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Row among trustees spells trouble for NSU

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The country's first private university, North South University, is in trouble over running its operations due to a conflict among the trustees.

The problem emerged as the trustee board members, who were part of the board before its reconstitution in August 2022, held a meeting on the campus on Wednesday.

Among them, five then trustees — Azim Uddin Ahmed, Mohammed Shajahan, Benajir Ahmed, MA Kashem and Rehana Rahman — were facing a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over irregularities worth Tk 304 crore involving land purchase and other matters.

Two members of the previous trustee board confirmed this newspaper that they held the meeting on the campus, with Azim Uddin in the chair.

A source who attended the meeting said the trustees decided to make decisions that would benefit the university, taking into account the opinions from students and teachers.

Aziz Al Kaiser, a member of the previous trustee board, said they secured a High Court stay order on a government decision that reconstituted the NSU trustee board in August 2022.

"The High Court order means the previous trustee board has been revived," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked about the ACC case against the five former trustees, Kaiser said the case was "politically motivated" and the allegations were "baseless".

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam plays a shot down the leg side during the first session of Day 3 of the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi yesterday. The left-handed batter fell seven runs short of a century as he was castled by Pakistan pacer Mohammad Ali.

Shadman makes statement on return

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Left-handed batter Shadman Islam can claim himself lucky to be part of the opening Test against Pakistan as he hasn't been the first-choice opener of the Bangladesh Test team in recent years.

Regular opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy sustained a Grade I adductor strain in the right groin while playing for Bangladesh 'A' in the opening four-day match against Pakistan Shaheens, and that saw Shadman start the first of the two-Test series against Pakistan in Rawalpindi.

However, when he finally got an opportunity to showcase his merit, Shadman made it count. He might have missed out on a well deserved ton but managed to strike a resilient 93 off 183 balls, helping the visitors reach

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Civic platform launched to protect rights, free speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform named Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee (Democratic Rights Committee) was launched yesterday with the aim to resist any actions that infringe on democratic rights and freedom of expression.

The committee comprises more than 100 people, including teachers, students, writers, journalists, artists, lawyers, doctors, and others from different professions.

Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury was made the convener of the committee, formed at a meeting at the Dhaka University's TSC Cafeteria last night, according to a press release signed by DU Sociology teacher Samina Luthfa.

Samina is also a joint convener of the platform.

"The committee will work on ensuring the democratic rights and freedom of expression of all citizens in the hills and plains, abolishing the repressive and anti-people laws, ensuring

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STUDENT PROTESTS Hasina, Rehana, S Alam sued over worker's killing

The tycoon's two sons, Shakib Al Hasan also made accused

STAR REPORT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam have been accused in a case over the death of a garment factory worker in Dhaka during the recent uprising.

Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana, cricketer and ex-MP Shakib Al Hasan, Saiful's sons Ahsanul Alam and Ashraf Alam, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former state minister for information Mohammad A Arafat, and former Dhaka South mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh were also named in the case.

Victim Md Rubel's father Rafiqul Islam filed the case at Adabor Police Station on Thursday, Inspector (Investigation) Mintu Chandra Banik told The Daily Star yesterday.

Other accused include AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, JaSad President Hasanul Haq Inu, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Tarikat Federation President Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandary, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua, and Jatiya Party (JP) President Anwar Hossain Manju.

The former and current police officers named in the case include ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, ex-RAB DG Haroon-ur-Rashid, former DMP chief Habibur Rahman and former DB chief Harunur Rashid. About 500 more unidentified people were also accused in the case.

According to the case documents, Rubel was shot on direct and indirect orders from the accused when he took part in a procession on Ring Road on August 5. He

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Freeze bank accounts of Papon, family

BFIU directs banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) on Thursday instructed all banks to freeze accounts of former president of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Nazmul Hasan Papon and his family members.

The anti-money laundering agency directed banks to suspend transactions of all personal and privately-owned institutional accounts of Papon and his family members for a period of 30 days, BFIU officials said.

