISING DIPLOMAS Doctors protest BMDC decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of doctors and intern doctors staged a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka for five hours yesterday, raising a nine-point demand against the recent decision of Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council (BMDC).

BMDC has decided to recognise medical assistants with Diploma in MATS (Medical Assistant Training School), DMF (Diploma in Medical Faculty), and IMF (Licentiate of Medical Faculty) qualifications as "Diploma Medical Practitioners".

The demonstration, titled "March to BMDC," began at 10:00am, with doctors from various healthcare institutions participating.

At the programme, Prof Nurul Amin, principal of Sapporo Dental College and Hospital, said, "Doctor is not just a matter of identity; it is a matter of qualification. Those who do not have this qualification cannot identify themselves as doctors. Technologists are helpful but are not doctors by any means."

The protesters also voiced grievances about the non-payment of salaries and allowances by some medical colleges and demanded that such institutions be held accountable, with the possibility of closure if necessary.

Among their nine demands are restricting the title of "Dr" to individuals who hold MBBS or BDS degrees, curbing the prevalence of healthcare service providers that lack qualified doctors, and enforcing stricter regulations on pharmacies that sell medicines without prescriptions.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

AUGUST 21 ATTACK Awami League doesn't hold programme

STAR REPORT

The Awami League did not hold any programme marking the 20th anniversary of the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally in Dhaka that killed at least 24 people.

On this day in 2004, during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government's tenure, the attack targeted an anti-terrorism rally organised by the AL, with the then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina the apparent target.

Every year, the AL placed floral wreaths at the Martyr's Altar in front of the AL's central office.

However, the party did not announce any such programme this year. The AL has been in disarray since party president Sheikh Hasina resigned from her post as prime minister.

2 AL leaders among 3 on remand for murder

Around 380 other party members sued in separate murder cases

STAR REPORT

Two Awami League leaders and a former government official were placed on remand yesterday on charges of murder and violence.

Also, around 380 AL men, including two former lawmakers, have been sued over murder charges.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim placed AL organising secretary Ahmad Hossain and Chattogram Port Authority's former chairman Mohammad Sohail on four-day remand each after they were produced with a 10-day remand prayer.

Ahmad and Sohail were arrested from Rampura and Banani respectively on Tuesday night in a case filed over the murder of a shop owner, Nabin Talukder, who died after getting injured in Dhaka's Paltan on July 19 during protests.

Nabin's wife, Ruma Akhter, filed the case against unnamed persons on July 20.

Also, a Brahmanbaria court placed

Captain (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam, former state minister for Liberation War affairs, on nine-day remand in a case filed over attacking police and snatching firearms from law enforcers.

Tajul was arrested from Dhaka's Gulshan on Tuesday night.

Police opened fire at a group of BNP men in Banchharampur upazila on November 19, 2022.

Rafiqul Islam Nayan, the then president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's Sonarampur union unit, was injured in the incident and later died.

A day later, a sub-inspector of Banchharampur Police Station filed a case accusing 117 people, mostly BNP men, of an attack on police and snatching of firearms from police.

AB Tajul was shown arrested in this case, police said.

Nayan's father had filed a murder case with a local court accusing the then senior police officials of Brahmanbaria, but the court later dismissed the case.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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Doctors protest Politicisation of edn Contractors

FROM PAGE 3
Additionally, they called for the establishment of a separate council for diploma medical practitioners, a standardised salary structure for private-sector doctors, including medical officers, senior medical officers, assistant registrars, and registrars, and promotions based on experience.

Meanwhile, students of four-year dental diploma course staged a demonstration in front of BMDC office in Bijaynagar yesterday, demanding private practice registration and change in course name, alongside opportunity for higher education.

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 22

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

MJL Bangladesh PLC., a leading conglomerate in Bangladesh with operations in the energy, shipping, and financial sectors, is expanding its business portfolio. The company is currently developing a state-of-the-art warehousing facility on its own land located at Katghar, South Patenga, Chattogram. This project includes the construction of five steel-structured warehouses, each floor space measuring 13,500 square feet.

The company invites reputable firms to express their interest in providing comprehensive warehouse solutions, including storage equipment, material handling systems, packaging & shipping tools, and warehouse automation services. Interested companies are requested to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) along with a company profile highlighting their expertise and experience in this field by September 22, 2024, in the following address:

MJL Bangladesh PLC.
Mobil House, CWS (A) 13/A, Gulshan Avenue
Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh

Contact: Engr. Salah Uddin Ahmed
Mobile: +880-1711-726275

Only shortlisted companies will receive the Request for Quotation (RFQ), and MJL Bangladesh PLC. reserves the right to select the company.

MJL Bangladesh PLC.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Munshiganj
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo no.46.02.5900.000.07.001.24-1732 Date: 21/08/2024

e-Tender Notice No: 04 /2024-25 Procurement of Works (NCT)

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID No.	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Procurement Method
1.	GDP-3/MU-115	Improvement of Sirajdikhan GC Bypass Road by BC From Ch.00-325m Under Upazila: Sirajdikhan, District: Munshiganj (Road ID:359744052)	1009398	Upto 12:00 08-Sep-2024	At 14:00 08-Sep-2024	LTM
2.	GDP-3/MU-114	Improvement of Kurnarbhog UP Office-Chanderbari Bazar-Dogaachi Bazar Via Kazirigala Bazar Road by BC From Ch.4720-6135m Under Upazila: Lauhajang, District: Munshiganj (Road ID:359443001) (Salvage Material Cost: BDT:51.05.934.00)	1009389	Upto 12:00 12-Sep-2024	At 14:00 12-Sep-2024	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from the e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Wahiduzzaman)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Munshiganj
Phone: 02-997731038
e-mail: xen.munshiganj@lged.gov.bd

GD- 229

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

বন্যাশ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, ঢাকা

বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০৩/২০২৪-২৫

তারিখ- ২০/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বন্যাশ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ ঢাকা (ঢাকা বিভাগের সকল জেলা) এর সকল পেশাপ মালিকদের অবপতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বন্যাশ্রাণী (সংরক্ষণ ও নিরাপত্তা) আইন, ২০১২ এর ধারা ২৪ ও ৫২ অনুযায়ী প্রণীত পোষা পাখি ব্যবস্থাপনা বিধিমালা, ২০২০ এর বিধি ৪ অনুযায়ী লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ ব্যতীত কোন খামারী পোষা-পাখির উৎপাদন, লালন-পালন, খামার স্থাপন, ক্রয়-বিক্রয় বা আমদানি-রপ্তানি করিতে পারিবেন না বা কোন পেশাপ পরিচালনাকারী পোষা পাখি ক্রয়-বিক্রয় করিতে পারিবেন না।

লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ ব্যতীত খামার ও পেশাপ স্থাপন ও পরিচালনা করা বন্যাশ্রাণী (সংরক্ষণ ও নিরাপত্তা) আইন, ২০১২ এর ধারা অনুযায়ী দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। কোন ব্যক্তি উক্ত বিধান লঙ্ঘন করিলে তিনি ১ (এক) বৎসর পর্যন্ত কারাদণ্ড অথবা সর্বোচ্চ ৫০ (পঞ্চাশ) হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত অর্থ দণ্ড বা উভয় দণ্ডে দণ্ডিত হইবেন।

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(আহম্মদ নিয়ামুর রহমান)

পরিচিতি নং- ১৩২৩৮

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা

বন্যাশ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ

বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।

Email-wjldliefdhaka01@gmail.com

মোবাইল নং-০১৯৯৯০০০৩০৫

GD- 233

situation was such, as we haven't been able to restore peace and order yet."

The government on Tuesday cancelled the previously postponed Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent examinations after several hundred students staged protests at the secretariat.

The process of preparing the results would be decided later, according to the education ministry.

Meanwhile, a meeting of examination controllers of the education boards was held yesterday to decide how to publish the results after the cancellation of the postponed HSC and equivalent exams.

According to sources at the meeting, the education boards are primarily preparing to publish the results, aligning with the students' JSC and SSC exam results, similar to the approach used during the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, HSC exams were not held in 2020. At that time, the results were published based on an average evaluation of their SSC, JSC, and equivalent exam results.

He said, "The protesting students expressed that they were mentally distressed. After such an uprising, sitting for an exam would be a mental burden. We later considered that the

FROM PAGE 3
RHD documents show 41 out of 44 contractors secured 40,231 contracts amounting to Tk 83,178.5 crore during the last 13 years (fiscal years 2011-12 to 2023-24).

On Sunday, the memorandum submitted by the Coordination Committee was signed by nine contractors.

Contacted, RHD Chief Engineer Syed Moimul Hasan said they have asked the contractors to settle

BNP declares 5-day

FROM PAGE 3
Additionally, a cultural event will be held at the Shaheed Minar on September 1 to commemorate the party's anniversary.

During the briefing, Fakhru Islam Alamgir said around 198 members of BNP and its affiliated organizations have been

1 dies, several hurt

FROM PAGE 5
Local BNP men said Babul was supposed to hold two road meetings in Nagarkanda yesterday.

Shama Obaid's supporters broke two arches made to welcome Babul around 2:00am on Wednesday, and chased away his supporters.

Tension prevailed since then as sporadic chases and counter chases followed between the rival groups, eventually ensuing

Somoy TV broadcast

FROM PAGE 5
Earlier in the day, Ahmed Jobaer, a director of Somoy Media Ltd, submitted the petition to the Appellate Division seeking a stay on the HC order.

The HC, on August 19, also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in seven days why they should not be directed to allow Somoy Media Ltd and its managing director to broadcast and transmit news impartially and fairly through Somoy TV without any threat and coercion.

Secretary to the

the debarment issue with the court.

However, meeting sources said RHD officials expressed discontent over the language of the memorandum submitted by the contractors.

RHD will scrutinise the demands and see if they are logical. Then the points will be taken to the ministry, said one participant, requesting anonymity.

The Daily Star could not contact any of the signatories to the memorandum.

killed during various movements over the years. These facts need to be publicised, he added.

Fakhru further emphasised, "If anyone tries to engage in terrorism, extortion, or any other harmful activities, our political leaders must stand up and resist them."

the clash. Some shops of Babul's supporters were vandalised and looted.

Contacted, Babul alleged that Awami League activists have infiltrated BNP to create chaos within the party.

Shama Obaid did not receive her phone.

Confirming the matter, Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nagarkanda Police Station, said the situation was later brought under control.

ministry of information and broadcasting, chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, chairman of Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited, and Ahmed Jobaer, who holds 17.75 percent share of Somoy Media Ltd, were made respondents to the rule.

Lawyers AM Mahub Uddin Khokan and Saqeb Mahub appeared for Ahmed Jobaer while lawyer Ashsanul Karim argued for Shampa Rahman during hearing yesterday.

2 AL leaders

FROM PAGE 3
Meanwhile, in Narayanganj, a murder case was filed on Tuesday night against AL leader Shamim Osman and 122 others on charge of killing Manir Hossain, 56, during the recent protests.

Manir's younger brother filed the case with Siddhirganj Police Station. Manir had suffered bullet injuries during a clash in the Mizmiri area of Narayanganj on July 20 and died two days later.

Moreover, in Habiganj, a murder case was filed on Tuesday night against 261 AL men, including former Habiganj-3 lawmaker Md Abu Zahir, on charge of killing a youth named

Mostak Ahmed. Mostak's brother filed the case with Habiganj Model Police Station. Of the accused, 111 were named.

In Lalmonirhat, at least 200 AL men, including the district unit AL general secretary Matiar Rahman, were sued over vandalising and torching BNP office on July 5. A local BNP leader filed the case with court yesterday.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to the report.]

3 top police

FROM PAGE 3
roles and were influential during the Awami League (AL) led governments.

After the fall of the AL government on August 5 amid mass student protests, these officials are now being transferred to others, while some top officials are sent on forced retirement.

Sources said that steps will be taken to transfer the 54 other district SPs in phases soon.

Farzana Rupa

FROM PAGE 3
Immigration authorities detained the duo and handed them over to the DB when they arrived at the airport to go abroad, the notification reads.

The case was filed under Sections 302, 114 and 109 of the Penal Code against 39 names including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Police sources said the duo's names were not listed in the FIR, but they were arrested as two of the unnamed accused.

