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Now Social Islami Bank freed from S Alam Group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Islami Bank, S Alam Group's control over Social Islami Bank ended yesterday after the Bangladesh Bank decided to dissolve the board of the Shariah-based bank that was heavily dominated by individuals linked to the conglomerate.



The central bank dissolved the previous 11-member board, whose chairman Belal Ahmed is the son-in-law of S Alam Group chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam. Five more relatives of Alam including his sister Badrun Nessa Alam and nephew Mahmudul Alam were on the board of SIBL.

The Bangladesh Bank also constituted a five-member board including Rezaul Haque, a sponsor director of the bank.

The other directors are Maqsuma Begum, former BB executive director; M Sadiqul Islam, professor at the department of finance at the University of Dhaka; Md Morshed Alam Khandakar, former deputy managing director of Rupali Bank; and Md Anwar Hossain, a chartered accountant.

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Marking seven years since the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown in Rakhine state, leading to a mass exodus of the Rohingya people to Bangladesh, the refugees yesterday held a rally at a camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Hasina made accused in 12 more cases

10 filed over killings during protests, 1 over ex-BDR official's death

STAR REPORT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was accused in 12 more cases filed in Dhaka and elsewhere yesterday.

Ten of these cases were filed over killings that took place during the recent student protest.

Besides, a case was filed over the death of a former official of the then Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in 2010 while the father of a victim of enforced disappearance filed an abduction case.

Hasina is now facing 61 cases, including 51 for murder, seven for crimes against humanity and genocide, and two for abduction.

Former Awami League ministers Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Anisul Haq, and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun are among the accused in the cases.

Hasina, former army chief Aziz Ahmed, and 11 others were sued yesterday over the death of Abdur Rahim, the former deputy

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Janmashtami today

BSS, Dhaka

Janmashtami, one of the major festivals of the Hindu community commemorating the birth of Lord Sri Krishna, will be celebrated nationwide today with due religious fervour and gaiety.

According to Hindu mythology, Lord Vishnu incarnated in this world as Sri Krishna in the prison of Raja Kansa on this day – the eighth day of the dark fortnight in the Bangla month of Bhadra. Lord Vishnu has taken on mortal form through the ages to protect the good and pious from malevolent forces by establishing truth, justice, and beauty in society.

Sri Krishna's birth is usually observed on the eighth day (ashtami) of the Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) in the month of Shraban or Bhadra.

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ROHINGYA REFUGEES UN calls for stepping up funding

Urges donors to do more, says Bangladeshis can't be left to shoulder the crisis alone

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has called for sustained commitment from international partners to support the protection of nearly one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and to help secure solutions for a lasting end to their plight.

The call came as the world observed Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day yesterday, seven years after about 750,000 members of Rohingya ethnic minority group fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State and took shelter in Bangladesh.

The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR in a statement yesterday said the international community supported Bangladesh in ensuring protection and basic needs, but in recent months security issues and funding uncertainties undermined all but the most critical and life-saving assistance.

It urged donors and private actors to step up their funding to the Rohingya response, mentioning that humanitarian agencies have appealed for \$852 million to assist 1.35 million people, including Rohingya refugees and hosting Bangladeshi communities, in 2024.

"The Rohingya people deserve our best, as do the generous people of Bangladesh who cannot be left to shoulder this crisis alone."

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131 officials promoted to addl secys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The public administration ministry has promoted 131 joint secretaries to additional secretaries.

The ministry issued a gazette yesterday saying that the officers promoted to the post of additional secretary can directly join at the ministry or send their joining letter by e-mail (sal@mopa.gov.bd). The gazette was signed by Deputy Secretary Alamgir Kabir.

The notification stated that if any allegation is raised against any of the promoted additional secretaries in future, the government reserved the right to amend or cancel this order.

The interim government has so far promoted 223 officers from deputy secretary to joint secretary in two phases as the promoted officials claimed that most of them were deprived of promotions during the rule of Awami League.

