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Travel ban on Asaduzzaman, nine others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban on 10 people, including former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan over corruption allegations brought against them.

Asaduzzaman's wife Lutful Tahmina Khan, son Shafi Midassir Khan and daughter Safia Tasnim Khan are also among the 10.

The others included joint secretary of home ministry Dhananjay Kumar Das, former additional secretary Md Harun-or-Rashid Biswas, its public relations officer Sharif Mahmud Apu, administrative officer Mollah Ibrahim Hossain, home minister's assistant personal secretary Monir Hossain and the ministry's former deputy inspector general of police Mollah Nazrul Islam.

Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court

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Workers sit idle beside a filling station in the Matsya Bhaban area of the capital yesterday, with no vehicles in sight due to the unavailability of fuel. Despite pump operators claiming they sold out all their stock, vehicle drivers alleged that a syndicate of pump owners has halted sales in response to the government's reduction in fuel prices. The reduced prices are Tk 105.50 per litre for diesel and Tk 125 per litre for octane for the month of September.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Yunus to sit with all secys on Sept 4

To discuss how to bring stability, say sources

BAHRAM KHAN

Prof Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government, will meet with all government secretaries on Wednesday at 11:00am. The meeting will take place at the Chief Adviser's Office, inside sources told this newspaper.

There are 55 ministries and divisions in the government.

A letter was sent to all ministries and divisions yesterday regarding this meeting. It is the first meeting of the chief adviser with all secretaries since the formation of the interim government on August 8.

Before this, the chief adviser had a meeting with the secretaries of 25 ministries on August 12.

Such meetings typically discuss the country's general situation and key government agendas, but sources say there is specific agenda for the upcoming meeting due to the unique nature of the current government.

Sources at the secretariat associated with the meeting told The Daily Star that the central government administration and field administration did not work in harmony after the current government took over.

After the fall of the government led by Sheikh Hasina, government institutions in various parts of the country, including the district and upazila levels, have been subjected to unprecedented attacks.

In the meeting with secretaries, the chief adviser may seek advice on how to bring the administrative work across the country back to normal as soon as possible.

At the same time, Prof Yunus will directly give instructions to the secretaries regarding what his

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PILING UP BODIES ON VAN
Police form probe committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police have constituted a four-member probe committee to investigate the incident in Ashulia, where officers were seen in a viral video piling bodies onto a van.

The committee, led by Additional SP Sajadur Rahman, has been directed to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a report as soon as possible, Dhaka District Superintendent of Police Ahmad Mueed said during a press briefing after inspecting Ashulia Police Station yesterday.

"The viral video has come to our attention, and we are taking the necessary actions from our end," SP Mueed said.

"We have identified those involved and those present at the scene, but we are not disclosing names yet as it pertains to our next steps. This information will be made public soon."

He added that while the video has been viewed, physical evidence has not yet been obtained. "We are still working on these aspects. A missing person's report was filed yesterday, and we are addressing this as well, hoping for a satisfactory result."

In response to whether any police officers involved would face charges, SP Mueed said, "Anyone involved,

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POWER SECTOR
Form commission to probe graft: CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh yesterday called for the formation of an independent commission to investigate corruption, irregularities, and the plundering of wealth by the previous Awami League government in the country's power and energy sector.

At a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Prof M Shamsul Alam, CAB's energy adviser, presented an 11-point reform proposal aimed at making the power and energy sector more consumer friendly within the next three years.

He said implementing these proposals could eliminate irregularities, corruption, and predatory costs in the sector.

The key proposals include: freezing fuel and power prices for the next three years; establishing an Energy Sector Reform Commission; appointing experienced, neutral, and honest officials to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission through a search committee; removing cadre officers from the managing bodies of energy-related companies; replacing top officials in power sector companies; involving all stakeholders directly in the reform process; limiting the ministry's role to policy regulation; revoking the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010; setting fuel prices under BERC; ensuring government companies provide services without profit motives; and identifying and prosecuting corrupt officials.

Alam criticised the previous government for turning the energy sector into an oligarchy. "The government will need at least two to three years to complete the reforms in this sector. We are also

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HC rejects writ petition seeking ban on AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that sought its order to ban Awami League as a political party and cancel its registration for the indiscriminate killings of students and other people during the anti-government protests in July and early August.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahbub Ul Islam passed the rejection order, saying the petition is not acceptable as Awami League has not been made any party in the petition.

The court said the individuals who committed the offences will be tried and punished under the law, but a political party cannot be tried.

The interim government has already taken steps to bring the laundered money back to the country and there is no need to pass an order on this issue, the HC bench said.

Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan,

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BANGABANDHU'S FAMILY
High Court wants to know about state expenditure on them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a report on expenditure of the state for all the benefits and properties enjoyed by the family members of father of the nation.

The government has to submit the report before the court in 30 days.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government why they should not be directed to recover the benefits and facilities already enjoyed by the family-members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahbub-Ul Islam issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and Assistant Secretary General of Human Rights Support Society Mohammad Moniruzzaman on August 25, seeking necessary directives.

In the petition, he also challenged the legality of the Protection of Family Members of the Father of the Nation Act 2009 and the Special Security Forces Act 2021.

The two laws are contradictory to the

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