Ekattor Television had dismissed Shakil and Farzana Rupa on August 8. A copy of the order was circulated on social media days later.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Electric Inspector

Power Division
25 New Eskaton, Dhaka
www.oei.gov.bd

Memo. No. 27.01.0000.001.07.538.24-1487

Date- 20-08-2024

e-Tender Notice No: 02/2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following Tender:

Tender ID	Name of the Tender	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
1009988	Supply and Installation of Desktop Computers, UPS, Printers and Scanners for the Office of the Chief Electric Inspector (OEI).	Date: 08 September, 2024 Time: 05:00 PM	Date: 09 September, 2024 Time: 12:30 PM

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 05.00 pm 08.09.2024 for Tender ID-1009988.
- Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

20.08.24
Abul Khair Md Akkas Ali
Chief Electric Inspector
Phone: +88-02-58315211
E-mail: eadvisior@pd.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Jail Superintendent

District jail Moulvibazar
www.prison.moulvibazar.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.5800.160.04.003.2024-1444

Date-20.08.2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP portal:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Work	Publishing Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1	1009856	Goods, Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal (soru) to Moulvibazar District Jail for the period of October/2024 to March/2025.	20 Aug-2024 11:40:00,	03 Sep-2024 12:00:00,
2	1009857	Goods, Supply of Unnatamaner Mashur Dal (Mota) to Moulvibazar District Jail for the period of October/2024 to March/2025.	20 Aug-2024 11:40:00,	03 Sep-2024 12:00:00,
3	1009858	Goods, Supply of Unnatamaner Cholar Dal to Moulvibazar District Jail for the period of October/2024 to March/2025.	20 Aug-2024 11:40:00,	03 Sep-2024 12:00:00,

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tender Documents From the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 11:00 AM on 03rd Sep 2024.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Mozibur Rahman Mozumder)
Bj Number-02689900203
Jail Super
Moulvibazar district jail
☎02996683393 (Office)
Email:jailsuper@gmail.com

GD- 226



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া

স্মারক নং-পূঃস্বঃ/বগুড়া/পেশন/৭০৮/২/৫

তারিখঃ ২০/০৮/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র ও নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টারের (অক্টোবর/২০২৪ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪) মাস পর্যন্ত, মতর ডাল, সয়াবিন তেল, জ্বালানী কাঠ, পোশাকের চাল, চিনি ক্রয়, গম পেয়াই/জামানো, পরিবহন, কুলি কাজ এবং জুলাই/২০২৪ হতে সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২৪ মাস পর্যন্ত মজুদকৃত পুরাতন খালি চট/প্রান্তিকের খালি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নির্দিষ্ট দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা/২০০৮ অনুযায়ী নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে নিলামেরদ্বারা দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

ক্র. নং	বিবরণ	শর্ত
১	মহাপাশ/বিভাগ	স্বাধীন মহাপাশ/জামানো/বিভাগ
২	সহকারী	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনাকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ সুপার, বগুড়া।
৪	কি করণের দরপত্র আহ্বান	বগুড়া জেলা পুলিশ, এনএসআই, দুদক ও দুর্ভোগ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও অবসর গ্রান্ত পুলিশ সদস্যদের রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়, গম পেয়াই/জামানো, নিলাম সামগ্রী (বস্তা) এবং অন্যান্য সেবা কাজ।
৫	দরপত্রের সুর নং	পেশন-০২/২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছর।
৬	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৭	বায়েট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	রাজস্ব খাত।

ক্র. নং	বিবরণ	শর্ত
৮	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	২২/০৮/২০২৪খ্রিঃ এর মধ্যে।
৯	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	১২/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ (অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া। তারিখঃ ১৫/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান তারিখ ও সময়	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া। তারিখঃ ১৫/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।

ক্র. নং	আইটেম	পরিমাণ (কেজি/লিটার)	দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা) (অফারেরমোদ্য)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা)	কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
১.	মতর ডাল (উন্নতমানের)	৬৫০০০ (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) কেজি	১,০০০.০০	২,০০,০০০.০০	কার্য সম্পাদন মুক্তিবেত উন্নীত তারিখ ও সময় অনুযায়ী।
২.	পরিবহন তেল (উন্নতমানের)	৬৫০০০ (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) লিটার	১,০০০.০০	২,০০,০০০.০০	
৩.	গম পেয়াই/জামানো	২৭০০০০ (দুই লক্ষ সত্তর হাজার) কেজি	১,০০০.০০	১,০০,০০০.০০	
৪.	চিনি (উন্নতমানের)	৪৫০০০ (পঁচাত্তর হাজার) কেজি	১,০০০.০০	২,০০,০০০.০০	
৫.	পোশাকের চাল (উন্নতমানের)	৩৫০০ (তিন হাজার চারশত) কেজি	৪০০.০০	২০,০০০.০০	
৬.	জ্বালানী কাঠ (আমবাড়ি জকনা)	৮০০০ (আট হাজার) কেজি	৪০০.০০	৫,০০০.০০	
৭.	পরিবহন (চাল ও গম)	৬০০০ (ছয় হাজার) কুইন্টাল	৪০০.০০	২০,০০০.০০	
৮.	কুলি কাজ (চাল ও গম)	৬০০০ (ছয় হাজার) কুইন্টাল	৪০০.০০	২০,০০০.০০	
৯.	নিলাম সামগ্রী (পুরাতন চট/প্রান্তিকের খালি বস্তা) বিক্রয়	জুলাই/২৪ হতে সেপ্টেম্বর/২৪ মাসের মজুদ অনুযায়ী	৪০০.০০	৩০,০০০.০০	

ক্র. নং	বিবরণ	শর্ত
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জাফির হোসেন, পিপিএম
১৭	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার
১৮	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া।
১৯	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	০২৫৮৯৯০০১২১
২০	নিম্নের শর্তাবলী	

(ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
(খ) কোন কারণ দর্শাতে ব্যতিক্রম কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
(গ) দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত হলে যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।
(ঘ) দরপত্র পিপিআর/২০০৮ ও পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।

২০.০৮.২৪
জাফির হোসেন, পিপিএম
ফোন-৯৪০৩১১৩৯৪৪
পুলিশ সুপার, বগুড়া
ফোন ০২৫৮৯৯০০১২১, ফ্যাক্স ০২৫৮৯৯০০১২৬
ই-মেইল spbogn@police.gov.bd

KILLINGS DURING UPRISING UN reiterates call for accountability US stresses human rights, ties with Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has reiterated its call for accountability for the recent violence, loss of life, and human rights violations in Bangladesh.

"We've been speaking about accountability since the beginning of this particular crisis," said Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General Stéphane Dujarric at a regular briefing in New York on August 20.

"There will need to be accountability for the violence, for the loss of life, and for all violations of human and political rights," he said.

Meanwhile, the United States has stated that they look forward to working together to support their shared values and interests, such as a free and open Indo-Pacific.

"We do have a defense relationship with Bangladesh," Pentagon Press Secretary Maj Gen Pat Ryder said while responding to a question during a press briefing recently. "As it relates to the Bangladesh government, of course, you know, we would expect human rights to be observed and there to be an avoidance of any type of violence," Ryder said.



A gust of wind turns the umbrella inside out as this family of four enjoys a rainy afternoon in the city. The photo was taken in the Panthapath area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

AB Party gets EC registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party), founded by some former leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, yesterday got its registration with the Election Commission, with "eagle" as its electoral symbol.

The EC issued a gazette notification in this regard as per the Representation of the People Order, 1972, following a High Court order.

AB Party was among a total of 80 political parties that had applied for registration with the EC since October 2022.

Earlier on August 19, the HC bench of Justice Naima Hayder and Justice Kazi Zinat Haque ordered the commission to register it as a political party as per the Representation of People's Order, 1972 and Rules of Registration of Political Parties, 2008.

After the EC earlier rejected the party's application for registration on July 24, 2023, the party submitted the writ petition on August 23 of the same year upon instruction of its convener AFM Sulaiman Chowdhury.

Later, on August 2023, a divisional bench of HC consisting of Justice KM Qamrul Qader and Justice Md Shaikat Ali Chowdhury issued an interim rule, which was made absolute by the HC bench on August 19 this year.

Somoy TV broadcast to remain suspended SC chamber judge passes order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Broadcasting of Somoy TV, a private channel, will remain suspended till further notice, according to an order passed by the Supreme Court's chamber judge yesterday.

The order came in response to a petition seeking a stay on a High Court order on August 19 that asked the authorities concerned to stop the channel's transmission for seven days following a writ petition filed by Shampa Rahman, managing director of Somoy Media Ltd.

The broadcasting of the channel remained suspended since that night.

Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam, chamber judge of the SC's Appellate Division, passed the order after hearing arguments from the counsels for both the parties of the case, and sent the petition to the full bench for hearing on August 25.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

IRREGULARITIES IN TEACHER RECRUITMENT Politicisation of edn instts to blame: adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many teachers across the country have been dismissed or forcibly removed for political or trivial reasons, which is both inappropriate and tragic, said Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday.

He made the remarks during a press briefing at the Secretariat in the afternoon.

Wahiduddin said the politicisation of private colleges and other educational institutions

has led to widespread irregularities in teacher recruitment.

"We are aware that people across the country are angry about this matter. We will address these injustices. But how these dismissals occurred is highly unjust. I have received thousands of complaints about this. These issues cannot be resolved without principled decisions," he said.

"However, the important thing is that we must maintain decorum in educational institutions. No

one should use force or humiliate individuals personally. Regardless of the seriousness of the wrongdoing, it should be resolved peacefully, systematically, and from a neutral position," Wahiduddin emphasised.

"Authorities have started addressing these issues at the highest levels of administration, and this is also happening in schools and colleges, but change will not occur overnight. However, it is unacceptable to use force in any

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

1 dies, several hurt in BNP factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and several others were injured in a clash between two factions of BNP in Nagarkanda upazila of Faridpur yesterday.

The incident took place at Nagarkanda Bazar area around 11:30am when supporters of Shahidul Islam Babul, general secretary of Krishak Dal's central committee, clashed with supporters of Shama Obaid, BNP's central organising secretary (Faridpur division).

The deceased - Kabir Bhuiyan, 50, of Chagaldi area of Nagarkanda municipality - was a supporter of Babul.

Enayet Hossain Sakhawat, ward master of Faridpur Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital, confirmed the death, adding that the injured were also being treated at the hospital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



No one should use force or humiliate individuals personally. Regardless of the seriousness of the wrongdoing, it should be resolved peacefully, systematically, and from a neutral position.

WAHIDUDDIN MAHMUD, Education Adviser

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Institute of Neuro-sciences and Hospital
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 02-48120079, E-mail: nins@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

Ref:-56(9)/NINS&H/Tender Document/2024-25/282

Date: 18/08/2024

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
02	Agency	Director General of Health Service
03	Procuring entity name	Director, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital
04	Procuring entity code	1270208111110
05	Procuring entity district	Dhaka-1207
06	Invitation for	i. Supply of MSR Linen, ii. Supply of MSR Gauze, Bandage & Cotton,
07	Invitation Reference No.	56 (9)/NINS&H/Tender Document/2024-25/282
08	Date	18/08/2024
KEY INFORMATION		
09	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget & source of fund	Revenue Budget (GoB)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Office code	1270208111110
12	Office name	National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital
13	Tender Package No.	GR-02, GR-03, GR-04, GR-05
14	Tender package name	i. Supply of MSR Linen, ii. Supply of MSR Gauze, Bandage & Cotton,
15	Tender publication date	22/08/2024
16	Tender last selling date	02/09/2024 (Office hour)
17	Tender closing date & time	05/09/2024, Time: 12:00pm
18	Tender opening date & time	05/09/2024, Time: 12:15pm
19	Name & Address of the office	Accounts Section, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
	Receiving tender document	1) Room No-306, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
	Opening tender document	Room No-306, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
20	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Room No-311, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207; Date 25-08-2024 at 11.00am
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
21	Eligibility of tenderer	Tenderer shall have the following legal documents /capacity to enter into the contract- a) Valid up-to date trade license b) TIN certificate with up-to-date tax return/ tax deposit slip c) VAT registration certificate d) Bank solvency certificate, e) Other details conditions including in the schedule.
22	Brief description of goods	Supply of Linen (Group-A & B), Supply of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton, Supply of Micropore & Others
23	Price of tender document	Tk. 2000.00 (Per Lot)
24	PK No., Lot No., Identification of lot, Location, Tender security amount (Tk), Completion time in work	Supply of Linen (Group-A) NINS&H, Dhaka. 60 days after work order. Supply of Linen (Group-B) Supply of Gauze, Bandage & Cotton 2% of offered price Supply of Micropore & Others
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
25	Name of official inviting tender	Prof. Dr. Quazi Deen Mohammad.
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Director
27	Address of official inviting tender	National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel : +88-02-48120079; Fax: +88-02-48120568, E-mail: nins@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatever.	