On August 5, Sheikh Hasina resigned from the post of prime minister and fled to India following a massive uprising.

Fears of all-out ME war grow

Israel, Hezbollah in Lebanon trade missiles across border

AGENCIES

Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel early yesterday, as Israel's military said it struck Lebanon with around 100 jets to thwart a bigger attack, in one of the biggest clashes in more than 10 months of border warfare.

Missiles were visible curling up through the dawn sky, dark vapour trails behind them, as an air raid siren sounded in Israel and a distant blast lit the horizon, while smoke rose over houses in Khiam in southern Lebanon.

The extent of damage was not immediately clear and Hezbollah indicated it was not planning further strikes yet, while Israel's foreign minister said the country did not seek a full-scale war.

Lebanon's health ministry said three people were killed in the Israeli raids in the country's south. One Israel navy soldier was killed and two wounded during combat in northern Israel, the Israeli military said.

Any major escalation in the fighting, which began in parallel with the offensive in Gaza, risks morphing into a regional conflagration drawing in Hezbollah's backer Iran and Israel's main ally the United States.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that the strikes in

Lebanon were "not the final word" in his country's military campaign against Hezbollah.

Yesterday's strikes came as negotiators were meeting in Cairo in a last-ditch effort to conclude a halt to the fighting in Gaza.

- Hezbollah attacks follow murder of its commander
- Netanyahu warns strikes in Lebanon 'not the final word'
- Egypt hosting talks aimed at brokering Gaza truce

The Iran-backed Lebanese group said it had fired 320 Katyusha rockets towards Israel and hit 11 military targets in what it called the first phase of its retaliation for Israel's assassination of Fuad Shukur, a senior commander, last month.

Israel's military said it had foiled a much larger attack with pre-emptive airstrikes after assessing that Hezbollah was preparing to launch the barrage, using 100 jets to strike more than 40 Hezbollah launch sites in southern Lebanon, reports Reuters.

Hasina urges all to stand by flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged countrymen to stand by the flood-affected people.

She also called upon leaders, activists, supporters of her party and its front and associate organisations, and people of all sociocultural backgrounds and professions to unite and support the flood victims.

Expressing concerns over the recent floods, Hasina said that the flood has suddenly taken a serious turn in some south-eastern districts of the country.

Hasina, the immediate-past prime minister of the country who resigned and fled to India in the face of a student-led mass uprising, said she had directed all to prepare in early July to tackle a severe flood.

"Earlier, we successfully helped the flood victims and handled the post-flood situation as leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies came forward."



Ex-minister Dastagir Gazi, Golap arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Textile and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi and Awami League Central Publicity and Publications Secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap were arrested in Dhaka yesterday.

Police arrested Golam Dastagir from a house in Pirergoli area of Shantinagar in the capital around 3:00am, said Mollah Mohammad Khalid Hussain, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station.

Golam Dastagir was kept at the DB office as the Paltan Police Station remains badly damaged after it was vandalised during the recent violence, the OC said. "A group of people besieged the house after knowing his location there. On information, police rushed there and arrested him," he added.

He is accused in a case filed in Narayanganj, the OC added.

Gazi Group Chairman, Golam Dastagir Gazi, an industrialist turned politician, was elected from Narayanganj-1 for four consecutive terms.

For his contributions in the Liberation

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A Palestinian patient is assisted to flee Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital after the Israeli army ordered the evacuation of nearby areas in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Interim govt to be given reasonable, not unlimited time

Fakhrul says about holding election

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The BNP wants to give the interim government reasonable but specific time to hold an acceptable election by reforming all the institutions, the party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

He made the remarks at a discussion with journalists organised by district and city units of BNP at a conference hall in Sylhet.

"The interim government headed by Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus is leading the country towards stability. While the country is turning around, Sheikh Hasina, residing in India, is plotting a deep conspiracy. But the conspiracy will not succeed," Fakhrul said.



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