The BFIU also sought an update of the accounts within five working days since the issuance of the letter.

Nazmul Hassan Papon resigned from his role of Bangladesh Cricket Board president during the board of directors' emergency meeting at the Ministry of Youth and Sports on Wednesday.



Israeli negotiators in Cairo for Gaza talks

Hamas slams Netanyahu's 'refusal' to reach final truce deal; 18 more Palestinians killed in strikes

AGENCIES

Israeli negotiators were in Cairo yesterday for talks on a Gaza truce, a spokesman said, but a dispute over the presence of Israeli troops on Gaza's southern border remained among sticking points.

Mossad spy agency chief David Barnea and Ronen Bar, head of the Shin Bet domestic security service,

were in the Egyptian capital and "negotiating to advance a hostage (release) agreement", Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman Omer Dostri told AFP.

Egypt with fellow mediators Qatar and the United States are trying to reach a deal that would end more than 10 months of offensive in the enclave.

A Hamas official yesterday accused Israel's prime minister of refusing to agree to a final truce accord for Gaza. But Hamas representatives were not taking part and an official from the movement, Hossam Badran, told AFP that Netanyahu's insistence that troops remain on the Philadelphi

border strip reflects "his refusal to reach a final agreement".

Witnesses yesterday reported combat in the Gaza Strip's north, heavy shelling in the centre, and tank fire in the far south near Rafah city. Israeli attacks have killed 18 Palestinians since yesterday morning in Gaza, as it continues to expand its ground operation in Khan Younis and Deir el-Balah.

Israel's military campaign has killed 40,283 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

The United Nations said tens of thousands of civilians have been on the move again this week from Deir el-Balah and the southern city of Khan Yunis after Israeli military evacuation orders, which precede military operations.

The offensive has displaced about 90 percent of Gaza's population, often multiple times, leaving them deprived of shelter, clean water and other essentials as disease spreads, the UN said.

- » Disputes over presence of Israeli troops linger
- » Thousands fleeing parts of southern Gaza: UN
- » Death toll in enclave rises to 40,283

CPJ worried over arrest of journo couple Rupa, Shakil

UNB, Dhaka

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has expressed concern over the arrests of journalist couple Shakil Ahmed, former head of news at Ekattor Television, and its former principal correspondent Farzana Rupa.

"We urge authorities to respect the reporters' procedural rights, ensure their safety, and drop any investigation brought in retaliation for their journalistic work," it posted on X yesterday.

The journalist couple was arrested by immigration police at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Wednesday while attempting to leave for France. They were subsequently handed over to the detective branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Later, a Dhaka court yesterday granted a four-day remand for them in connection with the murder of government employee Md Fazlul Karim.



Palestinians stand on the balcony of a damaged flat in the vicinity of a building which was levelled by Israeli bombing in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE Harris accepts Democratic nomination

REUTERS, Chicago

US Vice President Kamala Harris sealed the Democratic presidential nomination with a muscular speech, laying down broad foreign policy principles and sharp contrasts with Republican rival Donald Trump with 11 weeks left in the race for the White House.

On the final night of the four-day Democratic National Convention (DNC), Harris, 59, promised to be a "realistic," "practical" president for all Americans, as she battles Trump, 78, in a razor-close campaign.

"In the enduring struggle between democracy and tyranny, I know where I stand and I know where the United States belongs," she said on Thursday night, accusing Trump of bowing down to dictators. She promised to back Nato, Ukraine and "stand up to Putin's aggression," a reference to Russia's president.

After days of protests from Palestinian supporters who were disappointed at not getting a speaking spot at the convention, Harris delivered a pledge to secure Israel, bring the hostages home from Gaza and end the offensive in the Palestinian enclave.

"Now is the time to get a hostage deal and a ceasefire deal done," she said to cheers. "And let me be clear, I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself."

She said she wanted to end the offensive in a way that provides for Israel security and allows the Palestinian people to realise their right to self-determination.