Prof. Dr. Quazi Deen Mohammad
Director
National Institute of Neuro-Sciences and Hospital
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

GD- 228



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট
বাড়ি নং-৩৫, সোহরাওয়ার্দী এভিনিউ, ব্লক-কে, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২১২
www.atu.police.gov.bd

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.৯৮৫.০৬.০৪৫.২৪-১৪৯

তারিখ-২১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি।

"The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এবং এর তদীয় সংশোধিত বিধি মোতাবেক এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকায় ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সালের ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর/২০২৪ খ্রি হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪ খ্রি পর্যন্ত) এর জন্য রেশন সামগ্রীর ০৮ টি আইটেম ক্রয়/সরবরাহ প্রাপ্তি এবং রেশন স্টোরের পুরাতন চট বক্স নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ প্রকৃত ব্যকসারী/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে পৃথক পৃথক আইটেম ভিত্তিক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	৪৪৪৪ মন্ত্রণালয়/জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ				
২.	এজেন্সি	এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা				
৩.	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	পুলিশ সুপার (লজিস্টিক্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট), পক্ষে-অ্যাডিশনাল আইজি, এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট, ঢাকা				
৪.	দরপত্রের বিষয় (কাজের নাম)	১৬ নং ক্রমিক বর্ণিত				
৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	৪৪.০১.০০০০.৯৮৫.০৬.০৪৫.২৪-১৪৯ তারিখ- ২১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি				
৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানের তারিখ	২১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি				
৭.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি				
৮.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হতে পিএএ খাতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ				
৯.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ	২১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রি				
১০.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ০৯/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিটি কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়।				
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত				
১২.	টিকাদারের যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের তারিখ ও সময়	১০/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা				
১৩.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট কার্যালয়, বারিধারা, ঢাকা।				
১৪.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট কার্যালয়, বারিধারা, ঢাকা				
১৫.	টিকাদারের যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলযোগ্য কাগজপত্রের বিবরণ	দরদাতাকে নিম্নোক্ত কাগজপত্রাদির ছায়াছবি ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা দ্বারা সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে- ক) হলনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ) নাপরিকৃত সনদপত্র, গ) হলনাগাদ আয়কর ও জাট সনদপত্র, ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদেয় অর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা সনদ (লেনদেন বিবরণীসহ), ঙ) ফর্ম/ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সনদপত্র, চ) স্মার্টসিট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র। এছাড়া অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।				
১৬.	লট নং	কাজের নাম/আইটেম	সরবরাহের পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা
১	১	মত্তর ডাল সরবরাহ	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	১,০০০/-	৩৫,০০০/-	২য় কোয়ার্টার ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থ সাল
২	২	ভোজ্য সয়াবিন তেল সরবরাহ	ঐ	১,০০০/-	৪০,০০০/-	
৩	৩	জ্বালানী কাঠ সরবরাহ	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৪	৪	পোলাও'র চাউল	ঐ	৫০০/-	৯,০০০/-	
৫	৫	গম পিষাই	ঐ	১,০০০/-	২০,০০০/-	
৬	৬	কুলি কাজ (পোড ও আনপোড)	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৭	৭	চিনি ক্রয়	ঐ	১,০০০/-	২০,০০০/-	
৮	৮	সাধারণ পরিবহন (চাল, গম পরিবহন)	ঐ	৫০০/-	২,০০০/-	
৯	৯	রেশন স্টোরের পুরাতন চট ও প্রাস্টিকের বক্স নিলামে বিক্রয়	ঐ	৫০০/-	৩,০০০/-	
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	আবু আশ্রাফ				
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার (লজিস্টিক্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট), পক্ষে- অ্যাডিশনাল আইজি, এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট, ঢাকা				
১৯.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	বাড়ি নং-৩৫, সোহরাওয়ার্দী এভিনিউ, ব্লক-কে, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২১২				
২০.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী ফোন নং	০২-৪১০৮১৩৫৭				
২১.	বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	ক) দরপত্রের সকল কার্যক্রম "The Public Procurement Act-2006" & "The Public Procurement Regulations-2008" এবং এর তদীয় সংশোধিত বিধি মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে। খ) দরপত্র দাখিলের নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। গ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিম্নাঙ্ককারী যৌক্তিক কারণে যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক গ্রহণ অথবা সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।				

আবু আশ্রাফ

বিপি-৮১০৬১১৮৩৭০
পুলিশ সুপার (লজিস্টিক্স এন্ড ডেভেলপমেন্ট)
পক্ষে-অ্যাডিশনাল আইজি, এটি টেররিজম ইউনিট
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকা।
ফোন: ০২-৪১০৮১৩৫৭
E-mail: atu.spdev@police.gov.bd

GD-227

I HAD TO GO INTO HIDING IN 2018: MOUSUMI HAMID

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Renowned actress Mousumi Hamid recently returned to Dhaka after completing the shoot of a new film in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar. Directed by Tasnova Tabassum Atoshi, the film's title is yet to be finalised. This marks her return to work after a tumultuous month, which saw the rise of the anti-discrimination student movement and the collapse of the previous government.

However, the actress' activities haven't been confined to the entertainment industry. Mousumi was a prominent voice in the recently concluded movement. She took to the streets and voiced her support for the students on social media. "I joined the protests for four to five days. I stood with the students because I believe in their cause," she said.

Recalling a specific incident, Mousumi described how, like many others, she changed her social media profile picture to red in solidarity with the movement. Not long after, she received a phone call during the then ongoing curfew, with someone repeatedly inquiring about her whereabouts. Fearful for her safety, she and her husband fled their home. "We returned 12 hours later, only to receive another call the next day, warning me not to post anything else. But I didn't stop. I spoke out against injustice, and I wasn't afraid."

When asked about the state of our freedom of speech before August 5, Mousumi candidly stated, "There wasn't much freedom of speech, and I am living proof of that. Everyone was afraid to speak up. But after the downfall of the former government, that fear is gone. Now, we can speak freely."

Mousumi also revisited her experience during the 2018 protests when actress Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed was arrested. "Back then, I posted several things on Facebook in support of Nawshaba, which led to me receiving threatening phone calls. I couldn't speak out then, but now, with the new sense of freedom, I feel like I can finally share my experiences."

Taking the advice of friends, Mousumi deleted some of her posts and turned off her phone out

of fear after the arrest of Nawshaba. "I went underground for 13 days, being completely out of contact with everyone. I remember the fear I felt as I travelled from Cox's Bazar to Sreemangal, not knowing what would happen next."

At that time, actor Sazu Khadem *bhai* was of great help. He called many people and told them, "Mousumi never gets involved with politics, so make sure she isn't harmed." After that, I continued shooting, but I kept thinking that I could be arrested at any moment."

The actress also disclosed that during this period, a director warned her that a case had been filed against her and advised her to stay hidden. "That was the life I led back then," she recounted.

Reflecting on the current situation, Mousumi expressed relief. "Now, I feel free. We can all express our opinions openly. Life is much better for everyone now."

Mousumi shared the shooting experience of her upcoming musical, saying, "We shot in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. The story is beautiful, and it felt great to work amid the serenity of nature. After going through an uncertain and restless month, being able to shoot by the sea and in the hills has done wonders for my mood, especially being near the mountains."

In addition to this project, Mousumi expressed excitement about another of her upcoming films *Noya Manush*, which is set to release later this year.

Mousumi has also been active on OTT platforms, with a new web-film set to begin shooting soon. She also mentioned another upcoming project with the popular streaming platform Hoichoi.



PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL/ABRAR

Sarajevo Film Festival celebrates Meg Ryan's film impact

Renowned Hollywood actress, director, and producer Meg Ryan was recently recognised by the Sarajevo Film Festival, receiving the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo on Tuesday night for her valuable impact on the film industry.



Ryan was among four distinguished film creators honoured with this award, joining US and Palestinian directors Alexander Payne and Elia Suleiman, as well as US actor and producer John Turturro.

Festival Director Jovan Marjanović praised Ryan's exceptional talent while presenting her with the silver heart-shaped award.

Ryan symbolically hosted a special screening of her 1998 romantic comedy hit, *You've Got Mail*, at an open-air cinema, the very location where it was first shown during the festival in 1999.



Jennifer Lopez files for divorce from Ben Affleck

Jennifer Lopez has officially filed for divorce from Ben Affleck, marking the end of their two-year-long marriage. The couple, once famously known as "Bennifer," first captured headlines in the early 2000s before splitting in 2004.

Lopez went on to marry Marc Anthony, while Affleck wed Jennifer Garner, with both marriages eventually ending in divorce.

After reuniting in 2021, Lopez described their initial breakup as her "biggest heartbreak."

Their divorce filing in Los Angeles County Superior Court comes exactly two years after their Georgia wedding celebration. Representatives for both stars have not commented on the split.

NEWS

Pacers shine but Pakistan recover

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh the first breakthrough when he dismissed opener Abdullah Shafique for two in the fourth over, courtesy of Zakir Hasan taking a spectacular flying catch at the fifth slip.

Mahmud and Shoriful continued to put pressure on the Pakistani batters, and it took little time for left-arm seamer Shoriful to remove skipper Shan Masood.

Although the on-field umpire did not initially give Masood out, a review showed that the ball had touched the bat before it reached the wicketkeeper Liton Das. Masood was unhappy with the change in decision and exchanged some heated words with the umpires, as he seemed to believe that the ball had only hit his pads.

Before the series started, Shoriful had stated in the media that Pakistani batting maestro Babar Azam was his "dream wicket". It took only two balls for him to make that dream a reality, dismissing the right-hander for a duck, reducing Pakistan to 16 for three.

Shoriful can credit part of his success against Babar to Liton, who took a superb diving one-handed catch to his left, silencing the home fans.

Since Babar's dismissal, Bangladeshi bowlers were unable to sustain the pressure, allowing Pakistani opener Ayub and Shakeel to adopt an aggressive approach.

The hosts reached the 100-run mark after the Tea break, and as the partnership looked increasingly dangerous for Bangladesh, Hasan returned to remove Ayub -- who had earlier completed his maiden Test fifty -- at the slip cordon where Mehidy Hasan Miraz took a sharp catch, ending a 98-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Later, Shakeel also completed his seventh Test fifty and shared an unbroken stand of 44 runs with Mohammad Rizwan (24 not out) to see out the remaining overs of the day before bad light forced the umpires to call off proceedings.

BNP's ties

FROM PAGE 12
part in the meeting with a four-member delegation from China.

"We want to make it clear that the BNP has always believed in the 'One China Policy' and we want to reaffirm this stance with even greater firmness," Fakhru said.

He told the media that China believes the relationship between the Communist Party of China and the BNP will continue to strengthen. "We believe that China's investment for the development of Bangladesh will increase further."

Fakhru added, "We, the BNP, are delighted to hold the meeting with the Chinese ambassador after a long time. We consider this visit, after the mass protest, as a highly significant meeting."

"China has reiterated its commitment to the people of Bangladesh, clearly stating that they don't believe in supremacy. In the geopolitical context of Bangladesh, China has always stood by the people

Govt should ensure

FROM PAGE 12
their legitimate rights to freedom and independence, especially in the light of Israeli occupation's criminal aggression and genocidal war continuing for more than 10 months in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Jerusalem.

He said Bangladesh and Palestine and their peoples are united by strong historical relations based on brotherhood and support.

"We and our Palestinian people will continue to have gratitude and appreciation to Bangladesh for permanently and continuously standing by our people, and its absolute solidarity and support since its independence in 1971," the letter said.

Abbas expressed his support to the interim government and the people of Bangladesh, and wished good luck and success to Yunus in performing the lofty tasks entrusted to him.

Meanwhile, Pentagon on Tuesday said it will look forward to working with Bangladesh to support the shared values and interests such as a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Pentagon Press Secretary Maj Gen

of this country, and they continue to do so today."

The BNP secretary general praised China's global role, saying, "We applaud the significant role that China is playing on the global stage today. We have sincerely thanked and expressed our gratitude for China's assistance to both developed and developing countries."

After the meeting, Ambassador Yao Wen told media, "We discussed the current situation in Bangladesh. We hope that under the leadership of the interim government, Bangladesh will achieve stability and normalisation. We fully support this interim government."

"China will not interfere in the internal affairs of Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh look forward to our continued support, and we are committed to that."

"We are working together for a better relationship between Bangladesh and China."

Pat Ryder made the comment in a briefing in Washington when he was asked how Pentagon views the role of the Bangladesh Army in supporting peace and stability under the interim government led by Nobel laureate Prof Yunus.

Pat Ryder said, "Well, as you know, we do have a defense relationship with Bangladesh. We will look forward to working to support our shared values and interests, such as a free and open Indo-Pacific. I don't have anything to read out right now in terms of any types of contact."

"As it relates to the Bangladesh government, we would also expect human rights to be observed and there to be an avoidance of any type of violence," he added.

In a briefing yesterday, UN secretary-general's Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said UN hopes the interim government, led by Dr Yunus, will take an inclusive approach, including by considering the voices of young people as well as women, and minority and indigenous communities.

He said the UN also counts on the interim government to ensure the full protection of all citizens, particularly the minorities.

Students force DU dean to quit

FROM PAGE 12
and signed it in front of the students.

However, the agitators then insisted that Mahub must sign the resignation letter they had prepared.

The dean then wrote another resignation letter, similar to the one prepared by the students, but refused to submit it to the office in-person.

The dean of another faculty of the university, wishing to be unnamed, told The Daily Star that he has his resignation letter ready after seeing what happened to Prof Mahub.

In another development, a group of students from the Mathematics department padlocked the office of Prof Chandra Nath Podder, demanding his permanent removal as teacher.

The agitators started demonstrating in front of the department around noon alleging that he opposed the Anti-

Constitutional changes required

FROM PAGE 12
After the Liberation War, the proclamations were not incorporated in the 1972 constitution, he said.

"The constitution should not dictate the people. It should be written again to incorporate the people's will. But we need to figure out how it will be done -- through the constituent assembly or by other ways."

All the colonial era legal framework and administrative structures have to be reformed, he added.

Meghmallar Bosu of Dhaka University said it is necessary to change or amend the constitution. But it will require political unity so that the next government does not nullify the changes.

He recommended proportional representation in parliament, which was echoed by DU's coordinator Mozammel Haque.

