



## Labour unrest intensifies

Around 200 factories shut; govt warns of stern action against anarchists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government warned of tough steps against anarchy as around 200 factories suspended production yesterday amid labour unrest in Gazipur, Savar and Ashulia.

Local government ministry Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday said most of those causing the unrest are outsiders.

"We have not forgotten that a government does not use force against the citizens. But in the given situation, stern action has to be taken against certain people in order to save factories, workers and the economy. We discussed it," he said after an emergency meeting.

Five other advisers, top police and intelligence officers attended the meeting at the home ministry yesterday, the fifth consecutive day of labour unrest.

Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said at least 167 factories remained shut in Ashulia, Zirabo, Savar, and Gazipur.

Besides, over a dozen pharmaceutical factories also remained closed.

According to the BGMEA, the factories would resume production today.

At least 50 factories were closed on Tuesday and 100 the day before.

Hundreds of workers and "outsiders" have been demonstrating since Saturday, demanding better pay and regularisation.

The unrest is mainly affecting the garment and pharmaceutical companies.

Yesterday, at least 60 factories closed in Ashulia, reports our Savar correspondent.

From 8:00am, workers of different factories at Baipail and Zirabo began marching and demonstrating.

By 11:30am, there were demonstrations at multiple places on Baipail-Abdullahpur road, causing long tailbacks.

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Vehicles in a long tailback on the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Wari. Buses stop on the flyover's exit ramps to pick up and drop off passengers, leading to gridlocks. Slow collection of tolls at the toll plazas also contributes to congestions. The photo was taken around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ONE MONTH INTO HASINA'S FALL

## Students to hold 'Shaheedi March' today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Discrimination Students Movement will take out "Shaheedi March" across the country today to mark the one month of the fall of the Hasina regime.

"We think it is time to remember those who lost their lives for the cause. That's why tomorrow, a month after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government [on August 5], we'll commemorate the martyrs with marches across the nation," said Sarjis Alam, one of the movement's coordinators, at TSC auditorium yesterday.

"I invite the families of every martyr to the march."

In Dhaka, the procession will begin at Raju Memorial Sculpture at 3:00pm and parade through Nilkhet, New Market, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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## How Hasina's playbook was undone

The ex-PM's edifice fell apart a month ago today amid a student-led mass uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In her final days, Sheikh Hasina desperately clung to power as if she had full legitimacy, unmindful of a big crack in her armour. Her edifice crumbled a month ago on August 5. She fled Bangladesh, ending her iron-fisted rule of 15 years and leaving behind a legacy that established brutal authority over almost everything. A generation, to say the least, will remember her as a byname for intolerance to dissent, destruction of democratic institutions, rigged elections and utmost savagery in

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## Many barely hanging on to life

Families losing hope; hospital bills pile up

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and AHMED DEEPTO

The sudden twitches of his left hand and his attempts to speak in too weak a voice are just about the only signs that 16-year-old Raiyan Ahmed is still alive.

Over the last one month, he has been losing strength gradually.

Raiyan was marching in a victory procession celebrating the Awami League government's fall on August 5 when he was shot in the head twice. One bullet went through his head and another is still lodged in his skull.

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Though floodwater receded from Kuthir Haat in Feni's Sonagazi upazila three to four days ago, the family of Nikhil Barua has not returned home as the house is badly damaged. The family is staying in an under construction building nearby. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Star INTERVIEW

## 'People's pent-up anger fuelled the movement'

It's been a month since the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government was overthrown by a student-people uprising. Noted economist Anu Muhammad discusses the movement, the regime's fall, and the interim government's tenure, tasks and challenges in an interview with The Daily Star's Sharif M Shafiq and Sadi Muhammad Alok.

DS: Why is the student-citizen movement that toppled the previous government important in history?

Anu Muhammad: The movement is significant because of its success in toppling the party that has done everything to perpetuate its power for 15 years. The failure of other political parties created helplessness among the people.

