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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

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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.



Nasrul Hamid

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,

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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."

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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.