Proportional representation is an electoral system in which the distribution of seats corresponds

Help us get back laundered money

FROM PAGE 2
Kiminori hoped that Bangladesh will be rebuilt under the leadership of Prof Yunus.

The Nobel laureate expressed his gratitude for Japan's continuous support and expressed his desire to take Japan-Bangladesh relations to its "peak". Both sides concurred that

Discrimination Student Movement.

Emerging from a meeting around 1:00pm, Chandra met the protesters and heard their demand.

Following a five-hour negotiation between the teacher and students, the students left the department saying they would announce their next course of action soon.

Another group of students of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science yesterday demanded permanent removal of two teachers and apology from the rest of the teachers.

Meanwhile, a group of students of the university's Sociology department yesterday sent a letter to the department demanding resignation of Chairman Prof Zeenat Huda.

They also demanded Prof AKM Jamal Uddin, Prof Sadeka Halim, and Prof Moshir Rahman be relieved of all academic and administrative duties.

close to the proportion of the total votes cast for each party.

About banning religion-based politics, he said, "We did not find anything good in such types of decisions earlier. When you oppress a party, they become victims and get public sympathy. The same will happen if the state bans a political party by law. It should be done through socio and political unity."

Umama Fatema, a coordinator of the movement and a DU student, said such parties always use religion as a tool for oppression, but they never use it as a tool for freedom.

"It will not be wise to ban student politics on campuses when the administrators are politically affiliated. They will only favour their party's student wings, banned or not," she said, adding that the elections to students' unions in campuses are vital.

Arif Sohel also spoke for students' union-based politics on

The agitating students also issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the authorities to meet their demands and warned that they would lay siege to the department if their demands were not met.

Also, a group of students of the Economics department wrote to the department chairperson yesterday demanding removal of Prof Shahadat Hossain Siddique and Syed Naimul Wadood.

Prof Zeenat in her letter to the law affairs adviser alleged that those groups of students [protesters] were creating a scary situation on campus, and that the teachers were feeling insecure.

"I would like to inform you that a good number of teachers of Dhaka University are in vulnerable condition. They are being threatened and attacked so that they resign as chairman, director, and dean," reads the letter.

"The student union-based politics will naturally fill the vacuum that the political-party based students' politics will leave behind and a new kind of students' politics will arise."

Terminating the 2014 polls "voterless election", 2018 election "night vote", and this year's polls "dummy independent" election, Mustafiz Rahman of Jagannath University said the country's current state is the result of those so-called elections.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam also joined the discussion moderated by The Daily Star journalist Shuchismita Tithi.

Mahfuz said our inability to accept different views and to live with differing opinions is a huge disease.

"Now, your future vision is for a democratic Bangladesh. To achieve that, we need to bring a culture of tolerance towards different opinions. You have set so many examples and I hope you can set this example as well."

they would closely work together to make it happen.

The envoy conveyed Japan's intention to continue supporting Bangladesh's development and prosperity under the "Strategic Partnership" enshrined between the two countries.

Kiminori stressed the

importance of establishing peace and stability in the country and the region, including sustainable response to Rohingya refugees, advancing economic and business cooperation, and boosting people-to-people exchange.

He expressed Japan's readiness to work together in these areas.

Protests grow in India over abuse of two minors

Schools, internet shut in a town near Mumbai

REUTERS, Mumbai

Internet services were cut off and schools were closed for a second straight day in a town near India's financial capital Mumbai yesterday, as protests over the alleged sexual abuse of two, four-year old girls intensified, media said.

The protests in Badlapur, about 50 km from Mumbai, come amid nationwide demonstrations over the rape and murder of 31-year-old doctor in Kolkata.

A janitor was arrested for allegedly sexually abusing the students in a school in Badlapur on the weekend.

Angry protesters blocked railway tracks for hours on Tuesday, demanding justice for the children, echoing similar protests across the country by doctors and women's groups.



Medical professionals and students holding placards shout slogans during a protest against the rape and murder of a doctor in India's West Bengal state, in New Delhi, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tanker adrift after multiple attacks in Red Sea: agency

REUTERS, Dubai

A Greek-flagged oil tanker was adrift in the Red Sea yesterday after repeated attacks that started a fire on the vessel and caused the ship to lose power, the UK maritime agency said.

The Sounion was first attacked by two small boats and hit by multiple projectiles about 77 nautical miles west of Yemen's port city of Hodeidah on Wednesday morning, the Greek shipping ministry and the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.

There was a brief exchange of small arms fire during the incident, the UKMTO said, adding in a later update that the ship had reported a renewed attack. That caused the fire and led the vessel to lose engine power and its ability to manoeuvre.

Death 'only certainty' for people in Gaza

Says UN official as Israeli strikes continue in enclave

AFP, Jerusalem

In Gaza, death appears to be the "only certainty" for 2.4 million Palestinians with no way to escape Israel's relentless bombardment, a UN official said Tuesday, recounting the growing desperation across the territory.

"It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, told AFP from Gaza.

For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in the Gaza Strip, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, fear of death and spread of disease as the offensive rages on. "Nowhere in the Gaza Strip is safe, absolutely nowhere is safe. It's absolutely devastating," Wateridge said from the Nuseirat area of central Gaza -- a regular target of Israel's aerial assaults.

Since fighting broke out in October, Israeli forces have pounded the besieged territory from the air, land and sea,

reducing much of it to rubble.

Now in its eleventh month, the offensive has created an acute humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom have been displaced several times, running out of basic food and clean drinking water.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges when it comes to the spread of disease, when it comes to hygiene. Part of this is because of the Israeli imposed siege on the Gaza Strip," Wateridge said.

Israel's military campaign has killed at least 40,223 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. Most of the dead in Gaza are women and children, according to the UN human rights office.

Tens of thousands of people have taken refuge in schools across the Gaza Strip, an increasingly regular target of Israeli missiles. Israel's military says these schools have been used as command and control centres by Hamas, a charge the group denies.

Over Tk 1cr found

FROM PAGE 12

510 Turkish lira, 200 British pounds, a pistol, two magazines and 50 bullets were recovered during the raid," Anisur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The staffers alleged that the raid was conducted when no staffers were present there.

However, police said the staffers did not cooperate, forcing them to seek assistance from the fire service to break open the vaults.

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan, Additional District Magistrate of Dhaka AKM Hedaitul Islam, coordinator of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement Sarjis Alam, another coordinator Hasnat Abdullah, and Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur were present during the drive.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) ordered the freezing of bank accounts of several individuals, including Nasrul and former Dhaka Metropolitan Police joint commissioner Biplob Kumar Sarkar.

Meanwhile, the BFIU yesterday asked banks to freeze the accounts of former lawmaker Shamim Osman, his brother and former lawmaker AKM Salim Osman and their family members.

The banks were also instructed to suspend the locker facilities for the members of the families for the next 30 days.

Besides, the banks were asked to suspend the transactions through their privately owned institutional accounts. The BFIU sought an update on the accounts in the next five working days.

Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Changes
Bangladesh Forests Department
Social Forest Division Rajshahi.

Environment Protection Through Social Forestry in the Rajshahi Barind Tract Region Project

Memo No. 22.01.0000.245.29.011.24. 29 20 Date: 20/08/2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of goods as stated below:

SL No	Tender ID, Package No & Name of Packages	Publishing date and time	Last Selling date and time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1	Tender ID: 1007558 WD-01/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Construction of 2 m wide & 2150m length C.C Road at Altadighi.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
2	Tender ID: 1009463 WD-02/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Bill Board with RCC Foundation and MS Angle 5 nos, Construction of Altadighi Ghat 02 nos, HBB at Car Parking Area, Main Gate with toilet, ticket counter and rest room & RCC Seating 30 nos.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
3	Tender ID: 1009469 WD-03/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Construction of Dustbin (2mX2mX2m) 6nos, Over Head Tank (OHWT), Goli Ghor (5nos), RCC Umbrella for 8 nos & Supplying and fitting of Steel Cradle (Dolna) 4 nos.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
4	Tender ID: 1009473 WD-04/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Construction of 2 m wide & 1100m length HBB Road at Sonadighi only & Protection work and Land development work at Sonadighi.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
5	Tender ID: 1009476 WD-05/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Electrification & Lighting at Altadighi.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
6	Tender ID: 1009469 GD-04/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Supply of Computer Equipment & Accessories, LED Monitor, 8GB RAM, Core i-7 Processor, Laser Jet Printer, Modem, UPS, Audio Set, Scanner).	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
7	Tender ID: 1009438 GD-05/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Supply of IPS, Purchase & Installation of Generator, Air Conditioner	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
8	Tender ID: 1009457 GD-07/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Furniture (Office Building, Restroom) (Cots, Secretariat Tables, Half Secretariat Tables, Arm Chairs, Armless Chairs, Tables, Wooden Racks, Steel Cupboards, Steel File Cabinets, Wooden Tools, Wooden Benches, etc.)	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
9	Tender ID: 1009458 GD-08/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Other tools and equipments (Nursery equipments- fountains, spades, buckets, spades, scissers, rakes, shovels, rakes, spray machines, scissers etc.; purchase of crockery, door and window screens and other equipments, jeep car (4 dows) CSG conversion expenses etc.)	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00
10	Tender ID: 1009460 GD-09/SFD/RAJ/ 2024-25 Supply of Various Materials for Free delivery, purchase of polypropylene bags for filling voids in strip, palm and other gardens, purchase of soil, dung, chemical fertilizers and other equipment for maintenance of strip gardens.	20-Aug-2024 Time: 16:00	03-Sep-2024 Time: 16:00	04-Sep-2024 Time: 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Rafiquzzaman Shah
Project Director
Environment Protection Through Social Forestry in the
Rajshahi Barind Tract Region (1st Revised) Project
and
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forest Division Rajshahi.

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT
Master of Development Economics (MDE) Programme
Admission Open for 3rd Batch (Session: 2023-24)

BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE)
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

A Fully Funded Exceptional Master's Programme

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME
Master of Development Economics is a one-year programme. It consists of 10 taught courses and a dissertation for a total of 36 credit hours over a 12-month duration. The medium of instruction is English. It is a quantitatively-oriented programme, and classes are held four days a week. This programme is affiliated with the University of Dhaka, and the degree will be conferred by the university.

APPLICATION PROCESS
The application form can be downloaded from the BIDS website (www.bids.org.bd) and submitted through email to bgseadmission@gmail.com by **11/09/2024**.
Qualified applicants will be notified through email for a written test to be held on **14/09/2024**.
The admission test will evaluate the candidate's quantitative aptitude, language skills, and analytical ability.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Admission is open to individuals who have at least a 4-year bachelor's degree in any branch of economics, development studies, statistics, mathematics, finance, business administration, sociology, engineering or any other subject with some background of economics from any reputed university. Candidates already having one master's degree are also eligible to apply. Candidates with a CGPA below 3.00 at the bachelor's are **NOT** eligible to apply. Women, qualified government officials, and professionals from NGOs and the private sector are encouraged to apply.

FEES
No tuition fees will be charged. However, a nominal amount of Taka 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand) needs to be paid at the time admission to cover incidental expenses.

CONTACT PERSON:
Dr. Sultan Hafeez Rahman
Director
BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE)
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
E-17 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207.
E-mail: bgseadmission@gmail.com
Phone: 880-02-58160430 (Extn. 445), 01679869725

The BIDS Graduate School of Economics (BGSE) is an academic institution within Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) with the affiliation of the University of Dhaka. BIDS has a long tradition of excellence in research and is the country's premier research and policy institute. Over nearly seven decades, it has been the spawning ground of some of the country's leading economists and scholars. BIDS's reputation for scholarship in development economics and policy research is not only nationally, but also globally acknowledged. The Institute is thus uniquely positioned to offer its advanced master's programme through the newly established Graduate School of Economics (BGSE).

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

We can't have same old politics on campus

Reforming the culture of student politics is crucial

A recent *Prothom Alo* survey—where 93 percent of respondents, or over 326,000 people, supported banning student politics—reflects widespread frustration and disillusionment with the current culture of student politics in Bangladesh. This overwhelming sentiment cannot be dismissed lightly. For far too long, student wings of political parties have exercised unchecked control over university campuses, often resorting to violence, intimidation, and coercion to maintain their dominance. In particular, the crimes and abuses committed by Chhatra League over the last 15 years have understandably led many to conclude that banning student politics altogether is the only solution.

However, the manner in which such surveys are framed misses the critical point that it's not student politics per se—but rather party-based student politics—that is problematic. Unfortunately, much of the discussion and reaction revolving around this issue seems to stem from this faulty premise. The decision of the 19 public educational institutions including 11 universities and six medical colleges that have recently prohibited student politics, with 13 of them simultaneously banning politics for teachers and staff, is also based on this premise. "Ban student politics" has become a rallying cry since the fall of the Awami regime on August 5.

However, we must also recognise the vital role that student politics, when properly structured and purpose-driven, can play in representing student interests and addressing legitimate grievances within our educational institutions. The very uprising that ousted the Awami League government owes to the leadership of largely nonpartisan but politically conscious students. Among them were also students tied to rival political parties, many of whom sacrificed their lives. But they left behind their political identity when they joined hands with other students for a cause that unified the whole nation.