Corruption led to price rises while people's real income along with employment opportunities fell. Crores of dollars have been laundered. All these together created a suffocating situation and rage against the previous government. The movement reflected the accumulated anger of the people.



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## CEC, all four deputies likely to resign today

Announcement may come this noon, say EC officials

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and all four other election commissioners are likely to resign today.

Several top Election Commission officials yesterday said the CEC and his four deputies - Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan, Rashida Sultana, Md Alamgir and Anisur Rahman - may announce their resignations at a press conference at the EC secretariat at noon today.

Asked about it, Habibul yesterday afternoon told reporters, "I will hold a press conference on the matter tomorrow [today]."

A few minutes after the CEC's remark, the EC's public relations department informed the media that the commission will "exchange greetings" with the media SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



## সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

৫ আগস্ট, ২০২৪ তারিখে 'বৈষম্য বিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলন' এর নেতৃত্বে ছাত্র জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানে কর্তৃত্ববাদী সরকারের পতন হলে দেশে অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করে। গণঅভ্যুত্থান দমন করতে পতিত সরকার নিষ্ঠুর বল প্রয়োগ করলে বহু প্রাণহানি ও হতাহতের ঘটনা ঘটে। দীর্ঘদিনের দুঃশাসনে বহু মানুষ অপহরণ, গুম ও বিচার বহির্ভূত হত্যাকাণ্ডের মতো নানা নির্যাতনের শিকার হয়েছে। ফলে বিদায়ি সরকারের প্রতি জনমনে প্রচণ্ড ক্ষোভ বিরাজমান। অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকার এসব নিপীড়নের বিচার করতে বদ্ধপরিকর।

উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, সরকার যখন বিচারের সুস্পষ্ট অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে জাতিসংঘকে সত্য অনুসন্ধান আহ্বান জানিয়েছে এবং বিচার প্রক্রিয়া শুরু করেছে, ঠিক সেই সময়ে কিছু অতিউৎসাহী এবং স্বার্থান্বেষী মহল আইন নিজের হাতে তুলে নেবার এবং বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিবাদের নামে প্রতিষ্ঠান ঘেরাও, জোরপূর্বক পদত্যাগ, ভাঙচুর, অগ্নিসংযোগ, বেআইনি তল্লাশি, লুটপাট, চাঁদাবাজি, টেন্ডারবাজি, ঢালাওভাবে মামলা গ্রহণে পুলিশের উপর চাপ প্রয়োগ, আদালতে আসামিকে আক্রমণ করে অস্থিতিশীলতা সৃষ্টির চেষ্টা করছে। এ প্রসঙ্গে সরকার সকলকে আশ্বস্ত করতে চায় যে, মামলা হওয়া মানেই যত্রতত্র গ্রেফতার নয়। এ সকল মামলার ক্ষেত্রে সঠিকভাবে যাচাই-বাছাই করে যথাযথ পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে স্পষ্ট করে জানিয়ে দেওয়া যাচ্ছে যে, জননিরাপত্তা বিঘ্নকারী এসব কার্যকলাপের বিরুদ্ধে উপযুক্ত আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। সরকার সকল দুষ্কৃতিকারীকে চিহ্নিত করে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে অচিরেই অভিযান চালাবে এবং দল-মত নির্বিশেষে আইনি ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে।

কারো বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ থাকলে উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তা এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তরে জানাতে হবে, কোনভাবেই কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠান ঘেরাও বা কোনো রকম সহিংস আচরণ করা যাবে না। সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে তল্লাশি ও মামলা গ্রহণে প্রচলিত আইন যথাযথভাবে মেনে চলা হবে এবং হয়রানিমূলক পদক্ষেপ দূর করার ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষায় সরকারকে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য সকলকে আন্তরিকভাবে আহ্বান জানানো যাচ্ছে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়

## Hasina made accused in 3 more cases

STAR REPORT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has been sued in three more cases over deaths in Dhaka and Narayanganj during the recent mass uprising.

