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# A new reality for Hasina in India

PARTHA PRATHI BHATTACHARJEE  
and ZYMA ISLAM

After the interim government revoked all diplomatic passports yesterday, questions have now arisen as to how long Sheikh Hasina can stay in India and whether she faces a possible extradition.

Hasina, the former prime minister of Bangladesh, fled to India after being forced to resign in the face of a student-led mass uprising on August 5.

According to the Indian visa policy, Bangladeshi citizens holding diplomatic or official passports are eligible for visa-free entry and a stay of up to 45 days.

As of yesterday, Hasina has already spent 18 days in India.

She does not hold any passport other than the diplomatic passport issued in her name, according to government sources.

The cancellation of her diplomatic

passport and its associated visa privileges may put her at risk of extradition.

The extradition of Hasina, who is facing 51 cases, including 42 for murder, falls within the legal framework of the extradition treaty signed between Bangladesh and India.

**TREATY AND POLITICAL REALITY**

According to the treaty signed in 2013 and amended in 2016, "extradition may be refused if the offence for which it is requested is an offence of a political character."

It also says that certain offences — like murder — "shall not be regarded as offences of a political character" for the purposes of the treaty.

However, one of the grounds for refusal of extradition is if the charges being pressed have not been "made in good faith, in the interest of justice".

A former Indian High Commissioner

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Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel pump fists during their 240-run fifth-wicket partnership, which helped the hosts post a formidable total of 448 for six before declaring the first innings against Bangladesh in the first Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh, in reply, were 27 for no loss at the end of second day's play. Story on Page 11.

PHOTO: AFP

## Menon arrested in Gulshan

He is facing several cases over killings during protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party and key leader of the Awami League-led 14-Party Alliance, was arrested in Dhaka yesterday while facing charges related to deaths during the recent uprising.

Menon, a former MP who had also served in ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's cabinet, was picked up from his home in Gulshan around 5:15pm, one of his relatives told The Daily Star.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police also confirmed Menon's arrest in a message in the evening, saying he was shown arrested in a case filed on Wednesday at New Market Police Station. The charges in the case are related to murder

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## CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS Salman F Rahman, 3 ex-ministers, MP to face ACC probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday decided to launch investigations into graft allegations against Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and four others.

The four others are Md Shahab Uddin, former forest and environment minister; Nasrul Hamid, ex-state minister for power and energy; Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for posts, telecommunications, and information technology; and ex-Awami League MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon.

"Whoever is corrupt, be it a politician or a government official, we will take action... If the allegations are proved, action will be taken," ACC Secretary Khorshedha Yasmeen told reporters at her office yesterday.

Salman F Rahman, also the vice-chairman of Beximco Group, is accused of stock market fraud and embezzlement of thousands of crores of taka from shareholders through deception, according to a complaint.

He misused his influence to obtain around Tk 36,000 crore in loans from public and private banks, embezzled funds, and laundered thousands of crores of taka abroad, said the complaint.

The investigation will begin today, ACC sources said. Shahab Uddin, forest and environment minister 2019-2024, is accused of misusing his power to acquire illegal wealth.

The documents said in "SUFAL" project, a five-year project involving Tk 1,502 crore financed by the World Bank, he and his son took 10 percent commission from contractors and embezzled



Salman F Rahman

Nasrul Hamid

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## RECENT VIOLENCE UN team arrives in Dhaka

Holds talks on scope of probe with foreign secy

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

On the first day of a weeklong visit to Bangladesh, a three-member UN delegation held discussions yesterday regarding the scope of the investigation into the human rights violations that took place in the country from July 1 to August 15.

Led by Rory Mungoven, chief of the Asia Pacific region at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning and met Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

The team, staying in Dhaka until August 29 for initial discussions, will also meet the advisers to the ministries of home, law, environment, information and communication technology and religious

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## Truce hopes fade as Gaza fighting rages

Israeli tanks push deeper into enclave; 22 more Palestinians killed in strikes

AGENCIES

Hopes were dwindling yesterday for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, where fighting raged despite pressure from the United States on Israel and Hamas to reach an agreement.