The history of student politics in Bangladesh is replete with such glorious moments transcending party lines. Students being exploited by political parties to do their bidding form the other stream of this history, and it is this stream that needs to be rectified. Interestingly, we don't even need a new law or ordinance for that. The Representation of the People Order (RPO) already prohibits political parties from having any affiliated student or teacher organisations. However, we have seen how political parties bypassed this law on technicalities, with Awami League calling Chhatra League a "brotherly organisation", and BNP calling Chhatra Dal an "associate organisation" with its own constitution. Preventing such manipulations can put an end to the culture of party-based politics on campuses, and this is where we should focus.

The rights of students or teachers to engage in political activities are inalienable, but they can do so on their own time and outside the campus. But pursuing their political rights or agenda at the expense of general students and teachers is unacceptable. Clearly, there is a fine line to balance here. So instead of banning student politics altogether, university administrations should ban party-based politics, activate and empower student unions to better protect their interests, and ensure academic and intellectual freedoms so that our students can grow to be the leaders we need. Political influences in teacher recruitment, dormitory seat distribution, and other relevant areas also must stop. No party should be given the chance to exploit our universities again.

Health sector needs urgent healing

Govt must focus on purging partisan influences

A *Prothom Alo* report on the politicisation of the public health sector portrays a grim picture of how far the rot has spread. The report details how partisanship has pervaded the sector—from medical academia to healthcare services to projects under the health ministry—ensuring absolute dominance of the erstwhile ruling party. But Awami League was not the only one to have spread its tentacles; BNP also did the same while in power, and it seems the party is trying to do it again after the fall of the former.

Reportedly, after forming government in 2009, Awami League and its affiliates placed loyal officials in various health-related institutions. One example is the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), where five consecutive vice chancellors appointed since 2009 have either been a member of pro-AL Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (Swachip) or directly involved with AL politics. The same goes for pro-VCs, proctors and others in top positions. Political recruitments were also seen at 37 other public medical colleges. Elsewhere, at the 495 upazila health complexes, only officials loyal to AL were appointed as upazila health officers. Thus, loyalists were favoured in leadership positions at every level of the public healthcare sector—from the grassroots to the top—whether they were qualified or not. In the process, AL deprived anyone with suspected links to BNP and even deserving nonpartisan candidates.

During BNP's rule in 2001-2006, it was the pro-BNP Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) that dominated public sector recruitments, choosing party loyalists in important positions, and thus depriving those even remotely affiliated with AL and its politics. During the times of both regimes, those who were not affiliated with either party or their politics have suffered, and the lack of competent leadership eventually plunged the sector into an unprecedented crisis.

In the aftermath of Sheikh Hasina's fall, it seems BNP is focused on repeating the same cycle. As many as 173 doctors who were recruited in BNP's time, and deprived of promotions throughout the AL rule, were all promoted in one day—on August 8. The *Prothom Alo* report suggests that the spate of promotions is still going on. Frustrated DAB members are cornering relevant authorities, staging protests in various medical institutions, and in some cases even vandalising public hospitals.

We understand the frustration of pro-BNP doctors and medical professionals, but their attempt to forcefully claim what they think they deserve cannot be acceptable. Political partisanship is one of the root causes behind the ailing public health sector, and it's time to do away with it. Otherwise, much-needed reforms in the sector will continue to elude us. To restore discipline in this vital sector, we urge the interim government to be strict and judicious about all appointments and promotions. Only those who are qualified and deserving should get preference.

What the interim government needs to do urgently



Anu Muhammad
is former professor of economics of
Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

After 15 years of autocratic rule and authoritarian economic policymaking, the time has come for significant societal reform through conscious youth leadership and public participation. Such a possibility was created once in 1972 and again in 1990. We could not realise either of those two opportunities because of the betrayal and hypocrisy of the big political parties. Instead, we saw them consolidate their wealth and create a new political class.

It is important that we remember the failings of the past, so that we do not replicate them moving forward. Now, there is an interim government—we know its limitations but we must also keep in mind its primary responsibilities. This government came to power through a mass uprising, so it has public support and responsibility to initiate some major reforms that other governments did not. Let's consider some of the things this government can do in the next one or two months.

First and foremost, inquiry committees should be formed to investigate the unprecedented number of killings and acts of repression that we have witnessed. The responsible persons, organisations, and policies that enabled these actions should be brought to justice and amended through a special tribunal. An example must be set so that this sort of mass killing can never happen again in Bangladesh.

Massive corruption, bad deals, bank robberies, loan defaults, and over-expenditures in megaprojects have been commonplace in the last 15 years. The government should publish a white paper and make public all the deals, contracts and excesses of the previous regime. The next duty would be to analyse the large amount of loans incurred—Bangladesh has never had such high levels of foreign loans. The people of Bangladesh are yet to fully realise the steep amount they will need to repay as a result of these incredibly expensive contracts, since the deals were never made public. Moving forward, we must demand full disclosure of each loan or contract signed by our government, as the burden for paying them will fall on us.

Then there are the megaprojects, which have been touted as the

achievements of the government; yet many of them are actually disastrous, unreliable, and risk-prone, threatening the security of the country. It is essential for this government to review these megaprojects. One of the most prominent ones is the Rampal project which has the potential to destroy the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world that also acts as a protective barrier against natural disasters. Enough national and international research has been conducted by experts clearly highlighting the dangerous impact of these projects. Moreover, there has been a decade-long people's movement against this project with support being attained from every section of society.

There is also the Rooppur Nuclear



The energy sector has become an area of large-scale corruption in Bangladesh.

VISUAL: STAR

Power Plant, which poses an existential threat. It is unusual to find a nuclear power plant in such a densely populated place filled with forests and rivers. If the risk of such a nuclear plant were ever to become a reality, the lives of tens of millions of people would be endangered. Even the nuclear waste management system of a project like this would put the country at risk.

The decision is clear: projects like Rampal, Rooppur, and Bashkhal must be cancelled. The interim government can initiate the process of doing so. Now, a question may arise: Since we have already taken loans for these

projects and spent such an exorbitant amount of money, won't this be a massive financial loss to not continue? My answer is this: if a government, without the consent of its people, takes a loan that is against their well-being, it is not the people's responsibility to repay that loan. It is a case of odious debt, a legal doctrine explaining this very phenomenon. However, should we not receive that exemption and have to repay the loan, I would still argue that cancelling such projects would be more beneficial than going ahead with them in the long run.

The energy sector has become an area of large-scale corruption in Bangladesh. In the name of capacity charges, some companies receive hundred thousand crores of taka. Previously, the prime minister was in charge of this ministry, along with the state minister, aided by some local and international private companies. The companies that benefitted from unethical arrangements included well-known names such as Summit, Beximco, Bashundhara, United and many others in Bangladesh; in India, it consisted of NTPC, Adani, and Ambani; in Russia, it was Rosatom and Gazprom; in the US, the organisations were

environment. We can achieve this by developing Bangladesh's capacity in natural gas exploration and by pushing for renewable energy. The interim government must initiate this journey.

Next, we have to prioritise the major but neglected sectors crucial for public well-being which include public education, public healthcare, and public transportation. For far too

The entire power and energy policy needs to be revised. The Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act must be repealed immediately. Right now, we are running on a master plan made entirely by foreign consultants. We have to reject this and cancel all the environmentally disastrous, import-oriented, foreign-funded projects and opt for environmentally friendly, safe, non-corrupt projects.

long, we've seen low budget allocation and high irregularities in these sectors. Meanwhile, public transportation remains under the auspices of corrupt business owners. Should the spirit of the 2018 Road Safety movement be revived, and the demands made then be fulfilled now, the public transport sector can be greatly rectified. After independence, great emphasis had been placed on education and health; yet we have backtracked completely. Every government has failed in this regard. If the current government focuses on fixing these sectors, their credibility will increase, and based on this, stronger institutions may be developed.

The conversation of reforming the constitution should also start. We need to figure out how the constitution has become exceedingly discriminatory, autocratic, and anti-people. How was power taken from the people? Why does the prime minister hold so much power in one hand? The constitution includes clauses for gender, class, ethnic and religious inclusion and also includes clauses against all sorts of discrimination. Yet, these promises have not been fulfilled due to opposite clauses in the same constitution.

Finally, along with institutional reforms for sustainable democracy, the VIP culture must be eradicated. Public offices should transform to serve the public without hassle. There must be accountability and transparency for all actions taken by government offices.

Understanding the auto-pass trap



Maisha Islam Monamee
is a student of Institute of Business
Administration (IBA) at the University of
Dhaka and a contributor at The Daily Star.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

When the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams were cancelled in the face of intense student protests, it seemed like a swift and empathetic solution to an urgent crisis. After all, the protests were marked by significant trauma and loss, and many students were left physically and emotionally scarred. On the surface, offering an automatic pass might appear to be a compassionate acknowledgement of their struggles. Moreover, the decision aligns with the desire to avoid exacerbating the students' stress and discomfort. However, as someone who experienced the "auto-pass" phenomenon firsthand during the pandemic, I can attest that such decisions are rarely as simple as they seem. The "auto-pass" trap—though it may provide immediate relief—carries hidden costs and long-term consequences.

To begin with, a major drawback of the auto-pass system is its potential to undermine the academic integrity of the examination process. HSC exams are designed to assess students' knowledge and preparedness at a critical juncture of their academic journey. By cancelling these exams and relying on past results or alternate assessments, we risk diluting the standards that make the HSC a meaningful benchmark. Another critical concern is the issue of fairness.

Using SSC results as a stand-in for HSC exams feels like being measured by a ruler that is too short for the task. The HSC exams are meant to challenge students at a higher level, reflecting their progression and readiness for higher education. By bypassing these exams, we risk creating an inequitable situation where some students are unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged based on their past performance.

Quick fixes rarely lead to lasting solutions, especially when it comes to education. The auto-pass decision sets a concerning precedent for how crises are managed in our education system. While student voices are crucial and must be heard, decisions impacting large numbers of individuals should be made based on comprehensive consideration and long-term implications, rather than immediate pressure.

There must be students who have prepared diligently for their exams, especially those who previously struggled and hoped to improve their grades. The auto-pass system overlooks their hard work and sacrifices. This not only impacts their academic journey, but also their sense of achievement and self-worth. I have many friends from the 2020 HSC batch who were unable to apply for admission tests due to average grades. Some of them had to

take a gap year before applying abroad, while my English-medium peers opted for the next session of A Levels.

The "auto-pass" label can also have a lingering impact on students' futures. The tag sticks for longer than one would think—through university applications, job interviews, and even casual conversations. It might imply to others that these students did not earn their qualifications through traditional means, potentially leading to doubts about their capabilities. The social and psychological impact of this stigma can be significant, affecting their self-esteem and how they are perceived by peers and potential employers.

Moreover, we need to acknowledge the fact that the protests leading up to the cancellation of the exams were far from orderly, and the decision to cancel the exams under the pressure of a mob-

immediate demands of a vocal group can sometimes overshadow a more balanced and considered approach. Decisions like these should be made through representative discourse and after consideration of all sides.

Instead of opting for a blanket auto-pass policy, several alternative approaches could have been taken to balance compassion with fairness. For instance, providing special provisions for students who were directly affected by the protests—those who were injured or deeply traumatised—could have been one solution. These students could have been given the option to take their exams later when they were ready to perform at their best. Alternatively, implementing modified assessment methods could have provided flexibility for students facing exceptional circumstances. For example, offering project-based evaluations or oral exams could have allowed students to demonstrate their knowledge in a different format. The authorities could have also prioritised mental health support and counselling for the affected students to help them cope with their trauma and stress.

Quick fixes rarely lead to lasting solutions, especially when it comes to education. The auto-pass decision sets a concerning precedent for how crises are managed in our education system. While student voices are crucial and must be heard, decisions impacting large numbers of individuals should be made based on comprehensive consideration and long-term implications, rather than immediate pressure. As students, we deserve a system that values our hard work and gives us the chance to prove ourselves in a level playing field. Anything less is a disservice to us all.

Bangladesh can learn from Tunisia's experience



Kallol Mustafa
is an engineer and writer who focuses on power, energy, environment and development economics. He can be reached at kallol.mustafa@yahoo.com

KALLOL MUSTAFA

The overthrow of dictator Sheikh Hasina in the recent mass uprising has given rise to new optimism in Bangladesh's long struggle for democratic transition. Learning from the failure of democratic transition after the 90's mass uprising, public opinion has been formed in favour of various institutional reforms including the country's constitution. In this context, lessons need to be learned from the failure and success of institutional reforms in other countries of the world.

The pragmatic and consensus-based politics exhibited by Tunisian political leaders and civil society groups in their struggle for democratic transition can be a good case study, as mentioned in *The Tunisian Revolution and Democratic Transition (2022)* by Mohammad Dawood Sofi. From Tunisia's experiences of success and failure, we can understand what to do and what not to do in the path of democratic transition.

Tunisian dictator Ben Ali was ousted from power in a mass uprising in January 2011. After that, to break free from the old authoritarian rule and initiate a democratic transition, a decision was made to elect a National Constituent Assembly (NCA) to draft a new constitution. A commission named High Authority for the Achievement of the Revolution Objectives (HAARO), simply known as the Ben Achour Commission, was formed to frame new electoral laws and procedures for the smooth conduct of elections for NCA. The commission with 155 members had a broad representation of legal experts, scholars, civil society organisations, and political parties. Following a free and fair election, a 217-member NCA was elected in October 2011 with representatives of various political parties.