She is now facing at least 95 cases, mostly for murders during the student-led protests that forced her to resign and flee the country on August 5. The other charges include crimes against humanity, genocide, attempted murder and abduction.

The Awami League chief and 26 others were sued over the death of Amir Hossain, a resident of West Rampura in Dhaka. His wife Anni filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Afnan Sumi who asked the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the incident and submit a report.

In her complaint, Anni alleged that her husband was shot dead in front of Bangladesh Television (BTV) Bhaban around 2:40pm on July 19 during the quota reform protests that culminated in the mass uprising.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader and several leaders and activists of the AL and its front organisations are among the accused in the case.

Another case was filed against Hasina, former law minister Shafige Ahmed, former attorney general AM Amin Uddin, Supreme Court lawyer Tania Amir and 293 others over the death of student Inran Hossain at Kutubkhali in the capital's Jatrabari on August 5.

Inran's mother Kohinur Akhter on Sunday filed the case at Jatrabari Police Station, a sub-inspector working at the court said yesterday.

Former deputy attorney general Motaheb Hossain Sazu, prosecutors of International Crimes Tribunal Muklesur Rahman Badal and Syed Haider Ali, former information adviser to the former prime minister Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of advisory council of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir, Ekattor TV CEO and Editor Mozammel Haque Babu and senior journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul are also among the accused.

In Narayanganj, another murder case was lodged at Siddhirganj Police Station, accusing Hasina and 129 others over the death of automobile mechanic Mostofa Kamal Razu, 36, who was shot dead in the Shimrail area during the quota reform movement on July 20.

His wife Aklima Akter filed the case on Tuesday night, our local correspondent reports.

## Students to hold

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Kalabagan, Dhanmondi, Manik Mia Avenue, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar, Bangla Motor, and Shahbagh before ending at the Central Shaheed Minar.

"We will not celebrate the victory until the human and constitutional rights are restored. We must uphold the spirit of the movement," said Sarjis.

He asked people to take part spontaneously and speak about the misrule of the last government and their desires from the interim government.

Meanwhile, student leaders warned that law enforcement agencies would deal with anyone involved in controversial activities, like extortion and torture.

"We urge the people to hand over anyone attempting to tarnish the spirit of the student movement," said Abu Baker Majumder, another coordinator.

He announced the formation of a fact-finding committee to identify those who opened fire on protesters during the uprising.

On forming their own political party, Abu Baker said they would travel across the country and listen to people's opinion on the matter.

Hasnat Abdullah, a key organiser of the movement, said, "They [the Awami League government] used every state machinery for Awami League's fascism. Over the last 15 years, they made the culture of labelling people 'Jamaat-Shibir' to silence the voices of dissent."

He said the AL made a "religion" and "portrayed Sheikh Mujib as a prophet".

Hasnat said the AL established a culture in which Sheikh Mujib was beyond criticism and the people and the media had to accept it.

He said the media was gagged or controlled by the government.

"A news that is liked by the government is not a news, rather it is merely a press release. We now request journalists to question the authorities."

He said, "Some people are now taking to the streets with various demands. Why did they not raise any question in the last 15 years? Now we have learnt to question the authorities and we have to keep this up."

Hasnat said the constitution of 1972 was not a national constitution, rather it was AL's constitution.

"We accepted it as the national constitution and through that the Awami League first sowed the seeds of fascism. We have to remain united, so that fascism never returns. Now that we are united, they are trying to create divisions."

"We need to set some principles and values to reorganise the state to make sure that fascism cannot return in any form. We expect a state where the people will not have to take to the streets to realise any demand."



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) walks with Brunei's Sultan Hassanali Bolkiah (L) and Brunei's Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah (C) after their meeting at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

## Labour unrest intensifies

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Industrial police, army and border guards were deployed in the area.

Workers blocked the Nabinagar-Chandra Highway at Palashbari around midday, the Dhaka Mymensingh Highway in Gazipur around 7:30am, and Bhogra bypass road around the same time.

Many factories were closed in Gazipur, police told our Gazipur correspondent.