Israeli forces pressed deeper into areas of the central and southern enclave and battled with Hamas fighters, as Palestinian health officials said that Israeli strikes had killed at least 22 people across the enclave.

The new escalation comes hours after US President Joe Biden pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the urgency of sealing a deal for a truce in Gaza and the release of hostages, the White House said.

Months of on-off talks on a ceasefire have circled the same issues, but Israel and Hamas have stuck firmly to their demands.

In the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, a strike on a house killed 11 people, while another killed six, including a local journalist, in a house in Al-Maghazi camp in the central Gaza Strip, medics said. Five others were killed in separate strikes in the south.

The Israeli military said its forces had intensified their operations in Deir Al-Balah, in central Gaza, and Khan Younis, in the south, dismantling dozens of military structures, locating rockets, and killing Hamas fighters, over the past 24 hours.

- » Biden presses Netanyahu for a truce
- » New mass exodus in Gaza's Deir el-Balah
- » Death toll in enclave rises to 40,265

## SAGAR RUNI CASE Editors' Council demands swift trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday demanded a swift trial in the Sagar Runi murder case to ensure justice.

A statement signed by the council's President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud called for the immediate filing of the charge sheet to expedite the charge framing in the case.

According to the statement, on February 11, 2012, the journalist couple — Sagar Sarwar, news editor of Mochrang Television, and Meherun Runi, ATN Bangla's senior reporter — were murdered in their rented house in the capital's West Rajabazar.

The court has so far extended the time to submit the investigation report of this case 111 times, noted the Editors' Council in the statement.

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## ENERGY SECTOR Govt to scrap provision for fixing prices sans hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisers to the interim government yesterday decided that prices of electricity, gas, and fuel will no longer be increased or decreased without public hearings.

In their third meeting, the advisers decided to repeal Clause 34 (ka) of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Act-2003.

The clause introduced last year allowed the government to set energy prices in special circumstances, bypassing the regulatory body and public input.

Under this provision, the previous government fixed energy prices multiple times without holding public hearings.

The decision was made to promote public engagement in the matter, according to a press release.



A female Baya weaver, locally known as Babui pakhi, inspecting a nest weaved by a male in the port city. Considered artisans of nature, these weaverbirds are found in grasslands, cultivated areas and scrubs across the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. Baya weavers are best known for their intricately constructed hanging nests woven from leaves, which are found mostly on thorny trees or palm fronds near or over waterbodies where predators cannot reach them. These nests are pieces of art and engineering and built by the males to woo female mates. The males spend days collecting grass and twigs and weave the nests one grass blade at a time. Once built, they wait for the female suitors to inspect their work and choose. Sometimes, if two females choose the same nest and male, they fight among themselves to establish their place. When a female chooses a nest and male, the couple then join hands to further build the nest and raise a family. After they birth their chicks and lead them into adulthood, they abandon the nest and start all over again.

PHOTO: MONJUR MORSHED

## Stop teachers' harassment Samajik Protirodh Committee urges govt, civil society, parents of students to take note

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 66 women's, human rights, and development organisations, yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of harassment and insults of teachers, including female teachers, by some students at different educational institutions.

The committee in a statement urged the government, civil society and guardians to pay special attention to the matter on priority basis.

It also urged the students to refrain from such "uncourteous and audacious" activities.

On behalf of the committee, Fauzia Moslem sent the statement to the media. The committee said it has been observed that students are forcing headmasters, principals or vice chancellors of educational institutions to resign.

The students are not even refraining from assaulting them physically and the female teachers are not being spared from such harassments, reads the statement.

In some cases, students were being used to pursue personal vengeance. The committee said it is ashamed, sad and worried about such incidents.

"Such incidents are not acceptable at all. Such incidents will create anarchy in the overall education system and teaching process, and will ultimately weaken the education system," said the statement.

Such indiscipline is the testament to social degradation and a lack of human values, the committee said.

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