Under the leadership of this elected constituent assembly, several specialised committees were formed to draft the various parts of the constitution, including the preamble, general principles, fundamental rights, government structure, judiciary etc. The committees prepared the drafts by taking advice from many local and foreign legal and constitutional experts. Different social groups including labour unions, women's and human rights organisations also participated in this work providing advice and playing a role in resolving disagreements among political parties on different sections of the constitution. In this way, the draft constitution was finalised based on the active participation and

opinions of people from all walks of life and was adopted as the constitution of Tunisia in January 2014 by a two-thirds majority vote in the NCA.

Unlike in Egypt, where two constitutions were quickly drafted by appointed committees with little public debate or input within two years after the Arab Spring, the elected NCA in Tunisia drafted the constitution based on two years of arguments and compromises. This constitution was termed as the most progressive one in the Arab world, in which freedom of expression, religious freedom, and equality of men and women were guaranteed. The 2014 constitution tried to balance the powers of the president and the prime minister. According to the constitution, the ministries

The elected NCA in Tunisia drafted the constitution based on two years of arguments and compromises. This constitution was termed as the most progressive one in the Arab world, in which freedom of expression, religious freedom, and equality of men and women were guaranteed. The 2014 constitution tried to balance the powers of the president and the prime minister.

of defence and foreign affairs would be in the hands of the president and the remaining ministries would be controlled by the prime minister. The parliamentary election would be based on the proportional representation system. The president would be elected by general, free and direct elections, who would appoint the prime minister consulting with the parliament. The constitution legally mandated the Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE) which was formed by the NCA in January 2014 by secret ballot and with a two-thirds majority of the NCA. ISIE has been provided with its own budget, and a provision prohibits the removal of members without specific reasons prescribed by law. ISIE held a series of fair and impartial elections—both parliamentary and presidential—in 2014 and 2019 which furthered Tunisia's democratic transition.

However, the political parties that came to power through these elections could not solve Tunisia's economic, social and security issues. Problems such as unemployment, inflation, corruption and inequality again fuelled public discontent. Added to that were the terrorist attacks of various Jihadi groups. Demonstrations intensified in January 2021 to protest the failure to deal with the Covid pandemic, the economic crisis and police

court, which still did not exist due to the inability of the parliament to agree on the court's membership.

Exploiting this situation, President Kais Saïd drafted a new constitution in June 2022 that would reverse Tunisia's democratic transition. Then in July 2022, in a controversial referendum held in the face of strong objections and boycotts by opposition parties where voter turnout was

weak judiciary, inadequate mechanism for resolution of differences between the president, prime minister and parliament etc. Besides, the 2014 constitution did not give due importance to ensuring various social and economic rights of the people, which acted as a catalyst behind the erosion of the constitution's popularity.

The positive aspect of Tunisia's constitutional reform was the democratic



Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki holds a copy of the country's new constitution after signing it in Tunis on January 27, 2014.

PHOTO: REUTERS

brutalities. Exploiting this public discontent, President Kais Saïd, a retired law professor, who won the 2019 election by a landslide, suspended the parliament and dismissed the prime minister in July 2021. And in doing so, he used Article 80 of Tunisia's 2014 constitution, which empowers the president to take "extraordinary measures" for a specified period of time on matters of national security and sovereignty. But first suspending and then dissolving parliament under Article 80 was unconstitutional as the article mandated that the prime minister and the parliamentary speaker be consulted and that the parliament remain functional during such exceptional measures. Unfortunately, the one body that could adjudicate whether Article 80 was appropriately applied was the constitutional

only 30.5 percent, the new constitution was adopted, effectively transforming the Tunisian government into a presidential autocracy.

Notable among the reasons for this reversal of Tunisia's democratic transition within a decade of the fall of the dictator are: extreme political polarisation, especially between secular and Islamist parties; failure to address economic problems such as inequality, unemployment and inflation; terrorist attacks by various jihadist groups that sway public opinion in favour of authoritarian action; various weaknesses of the constitution including ambiguities regarding the distribution of powers between the prime minister and the president, lack of protection mechanism to prevent misuse of Article 80 of the constitution,

process of drafting the constitution through an elected National Constituent Assembly based on the opinions of people of various ideologies. For this reason, Tunisia was exceptional while many other countries in the Arab world that were freed from autocracy in the contemporary period quickly fell into military rule or civil war. On the other hand, the democratic transition of Tunisia faces major obstacles due to the political divisiveness based on identity and the inability of the political classes to solve the long-standing economic problems such as inequality, unemployment and inflation by utilising the political freedom enshrined in the new constitution.

It is important to learn from this experience of Tunisia as Bangladesh embarks on a democratic transformation journey.

How will Bangladesh-China relations shape up?



Farid Erkiya Bakht
is a political analyst.

FARID ERKIZIA BAKHT

If Bangladesh is suspended within the geopolitical tripod of India, China and the United States, where are we positioning now? The current discourse suggests that priorities are set where the near-neighbour with the largest GDP on the planet only gets bronze, not silver, and certainly not gold.

Beijing keeps its customary quiet demeanour, scrupulously keeping to its decades-long policy of not publicly interfering in internal matters. They are, however, quite interested in the events of the Bengal delta. The *Global Times* on August 12 noted that Donald Lu's visit in May was seen by some as "part of a strategy to pressure Hasina into acting against China." Liu Zongzi, director of the Center of South Asia Studies at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies, guessed that the reason for the US "seeking to overthrow her [Hasina]" was "(her non-compliance) with the US on many issues."

Myanmar and St Martin's Island

Let's chat about St Martin's Island, a tiny, three square-kilometre coral outpost, as referred to in Chinese media. I visited the island—also known as *Narikel Jinjira*—in 2001, staying there for a night—a time when it was still not on the tourist trail. It took mere minutes to walk from one end to the other. Could this fragile place really be the location for a US base, to add to their 800-plus others around the globe? Eight kilometres off the coast of Arakan, some suggest it could be a listening post and a forward deployment point. In the age of drones, could one intervene in Arakan and the rest of Myanmar? It reminds us how Bangladesh and Myanmar security forces



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

faced off each other in 2018. Whether it is St Martin's or Teknaf is not the issue. Beijing is naturally alarmed by the civil war in Myanmar, with which it shares a long porous border. Instability in this resource-rich place directly affects Yunnan. Given that the US is confronting China in the Taiwan Straits, it is plausible that a "second front" might appear on the Irrawaddy (Ayeeyarwady). If Dhaka shifts from Delhi to Washington's orbit with this new administration (or possibly a BNP one), Beijing will naturally look at the security implications across the Naf River and beyond.

More than a million Rohingya remain trapped in an open air confinement in

how often have our political elites ever evinced an interest in Myanmar—and thus China?

There was one time. In 2012, there were talks of Chinese willingness to build a direct road from Kunming via Mandalay to Teknaf, which was shelved. India leaned on Yangon to block that lifeline. Later, Delhi also put an end to the longer route from Kunming to Kolkata, via Dhaka, which had been rebranded as BCIM (Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor).

Treating China like a cash cow?

This is where we come to the nub of the problem. We see China as just a giant foreign aid ATM. They are ready to lend and build as

part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but they also seek a deeper partnership.

Even though I had my fears, I wrote a piece in this daily in July, titled "Mission to China." I was shocked how disastrous the trip to Beijing turned out to be. Last year, in discussions in Dhaka, I was led to believe that the Awami League government would shift dramatically to Beijing after securing its victory in the January 7 (selection). But would Delhi allow such a thing? This year, Sheikh Hasina made not one, but two, visits to Delhi. The second one looked like a dressing down by the South Block. Chinese offers to invest over a billion dollars in saving the little water that came from the Teesta River were to be rejected. So were any major breakthroughs. So, the former foreign minister, Hasan Mahmud, and associates banded about the sum of money they would ask out of China. \$5 billion worth of yuan, which became \$2 billion. More infrastructure—easy to syphon commissions from, perhaps.

This was capped off by a severe breach of diplomatic protocol. Hasina and her courtiers tore up the schedule and returned one night earlier. Mahmud claimed it was because she was terribly ill. Even if it was because they got wind of the seriousness of the student revolt, the then foreign minister and colleagues could have remained. But no, they returned—all smiles. Criticisms were batted away with a prime ministerial diagnosis that our heads had to be examined.

The interim government must talk about jobs, industrialisation and the partnership with China. Last month, the issue, at its ultimate core, was not only the unfair distribution of bureaucratic posts; it was also the profound lack of decent employment in the private sector. To solve that, one needs a policy, a strategy and shedloads of capital.

As a gift, China upgraded the relationship to that of a Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership. Has anyone noticed much of any dialogue or observations about this?

That was then, this is now

Over the last decade, we have been unable to work with China to build a new industrial export sector to wean us away from our dangerous dependency on the RMG sector. Jagaran Chakma's report in this daily last month detailed the painful odyssey of the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone. The 784-acre site in Chattogram was allocated for Chinese industry. Intended to create as many as 200,000 jobs, it is still inoperative for eight long years.

The interim government must talk about jobs, industrialisation and the partnership with China. Last month, the issue, at its ultimate core, was not only the unfair distribution of bureaucratic posts; it was also the profound lack of decent employment in the private sector. To solve that, one needs a policy, a strategy and shedloads of capital. Right now, only China offers that quantity of capital and expertise to invest in new industries. Supply chains, component-producing factories, industrial clusters are all exporting to earn dollars and yuan. This should form the basis of the developmental discourse, and it should be steered towards modern industry and associated technology.

In 2024, the unipolar world of yesteryear has disappeared. China is the manufacturing core of the world. It is the largest consumer market, too. It is just that we have little to sell to them, hence the urgent necessity to set up newer production lines to create higher skilled jobs.

Can Md Touhid Hossain convince us that Bangladesh has not moved merely from the Indian leg of the tripod directly to a distant Western power? I would like to hear more about how Bangladesh will work with China, to genuinely further mutual interests. This is still a least developed country. Tens of millions of young Bangladeshis are rightly impatient. Time is short.

ESSAY

Manufacturing praise

How honest are book reviews in Bangladesh?



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

The harsh truth is that without solicitation, very few books will be written about. These days, published authors end up doing significant legwork, from supplying media contacts to their publishers, to requesting and emailing scores of academics, journalists, and writers for blurbs, endorsements, and reviews.

SHAHRIAR SHAAMS

Sometime ago, a writer reached out to me with a request. His debut novel was being published later in the year and he was wondering if I would be open to reviewing it. I was aware of the book, having read it when it was still only a draft. The author was not someone I only knew, either, but a mentor who had supported my writing in many ways, even through monetary means. Refusing him, then, felt tantamount to betrayal. But I had to in the end, and though he understood, I still came out of the exchange feeling guilty of being unhelpful or, worse, ungrateful.

Much has been written about the machinations that go behind the scenes of book criticism. *The Economist*, of all places, last year mourned the death of the "hatchet job" in a piece called "Critics are getting less cruel. Alas", saying that the book review reads often like "a smug inside job". Indeed, a cursory review of book criticism in newspapers in Bangladesh lays bare the fact that it is very much the case here as well. Book reviews written by a student or well-wisher of the author is unsurprisingly common. When an unfortunate staff-writer is assigned a book, they are often nudged into

writing a glowing review or, if that is not possible, a tempered, "balanced" review. The latter is a phenomenon I had to personally deal with during my time working as a staff writer for literary supplements. Far from being "balanced", the term is used to refer to reviews where the meagre amount of positives of the book is amplified throughout the piece, after which the writer is free to add in a token few lines on what held the book back. I am of course to be blamed for this as well, as I too had "adjusted" a few times, caving into the pressures of producing a "balanced" review.

Mir Arif, a Bangladeshi writer based in the US, with whom I had the pleasure of working alongside as a staff-writer, says of his experience reviewing books in Bangladesh: "A major challenge was learning about the writers' backgrounds and their literary associations, which was somehow important in the existing review culture...In editorial meetings, the editors often discussed their views on the writer even before I read the book. As bad as it sounds, editors' views often influenced my reviews, sometimes even after I had submitted my drafts. On top of it, there was a general tendency to overpraise Bangladeshi literature..."

Bangladeshi writing in English is consistently assessed in this way. Their purported excellence is taken for granted. In an interesting piece by Usraat Fahmidah, "Why don't Bangladeshi books reach international award shelves?" (*The Daily Star*, 2022), the blame on why our writers never seem to win Bookers or the DSC prize is put on literary racism, uneven output, or even a lack of interest in pursuing literature in the language, but curiously there is not one mention on the literary qualities of the books in question by any of the luminaries who had been interviewed. I do not intend to downplay the obviously real factors that the essay talks about, nor am I of the opinion that all of Bangladeshi literature in English is second-rate, but to completely omit any discussion on whether these books deserved to win on literary grounds comes from an understanding that any such critique would disservice a fellow countryman and a burgeoning literary scene.