GOVT TO GO TOUGH

"Who will benefit if the factories are destroyed? The workers are not creating chaos. Most of those who are doing this are outsiders," said Adviser Hassan.

Addressing the workers, he said, "You stop them. If you stop them, we will be by your side."

He then remarked that it was hard to tell the workers from the outsiders.

As a reporter asked what kind of steps would be taken, he said, "We will think more about it. They can be arrested or detained. If 50 people sit on the road, five lakh suffer. You have to use force to remove them."

The other advisers who attended the meeting are Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Choudhury of home ministry, Prof Asif Nazrul of law, Farida Akhter of fisheries and livestock, Adilur Rahman Khan of industries, and Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain of labour and employment.

Asif said both Awami League and BNP activists were behind the unrest in different places.

"Labour leaders told me that they visited the places and found that local homeless children, wearing helmets and shorts were hired for the different [protest] programmes," he said.

The Awami League supporters who used to control the business of leftover fabric were gone.

"I already said the government will take stern action against those trying to grab those businesses and committing crimes."

Asked who were trying to control

## Many barely hanging on to life

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Raiyan's family has been by his side round the clock. He attempts to tug at the tubes attached to his body in sudden fits, they say.

"He hardly recognises us," Raiyan's elder brother Ayman Ahmed told this newspaper. They have been with him for the last 18 days at Dhaka's National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital.

A student of Silam PL Multilateral High School in Sylhet, Raiyan was among a crowd standing in front of the South Shurma Police Station when the police opened fire.

After 12 days of treatment at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital, Raiyan's condition deteriorated and he was moved to Dhaka. But medical costs have become a major worry for the family of modest means.

Raiyan's father who works at a local bookshop can hardly afford the Tk 7,000 that they are spending for the treatment every day.

"We have already spent around Tk 2 lakh. We received financial assistance from a few organisations. But that was not much," said Ayman.

Further, the doctors are uncertain if, at all, and when they might be able to remove the lead slug from Raiyan's meninges, which are the several layers of membranes that protect the brain.

"We are losing hope. And it breaks our hearts," said the elder brother in a choking voice.

Raiyan is only one of about 17,000 people wounded, crippled and disabled during the protests. According to reports and estimates, including one by the health ministry, hundreds of protesters have lost the use of one eye or have become blind and hundreds more have had limbs amputated. Many others, like Ratul, are still undergoing treatment.

Not too far from Raiyan lies another young boy – Junaid Islam Ratul. He has been unconscious for 27 days. Struck with over 100 pellets in the chest and other parts of the body, the sixth grader from Bogura briefly gained his senses on September 4.

He asked his mother to take him home before slipping back. This student of PATH Public School was wounded when police opened fire on a crowd with their shotguns on August 5.

Ratul's elder brother Rahat holds up an X-ray showing the pellet wounds. "He used to dream of joining the army. I don't know if he will ever do that now," said Rahat.

Despite the futility of the question,

## How Hasina's playbook was undone

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Some cases. Sadly, her role in Bangladesh's economic prosperity for which she was feted globally will be a faded memory.

The month leading to Hasina's dramatic downfall was littered with death and destruction. Trigger-happy security forces, who were blamed for hundreds of deaths as the protests turned violent in mid-July, were out with full force. Videos of police shooting point-blank at nonviolent protesters emerged almost every day. Her brutal tactics led to an unprecedented bloodbath in any mass uprising in the region in memory.

Dystopian scenes vividly captured in photographs and videos by this newspaper as well as other media outlets will remain etched in our memory. Bangladesh became a symbol of nervous trauma. It was as if things were disintegrating from the centre. It also showed how peaceful protests lumbered into mindless mayhem. At one point, Hasina's government ordered a complete shutdown of the internet, the modern-day lifeline, knocking daily life out of balance, and taking Bangladesh back to the forgotten analogue age. That didn't quell the protests, started by university students but by now joined by people of every class and age groups, including women and children.

The government deployed platoons of paramilitary troops alongside the police to stem the ferocity of demonstrations with teargas shells, rubber bullets and gunfire. But the day wasn't saved as one act of vengeance spawned another round of violence. Hasina's party unleashed its youth wing on the streets to reclaim their turf. Bloodbath continued unchecked. The death toll climbed.

Hasina's government admitted, for the first time, that they were pushed to the wall, a comment that came with horrific finality. It was a precursor to something more ominous – curfew.

The deployment of the army on July 19, while it was undeniably necessary, tore the veil of stability that gave a fillip to the economy for more than a decade. The story of stability, sellable to foreign investors, lost much of its credibility. It also showed the government's struggle in its new term to hold things together as Bangladesh hurtled into an uncertain future.

DAYS OF UNYIELDING ANGER

Protests, anger and vengeance inhabited the period from July 16 to August 6. With the passing of each day, protests turned more violent and the mob burgeoned. In speed and scope, the violence went far beyond anything Hasina believed possible. Government establishments and vehicles were set on fire and two metro stations were vandalised in Mirpur. For their part, law enforcement agencies

unleashed aerial fury by raining down rubber bullets and teargas shells on protesters from the sky, a newfound tactic. Street vendors and pedestrians were unwitting victims of the government's vengeance.

Ambulances, their sirens on, ferried the injured to hospitals, stretching health services in Dhaka and beyond. According to an initial count by the United Nations, 650 people were killed in Bangladesh with nearly 400 deaths reported from July 16 to August 4, and a further 250 in the new wave of violence between August 5-6. The health adviser in the interim government later said the death toll could be as high as 1,000. The Daily Star has so far been able to confirm more than 550 deaths.

The weight of the dead was too heavy. Shortly before midday, on August 5, Hasina was seen hurrying into a waiting helicopter in a disgraceful exit from Bangladesh. Her departure, which came after she lost the army's support, sparked jubilation across the country. Millions of people descended on the streets to celebrate the fall of her government, a significant turning point in the nation's history, amid dramatic and sometimes chaotic events.

As the news of her exit spread, the day became more volatile. The entire nation was in flux. Thousands of people stormed Gono Bhaban, the prime minister's official residence, looting souvenirs, frolicking on the premises and grinning for selfies as they posed with the loot. People toppled a statue of independence leader and Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Arsonists set fire to the Bangabandhu Museum in Dhanmondi, in what the Crisis Group said was "an act of grotesque retribution". Reprisal attacks on Awami League leaders, sympathisers and religious minorities continued for the next few days.

It was almost unthinkable in January that Hasina's government would fall apart, just seven months into her fourth consecutive term, however deeply flawed the election may be. But support for the government was clearly waning. The largest opposition force, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, had boycotted the vote and turnout was conspicuously low. Global leaders were hesitant to congratulate Hasina on the win.

Hasina returned to power after winning the 2008 election in a landslide, but she seemed to have lost confidence along the way and rigged the subsequent three elections to hold on to power. And the regime became increasingly unaccountable for its wrongdoing. Internally, her overbearing presence hollowed out the party and other members lost their voices and roles. It morphed into a one-person party, and as such, a one-person government.

sculptures, statues, and memorials of liberation are not acceptable in any way. The government must clear its position on these matters. Holding free and fair polls will also be an important task of the government.

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The key point is – unlike 1969 and 1990, this movement had no political or specific leadership. Above all, Hasina's actions to suppress the movement led to the government's fall.

DS: You demanded the AL government's resignation on August 2 from the "Droho Jatra" march. Then came students' "one-point movement". How did the aspirations come together?

Anu Muhammad: There is no justification for the way Abu Sayed (slain Rangpur student leader) was shot. At one stage, when public university students could not tackle the situation, their private university peers joined in. Students from colleges and even schools joined the movement.

Around 200 people lost their lives at one point. In response, the general public joined the movement. Hasina called for talks all the while trying to suppress the movement by arresting its coordinators. That's why we organised the march. People were united in the collective demand for the government's resignation.

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement on August 3 announced the single-point demand for the government's resignation in a massive rally.