Those hankering over how we must present (via review) "our" writers positively to a "western" audience, because otherwise Bangladeshi literature in English would not get international recognition and respect,

must explain how supporting "our" writers only ends up meaning that one has to unconditionally stomp for these books and put them up on a pedestal they may not deserve. Does it not, then, achieve the exact opposite of what they want? Do we not end up looking shallow and tribal? And do we ever wonder where this talk of protecting "our" writers seems to come from? Perhaps from the very class of writers who would want that adulation? Perhaps, one must begin to think that it is contention and not celebration that really strengthens literature.

Ikhtisad Ahmed, author of *Yours, Etcetera* (Bengal Lights Books, 2015), concurs that "Our reviewing culture... is rife with sycophancy, intellectual dishonesty, and protection of class interests..."

Ahmed, who had been no stranger to the backlash of critical reviews here, adds that, "We have eschewed intellectual debates and discussions for a celebration of works that fail to even be mediocre... This not only prevents us from taking the writing of Bangladeshis seriously enough to read and engage with our own widely, but holds us back on the world stage too."

I asked Sarah Anjum Bari, former literary editor at *The Daily Star*, how she dealt with conflicts of interest. She wrote back: "I don't believe in publishing a review just to bash on a book or author, so when we did run a negative review it would be one that still engaged critically with the text and had something valuable to say about it. I sometimes got in touch with the author in advance and gave them a heads up if a negative review of their work were about to come out. I also tried to push back on reviews that simply described and summarised the text—which is usually a sign of the reviewer not wanting to share their honest opinions on the text—so we would always send the draft back asking for more analysis. Ideally, we tried not to have a text reviewed by an author's friend (though this is honestly difficult to maintain in a place like Bangladesh where the community is so close knit)..."

It is not shocking to learn that there is an unhealthy overlap of friend and critic in book reviews here and an evangelical need to promote one's own for the collective cause is present among us. I am always distrustful of the praise I see, for instances of a friend of the author masquerading as a generous, conscious critic are numerous. The book review cannot be an advertisement. It is unfair to be a

marketer to an unsuspecting reader.

The harsh truth is that without solicitation, very few books will be written about. These days, published authors end up doing significant legwork, from supplying media contacts to their publishers, to requesting and emailing scores of academics, journalists, and writers for blurbs, endorsements, and reviews. How successful this solicitation is also depends on factors such as class. Well-off and well-connected authors tend to do better. How likely is it then to envision a critical appraisal of these well-connected authors in newspaper pages with personal connections, if one can be frank? Even when their works deserve praise, it is praise that comes out as suspect. Is this the environment through which we are to make literary waves?

Reviewers, in turn, have increasingly become grifters. Far from suffering through the nauseating experience of writing something they may not mean, they enthusiastically heap praise in a bid to be agreeable, or perhaps in hopes of similar treatment when their time arrives, or even for a recommendation letter for an MFA. If nothing, a friendship can be on the table. In a piece in *Esquire* by Isle McElroy, "The Rise of Literary Friendships", the writer asks, "Are writers clinging to each other for support because, as publishing houses consolidate and advances decline, other writers are all we really have for support? Have the crabs in the barrel begun to hold claws?"

From the perspective of South Asia, this has been the case for a lot longer with the absence of needed institutions and opportunities. I believe this very sensibility has significantly contributed to writers receiving undeserving praise in the name of support.

Support is necessary in any case, but book critics must understand they should be servants to the text. When the Master is kind and original, they must capitulate to the magic, and when it is derivative and cruel, one must start planning a beheading. In the course of reviewing books in so many years (the first review I had written for this paper had been over a decade ago as a teenager), there were times I had gone on to worship a writer's books and times when I wished for their early demise. Never did I have the urge to be their friend.

Shahriar Shaams has written for Dhaka Tribune, The Business Standard, and The Daily Star. Find him on Instagram: @shahriar.shaams.

THE SHELF

4 books to read in celebration of Women in Translation month

There was a wide array of options from European to South American works, as well as an encouraging emergence of Southeast Asian literature.

NUR-E-JANNAT ALIF

Women in Translation Month is an annual celebration that toasts to women authors from around the globe who write in languages other than English. With the growing interest in translated fiction, it is refreshing to note that curating this year's list was relatively easier than last year's. There was a wide array of options from European to South American works, as well as an encouraging emergence of Southeast Asian literature. However, it is worth noting that the selection of titles by Bangladeshi female authors (or South Asian authors, in general) translated into English remains limited.

JAWBONE
Mónica Ojeda, Sarah Booker (Translator)
Coffee House Press, 2022

Students of the Delta Bilingual Academy, Fernanda and Annelise are more sisters than friends, impossible to separate, one and the same. Every day after school, Fernanda, Annelise, and their friends assemble to embark on a sinister adventure, one that is simultaneously thrilling and increasingly perilous. They have their own conception of God—albeit introduced by Annelise—and their rituals are eerily anomalous. However, this is not the only secret Fernanda and Annelise share.

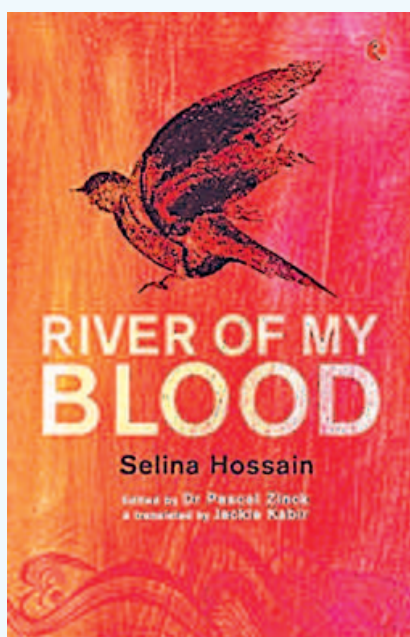
RIVER OF MY BLOOD
Selina Hossain, Jackie Kabir (Translator)
Rupa Publications India, 2016

A powerful and heart-rending narrative of love and loss, *River of My Blood* follows Boori, a spirited and

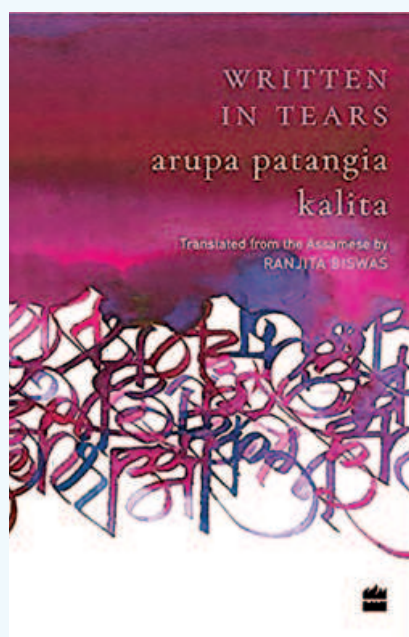


resilient young girl, as she navigates the complexities of adulthood. After marrying an older relative, Boori struggles with the stigma of infertility and later confronts the challenges of raising a son who is born deaf and mute. With the Muktiuddho engulfing the coast of her village, Haldi, the now-widowed Boori must face the most life-altering decision she has ever had to make. Not only is this book a gripping portrayal of the Liberation War, but it also advocates for women's rights and stands firm against patriarchy, leaving an indelible impact on readers long after they finish the last page.

WRITTEN IN TEARS
Arupa Patangia Kalita, Ranjita Biswas (Translator)



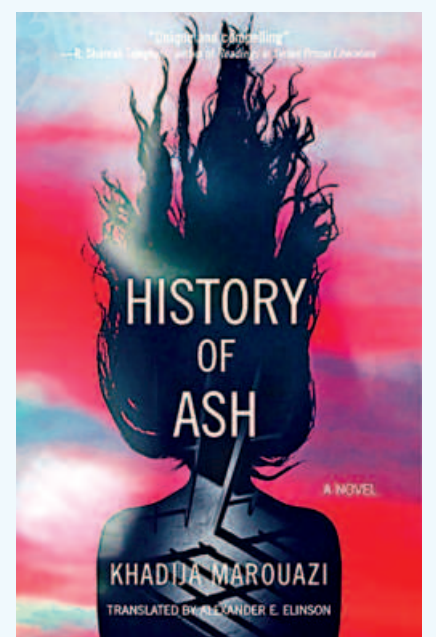
HarperPerennial, 2015
Written In Tears is an emotive collection of eight short stories that delve into the decades-long violence in Assam, exploring its profound impact on women. Originally written in Assamese, these stories portray strong female characters who, despite enduring unimaginable suffering, manage to rise above their hardships. In one story, a woman witnesses her husband's family grappling with the absence of her insurgent brother-in-law. In another, a girl's life is forever altered after a brutal rape. Kalita's writing vividly captures the hollow vein of violence, the oppression of women, and the often senseless nature of patriarchy. Through her personal experiences, she transports



readers to an Assam caught amid violent uprisings, where ideologies clash, innocent lives are destroyed, and women suffer both physical and emotional violations—all in the name of freedom.

HISTORY OF ASH: A NOVEL
Khadija Marouazi, Alexander E. Elinson (Translator)
Hoopoe, 2023

Prisoners during the "Lead Years" of Morocco, a man and a woman, wrestle against systematic oppression for the sake of emancipation. Shifting between past and present, Mouline and Leila recount their experiences both inside the prison cell and beyond it, navigating the torture chamber, the judicial operation, and the challenges



they confronted after their exemption. Narrated in vivid detail, their strategies for survival and resistance offer clear and often intense reflections. Harrowing yet resilient, this is the book about fortitude, power and the sheer will to freedom.

This is an excerpt. Find the full list on The Daily Star and DS Books' websites.

Nur-E-Jannat Alif is a gender studies major and part-time writer who dreams of authoring a book someday. Find her at @literatureinsolitude on Instagram or send her your book/movie/television recommendations at nurejannatalif@gmail.com.

BCB'S LEADERSHIP CHANGE

On Tuesday morning, it was reported that a meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) directors would occur the next day at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Directors Iftekhar Ahmed Mithu and Khaled Mahmud Sujon confirmed this to The Daily Star, but CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury remained unreachable.

Veteran organiser Ahmed Sajjadul Alam Bobby, meanwhile, claimed he had not received any notice, despite still being a board director. He had been asked to resign by the National Sports Council, but unlike Jalal Yunus, another NSC-nominated director who stepped down, he refused.

Around midnight, BCB confirmed the emergency board meeting's location (Ministry of Youth and Sports' conference room) and time (Wednesday 11:00 am) -- and that it had requested a secure venue due to the country's current situation -- further informing that there would be no media access, only recorded clips, images, and a media release afterward.

Eight board directors and former skipper Faruque Ahmed, who replaced Yunus as an NSC-nominated director, alongside CEO Nizamuddin attended the meeting, where a minute's silence was observed for the lives lost in the historic student-led anti-discrimination movement.

The meeting began by approving the previous board discussions. Faruque officially joined as a director, and Nazmul Abedeen Fahim was approved as a councillor, later joining the meeting as a new NSC-nominated director.

The discussion then turned to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, which had been relocated to the UAE. Lastly, the board addressed Nazmul Hassan Papon, who had notified them via email the previous night of his resignation as board president.

Afterwards, the discussion turned to who will be Papon's successor. Iftekhar proposed Faruque, supported by Akram. With no other proposals, Faruque was declared the new president, concluding the hour-long meeting.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Faruque sheds light on his way of operation

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national team captain and selector **Faruque Ahmed** became the first-ever cricketer to become the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president on Wednesday. Following his appointment, Faruque talked to the media on various issues, providing an idea about his way of operation in the coming days, during a press conference at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. The excerpts of the press brief are as follows:

On being BCB president
 I am very proud that I have been given a very important responsibility. If I consider my playing career too, it has been more than 42 years that I have served in various roles as a player, and captain and during my two terms in the selection committee.

On changing system
 We could improve more in particular sectors, something that didn't happen. Our responsibility is to rebuild the system. There are times when you aren't able to do everything as outside pressure remains. I hope to enact a good system this time.

We have to focus on the constitution by which directors and presidents are elected. Next year there is an election and before that, we have to work on the constitution so that those who love cricket truly and want to do something are prioritised. The criterion for the stakeholders whom we want to onboard would be cricket's development. If someone says that the corruption in the board can't be completely ousted, I will not believe that person.

On media's role
 Do not blow things out of proportion. And, regarding criticism, points must be raised that are most important for our cricket.

On his level of interference
 I had once resigned complaining about the system (in 2016 from the post of chief selector). Since I did that, I can assure that there is no possibility of that (unwanted interference). The cricket board is the policy maker, so do not mix it up with selection. For instance, the board will have policies regarding

certain players and that instruction will be given to the selection panel. It will be a policy matter, and there won't be any instructions like 'don't take Shakib [Al Hasan], Tamim [Iqbal] or take them'.

On appointment of vice-president and conflict of interest among directors
 We will try to implement things according to the constitution as early as possible. A vice-president will be there, and those are in the board will work on avoiding any conflict of interest.

On player-cum politician Shakib
 We will discuss Shakib's situation and

how things should be done, whether we can find someone better or at least someone who can perform well, and then I will talk.