DS: How is the interim government functioning? What should be their main job?

Anu Muhammad: The government has several important jobs: firstly, publish the full list of those killed and injured; secondly, take full responsibility for the treatment of the injured and send them abroad if necessary; thirdly, take responsibility for the families of the deceased and critically injured who have lost the capability to earn.

Besides, incidents like the torture of teachers or the suffering of minorities must stop. Attacks on

should deal with it first. These cases won't last. For example, Shakib Al Hasan was sued for a murder that occurred when he was playing abroad, which is not credible. If these old habits don't change, the result will be the same.

So, the government must find a solution. It's right that a month is much less time, but not less to give instructions or directions.

DS: There is this idea of banning student politics in educational institutions. What's your take on it?

Anu Muhammad: Political party-led student organisations, especially those affiliated with the government, create problems in student politics. I don't see anything wrong with student politics. This time the student protesters claimed they were not associated with politics, but still they changed the regime. What can be healthier than such a form of student politics?

DS: There's a growing anti-India sentiment among the people. What should be the government's foreign policy?

Anu Muhammad: India had more influence on Bangladesh because of the AL and Hasina. The US, China and Japan also have influence here. It cannot be said that India will not dominate again because the BNP and the Jamaat have said they want to have good relations with India. Besides, no decision has been reached so far on cancelling the agreements with India, including transit and other controversial deals. The government should disclose the agreements with all the countries, including India.

DS: How long should this government stay?

Anu Muhammad: It depends on the speed of this government's work. A lot can be done with the concurrent energy of the revolution. It is possible to establish within six months a basis for some of the urgent tasks.

Anu Muhammad: We're talking about a discrimination-free Bangladesh which won't return to the previous system again. For this, political parties need major reforms. They should ensure democracy within themselves. Their activities should align with the people's interests. Without these, I have doubts if the parties will bring something new.

DS: What should be the new political settlement?

Anu Muhammad: The 1972 constitution had several contradictions and it needs some major changes. This government can't do it alone. It can set up a "constitution commission" with competent people and let the commission form public opinion with their recommendations. Later, it can be decided whether these changes should be made through the constituent assembly, constitutional amendments, or a referendum.

DS: The law and order situation is not stable and it is the same old picture with arrests and abrupt cases. Why are these things repeating?

Anu Muhammad: This is because of the law enforcement agencies' pattern of work. The government

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## Sarah Cooke meets Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke met BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and enquired about her health conditions yesterday night.

The meeting was held at the BNP chairperson's Firoza residence in the city's Gulshan area at 8:30pm, said BNP media cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan.

It was Khaleda's first meeting with any foreign envoy since 2018 following her acquittal from her convictions in graft cases.

Sarah Cooke met Khaleda ahead of her visit to the UK for better treatment, party sources said.

BNP standing committee member Prof Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, chief of her medical board Prof Shahabuddin Talukder, Dr FM Siddique, and member of the special assistant to BNP chairperson's Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee Tabitha Awal were present.

On July 8, Khaleda Zia, a former prime minister, was admitted to Evercare Hospital six days after she had been discharged from the same hospital with various ailments.

On August 24, she returned home after

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke at a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the latter's Gulshan residence yesterday night.

PHOTO: BSS

## 'Cancelling DAP will be catastrophic'

Say planners, urge for reforms if needed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Planners have warned that canceling or postponing the Detailed Area Plan (DAP) 2022 in response to pressure from a "vested group" would be catastrophic for Dhaka city.

Speaking at a press conference

yesterday, they acknowledged that while the DAP has its flaws, these can be reformed.

However, they criticised Rajuk's weak governance, which they believe is succumbing to pressure from vested interests, thereby threatening the goal of building a sustainable city.

No plan is without error, and Dhaka's DAP has both strengths and weaknesses. Correcting it is part of the planning process. However, vested interests are fighting desperately to scrap the existing DAP, and this cannot be allowed in the new Bangladesh,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## ACC seeks info on 38 Bangladesh embassy officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has requested information from 38 officials and employees from Bangladeshi embassies across 10 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, over allegations of corruption brought against them.

The allegations also include misuse of power, embezzlement, and causing financial losses to the government.

A letter was sent to the offices of embassies and high commissions from the ACC yesterday, according to an ACC official.

The letter mentioned that investigations are ongoing over the allegations of irregularities and corruption involving ambassadors, heads of chancery or chief consular officers, ministry secretaries, and other specific officials and employees working in Bangladeshi embassies or high commissions in the US, the UK, Canada, Saudi

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Think outside the box to bring reforms

Dr Yunus tells secretaries at meeting

BAHARAM KHAN

Chief Adviser Prof Mohammad Yunus has encouraged secretaries of all the ministries and divisions to think "outside the box" while bringing about reforms to the government's operations.

During a meeting with the secretaries yesterday, the chief adviser emphasised that the government is made up of all, and if the secretaries take positive initiatives, the country will progress smoothly.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Submit time-bound action plan
- Break away from rigid thinking
- Eradicate corruption
- Ensure optimal use of public funds
- Competition in govt procurement
- Address obstacles to ensuring transparency

"There is no need to work out of fear. This state belongs to all of us, and everyone must work with the utmost importance and responsibility," said Dr Yunus.

"The chief adviser primarily instructed us to think outside the box and to expedite the preparation of reform proposals without delay," said a secretary present at the meeting, preferring anonymity.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## A father's search for his son ends in tragic death

Man dies 9 days after being beaten in clash between Ansars, students

RAFIUL ISLAM

Hasan Ahmed Bishal last spoke to his father Shahin Hawlader over the phone on the night of August 25, when he and his fellow students were heading towards the Secretariat, which was surrounded by Ansar members.

Soon, a clash between the students and Ansar broke out, with some students trapped between the two groups.

Shahin, a driver of a rent-a-car service located near the Secretariat, must have known something was wrong.



He rushed to the Secretariat. As he scanned the crowd for any sign of Hasan, the unthinkable happened - apparently mistaken for a student, the father was brutally beaten by Ansar members, Hasan said.

For nine agonising days, Shahin fought for his life at the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He breathed his last around 7:00am yesterday.

"My father went to find me, but Ansar members beat him brutally," Hasan, who sat for the HSC exam from Kabi Nazrul Government College earlier this

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## SC upholds stay on NSU trustee board reconstitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order staying a government decision that had reconstituted the trustee board of North South University in 2022.

The apex court dismissed two petitions filed by the government and vice chancellor of NSU challenging the HC order.

Following two petitions filed by six former members of the trustee board, the HC on August 20 issued a stay order on the previous government's decision that had reconstituted the NSU's trustee board in 2022.

The petitioners challenged the legality of the decision.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## Closing of RAMU SUB-BRANCH

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The Daily Star  
**STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2**

**CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS / NOMINATIONS**

The Stellar Women initiative aims to recognise twelve (12) extraordinary women throughout the year (From September '24 to August '25) for playing a remarkable role in their distinguished fields. Their work must have made positive contributions towards the development of society & the nation.

Inviting nominations/ registrations in the following categories:

Writer	Entrepreneur	Interior & Landscaping Architect
(30 <sup>th</sup> September '24)	(31 <sup>st</sup> October '24)	(30 <sup>th</sup> November '24)

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## FLOOD RELIEF War Courses Foundation donates Tk 6.5 lakh

STAR REPORT

Members of the Bangladesh War Courses Foundation (BWC), comprising veterans of the 1971 Liberation War, have contributed Tk 6,52,000 towards relief efforts for flood-affected people in Bangladesh.

The veterans were joined by their children in this humanitarian endeavour, with additional funds expected to be raised in the coming days, according to a BWC press release.

The collected funds were formally handed over to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Logistics Area at Dhaka Cantonment on Monday by the president of the BWC, Col (ret'd) Aminul Islam, along with Maj Gen (ret'd) Jamil D Ahsan BP, the release said.