On Tamim Iqbal
 It's good if he can play and if he can't play and decides to join the board, I will still be very happy. He has leadership qualities and if guys like him come [to the board], we can do something good.

On corruption
 I am aware that there have been many irregularities. It's not possible to fix everything in a day. Over the past 12

BCB PRESIDENTS LIST

Name	Tenure
Faruque Ahmed	21 August 2024 – Till date
Nazmul Hassan Papon	17 October 2012 – 21 August 2024
AHM Mustafa Kamal	23 September 2009 – 17 October 2012
Lt General Sina Ibn Jamali	29 July 2007 – 23 September 2009
M Abdul Aziz	14 November 2006 – 29 July 2007
Mohammad Ali Asghar	26 November 2001 – 14 November 2006
M Akmal Hossain	19 August 2001 – 26 November 2001
Saber Hossain Chowdhury	04 July 1996 – 19 August 2001
A. S. M. Mostafizur Rahman	01 September 1991 – 04 July 1996
Kazi Bahauddin Ahmed	27 December 1990 – 01 September 1991
Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmood	18 February 1987 – 27 December 1990
K. Z. Islam	30 January 1983 – 18 February 1987
Commodore Mujibur Rahman	28 September 1981 – 30 January 1983
S. S. Huda	14 August 1976 – 28 September 1981
Professor Mohammad Yousuf Ali	1972 – 14 August 1976

whether he can continue under the current circumstances. We are also considering adding rules regarding player conduct during tours, including restrictions on endorsements.

On head coach Chandika Hathurusingha
 I am not sure about the details of the contract with Chandika Hathurusingha. I still maintain the same stance. I haven't deviated from what I said (not willing to keep Hathurusingha if elected as BCB president). I need to formally review some things. I will see

years, it has become like Frankenstein. It can't be resolved overnight. However, I assure you that there will be a focus on preventing irregularities that directly impact cricket.

On whether an investigation commission to look into past corruption will be formed
 If an investigation commission is formed, its reports will definitely be made public. Regarding an independent commission to look into corruption, we have to seek help from experts as I don't know everything.

'Awesome' fielding highlight of Day 1

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud praised his side's fielding, particularly behind the wicket, which remained as the key highlight of day one of the Rawalpindi Test against Pakistan yesterday.

After putting the hosts into bat, Bangladesh bowlers made early inroads and caused jitters, reducing Shan Masood's side to three down for 16 in a rain-delayed first session before Saim Ayub (56) and Saud Shakeel (57 not out) hit fifties to propel Pakistan to 158 for four at stumps.

Bangladesh's first session sizzle could be largely credited to the fielders as Zakir Hasan and wicketkeeper Liton Das took excellent catches.

Zakir, who was stationed at gully, dove acrobatically to the right to take hold of a sharp chance to remove Pakistan opener Abdullah Shafique while Liton lunged down the leg side to take a one-handed screamer to dismiss premier batter Babar Azam.

"It's very important to get help from the fielders. I think the boys were really good in the field. Some of the catches were wonderful today. It really feels great. They were awesome," Hasan



told reporters after the day's play.

On a rare day where Tigers practically grabbed everything that came their way, Liton took a regulation catch to send back Pakistan skipper Shan Masood, while Mehedi Hasan Miraz remained alert late in the day, taking another catch to get rid of Saim Ayub.

As expected by the green tinge on the surface, pacers were able to get purchase off the wicket. Hasan and his pace partner Shoriful Islam scalped two wickets each, three with the new ball, and looked far more threatening than the six overs of spin bowled by Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan. Hasan, however, said that the wicket did not entirely behave as expected.

"We've been practising here. The wicket was very green and I thought there was going to be pace and bounce but after the rain came it got a bit tacky and slow," Hasan said.

All sports associations dissolved

SPORTS REPORTER

The Youth and Sports Ministry yesterday dissolved all executive committees of divisional, district and upazila sports associations as well as divisional, district and upazila women's sports associations.

"In a bid to keeping activities of all sports associations fair, active, and seamless, all divisional sports associations, divisional women's sports associations, district sports associations, district women's sports associations, upazila sports associations and upazila women's sports associations have been dissolved under the existing law of the government's delegated power," read a circular from the youth and sports ministry.

The authorities concerned [divisional commissioners, district collectors and upazila nirbahi officers] have been asked to form ad-hoc committees comprising of respectable and acceptable sports-loving and sports-related people and send the list of those committees to the National Sports Council for final approval.



England pacer Chris Woakes celebrates taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews as the hosts assumed control on the opening day of the first Test in Manchester yesterday. Woakes claimed three wickets, helping England reduce Sri Lanka to 178 for eight at tea.

PHOTO: REUTERS

এমআইএস, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
 স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

মেধা মেধা মেধা

বৈষম্য বিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলনের সময়
 আহত/ নিহত ব্যক্তির তথ্য এবং সুচিকিৎসার
 জন্য স্বাস্থ্য বাতায়ন- ১৬২৬৩ এবং স্বাস্থ্য
 অধিদপ্তর কেন্দ্রীয় রুম- ০১৭৫৯১১৪৪৮৮,
 ০১৭৬৯৯৫৪১৯২ নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন

এমআইএস, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

Synesis IT

BSRM
Building a safer nation

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**YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS**

SHAH CEMENT

BANGLADESH'S
NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

Students force DU dean to quit

DUTA writes to law adviser describing 'scary situation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dean of Dhaka University was forced to resign yesterday in the wake of a student protest.

Different groups of students have been pressing for removal of several other teachers from their administrative and academic roles alleging that they sided with the ousted Awami League government, and failed to provide security to the students during the recent quota reform protest.

Prof AKM Mahub Hasan, dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences, resigned yesterday.

Zeenat Huda, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), yesterday wrote to the Law Affairs Adviser Asif Nazrul expressing concern over such incidents.

According to witnesses, around 60 students of the Faculty of Biological Sciences gathered in front of the faculty building around 11:00am demanding Mahub's resignation.

Around 12:30pm, they moved to the Teacher's Quarter building in Fuller Road area where Mahub resides.

The protesters went inside the apartment complex. A few of them went to Mahub's apartment and pushed and banged the door. The teacher was not in his apartment at that time.

After learning about the protest, Mahub got an office staffer to print a resignation letter from the faculty office

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Rickshaw pullers block a part of the road with their vehicles in the capital's Kakrail area yesterday during a demonstration demanding battery-run rickshaws be barred from operating on the city's main thoroughfares. They said they were losing significant income since August 6 when the battery-run rickshaws started plying the streets.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BNP's ties with China to deepen further

Says Fakhru after talks with Chinese ambassador

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the party's relationship with China would deepen further in the coming days.

"Our relationship with China will grow stronger, and it will advance in the future based on mutual assurance, trust, and confidence," he said after a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen at the BNP Chairperson's office in Gulshan.

The meeting between BNP leaders and Chinese representatives was held for the first time in nearly 10 years, according to the sources at BNP.

Fakhru along with four other BNP leaders took

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Govt should ensure national reconciliation

Macron writes to Yunus; Abbas seeks Dhaka's continuous support for Palestinians

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

French President Emmanuel Macron has said the interim government led by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has an important task of preparing the ground for democratic elections and return to calm and national reconciliation.

"As Bangladesh now enters a period of transition, the interim government you lead will have the important task of preparing the ground for democratic elections and ensuring that a return to calm and national reconciliation can be achieved," he said in a letter to Yunus on Monday.



Macron

Abbas

The French president said he particularly hopes that the joint work of Bangladesh and France aiming at continuously strengthening the bilateral relationship can continue, on essential subjects such as respect for human rights and minorities, adaptation to climate change, and the fight against poverty.

Greeting Yunus, he said he looks forward to working with the chief adviser in meeting the challenges ahead.

In another letter to Prof Yunus, Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas sought the interim government's continued support for the Palestinians until they achieve

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Over Tk 1cr found in raid on office of Hamid Group

Ex-state minister Nasrul's family owns the business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of law enforcement agencies and army raided the office of Hamid Group in Banani early yesterday and recovered Tk 1.05 crore and a pistol.

The drive began at the office in the 13-storey Priyo Prangan Tower on Road-17 around 2:00am ended around noon, police said.

Staffers said four floors of the building are used as the office of Hamid Real Estate Construction Ltd.

The business and the building is owned by the family of former state minister for power, energy, and mineral resources Nasrul Hamid, sources said, adding that one of his brothers look after the business.

"A total of Tk 1.05 crore,

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Nasrul Hamid

Constitutional changes required to prevent return of autocracy

Say student protest organisers at Star roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Changes in political culture and the constitution are obligatory for building an inclusive and better Bangladesh, said students, who led the mass upsurge.

Nine organisers of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement of different campuses also emphasised equal rights for all citizens, and the need for ensuring political parties are more tolerant and that they practice democratic norms within the party.

They joined a roundtable discussion titled "Vision of the Youth" organised by The Daily Star at its office yesterday.

Most of them want an end to the culture of sycophant students' and teachers' politics but were for students' union elections.

Masud Rana, an organiser from Rajshahi University, said the Awami League government's main fault was suppression of dissenting voices. "If the opposition is strong in a state, the government can also be strong. It is necessary for ensuring transparency and checks and balances," he said.

He said the AL had become family-centric. "It should not be the culture of any other party. All parties should practice democratic norms," he added.

Nazifa Jannat of East West University said the opposition parties were not able to engage people in their earlier movements.

She said the opposition parties never tried to raise public issues, including the protection of their rights. Rather, the parties only tried to obtain power.

"They are only the other side of the coin. We did not oust one regime to replace it with another," she said.

Silencing dissent main reason behind AL regime's fall

Opposition parties failed to address public issues

Proportional representation is parliament proposed

Parties must practice democratic norms themselves

Arif Sohel, one of the coordinators and a student of Jahangirnagar University, said, "We made our slogans for the movement based on the proclamation of our independence - equality, human dignity, and social justice. We hope to build the country based on these values."

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

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3 more cases filed with ICT against Hasina

She also faces 10 fresh cases over killings during protests

STAR REPORT

Three more complaints were filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday accusing former prime minister Sheikh Hasina of committing crimes against humanity and genocide between July 15 and August 5.

Besides, 10 more cases including nine for murders were filed against Hasina.

The former PM now faces 44 cases, including 35 for murders, seven for crimes against humanity and genocide, one for abduction and one for an attack on a BNP procession.

Two lawyers filed three complaints with the ICT on behalf of the fathers of three students killed during the student protests that led a mass uprising which ousted the Awami League-led government on August 5.

"We registered the complaints, and thus the investigation of all cases have started," Ataur Rahman, deputy director (admin) of the investigation agency, told The Daily Star.

Supreme Court lawyer Hujjatul Islam Khan filed a complaint on behalf of Zakir Hossain, father of Faisal Ahmed Shanta, who was killed on July 16 in the Muradpur area of Panchlaish, Chattogram.

The complaint said the killers acted on the directive of the accused.

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Pacers shine but Pakistan recover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pacers Shoriful Islam and Hasan Mahmud gave Bangladesh a bright start on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan before the hosts recovered from an early batting collapse at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Undoubtedly, Shoriful and Mahmud stole the limelight, picking up two wickets apiece. However, fifties from Saim Ayub (56) and Saud Shakeel (57 not out) enabled Pakistan to reach 158 for four in 41 overs at stumps.

The day's proceedings saw a delayed start due to overnight rain and a wet outfield, leading to the toss taking place at 2:00 pm local time. After Najmul Hossain Shanto elected to field first with a three-pronged pace attack, the decision paid dividends, aided by some fantastic fielding efforts.

Mahmud gave SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam celebrates after having key Pakistan batter Babar Azam nick one back to the wicketkeeper as the Tigers took charge of the first session with three quick wickets on the rain-interrupted opening day of the first Test in Rawalpindi yesterday. Pakistan, however, recovered through a 98-run stand between Saim Ayub and Saud Shakeel before the former departed late on the day with the hosts reaching 158 for four at stumps.

PHOTO: AFP

Blinken leaves ME without Gaza truce

Warns Israel, Hamas 'time is of essence'; 50 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

Top US diplomat Antony Blinken headed home yesterday after failing to secure a Gaza ceasefire, warning both Israel and Hamas his plan may be the last chance to avert a broader war.

The US secretary of state appealed to Hamas to urgently accept a US-backed truce proposal, while also entering into a public spat with Israel over its future presence in the Gaza Strip.

"Time is of the essence," Blinken said after stops in key Arab mediators Qatar and Egypt as well as Israel on his ninth tour of the region aiming to halt the more than 10-month offensive.

"With every passing day, more bad things can happen to more good people who don't deserve it," he said before flying out of Doha.

"This needs to get done, and it needs to get done in the days ahead, and we will do everything possible to get it across the finish line," he said of the truce proposal.

The United States has presented ideas to bridge gaps and, through Qatar and Egypt, pressed Hamas to return to talks this week in Cairo.

But a day after Blinken said US ally Israel was on board, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was quoted by Israeli media as disagreeing on a key sticking point.

Netanyahu insisted Israel maintain control of the Philadelphi Corridor, the border between Gaza and Egypt that Israeli forces seized from Hamas, whom Israel says relies on secret tunnels to bring in weapons.