The Bangladesh Army has been supervising the relief operations in the country.

## ACC seeks info

FROM PAGE 3  
Arabia, China, Dubai, Italy, Switzerland, and the Philippines.

The letter requests that the current workplace, designation, permanent address, and current address of these officials be provided by September 10.

However, foreign

affairs adviser Md Touhid Hossain has stated that appropriate actions will be taken after confirming whether these allegations are related to corruption or audit objections. He made the remark yesterday in response to questions from journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## A father's search

FROM PAGE 3  
year, told The Daily Star.

"I want justice," he said. At least 40 people were injured in the clash at the Secretariat in Dhaka that night.

The incident took place when hundreds of students, many of them armed with sticks, marched towards the Secretariat, where several hundred Ansar members were holding protests blocking the entrance of the key government headquarters.

The students termed the Ansar members as "agents of autocracy."

Several conveners of the anti-discrimination student movement invited students to gather at the Raju Memorial Sculpture to march towards the

Secretariat.

Hasan said he was involved in the student protests since the beginning of the movement in early July and was doing relief work at the TSC that night when the call came to march to the Secretariat.

"As I headed towards the Secretariat with other students, I spoke to my father for the last time," he said.

"He was looking for me in front of the Secretariat. I was unaware that my father rushed there in search of me. After a long time, when I called my father's phone, a student received the phone and said Ansar members beat my father up. The student told me that my father was immediately admitted to DMCH."

Shahin was put on life support after surgery.

Hasan's friend Ramjan Hawlader said a video of Ansar members beating up a man went viral on social media following the clash and the victim in the video was Hasan's father.

Sub-inspector Sanaul Haque of Shahbagh Police Station said the body was handed over to the family without autopsy upon their request.

## Cancelling DAP

FROM PAGE 3

the planners said.

At a stakeholder meeting held at Rajuk on September 1, real estate and housing businessmen strongly demanded the cancellation of the DAP and the approval of building construction as per the Building Construction Rules of 2008.

"It is unfortunate," said Adil Mohammed Khan, president of the BIP.

"Dhaka has already lost much of its habitability. Canceling the current DAP and reverting to previous plans would destroy any chance of preventing further decline in the city's livability. A group of architects and engineers from Rajuk are also opposing the DAP, and it is crucial to investigate the involvement of vested interests behind this opposition," he added.

Planner Shahriar Amin said the nation's progress is reflected in its approach to planning.

He highlighted discrimination within government institutions, where the underrepresentation of planners hampers the effectiveness of plans.

Planner Salma A Shafi said uncontrolled construction is rampant in Dhaka. She underscored

the need for stringent land-use controls.

Sajid Iqbal, coordinator of Jahangirnagar University's anti-discrimination student movement, argued that the DAP itself reflects the broader issue of discrimination -- not just among people, but also towards cities and nature.

"Abolishing the DAP will not solve this disparity. Instead, we should begin by rescuing apartment buildings meant for low-income people from self-interested individuals and returning them to their intended beneficiaries," he suggested.

Yasir Amin, another coordinator at JU, said, "Whenever irregularities or problems arise in the city, unplanned urbanisation is blamed, but the real culprits are self-interested businessmen who obstruct planned urbanisation. People needs to be made aware of this."

He urged journalists to investigate why the DAP, created in 2016, has not been implemented even after eight years.

Additionally, he called for the government to publish the master plans for all regions of the country in the form of a gazette as soon as possible.

## 150 hurt as BU

FROM PAGE 5

College students attacked them and vandalised the bus, leaving 15-20 students and the bus driver injured.

BU students then responded by attacking the BM College campus with bricks and sticks, vandalising the administrative building, several hostels -- including Muslim Hall, Hindu Hall, Ashwini Kumar Hostel, and Banmali Ganguly female students' hostel -- and three buses.

The violence continued until around 4:00am, when police and army personnel intervened and brought the situation under control.

Prof Md Aminul Haque, principal of BM College, confirmed that

the attackers damaged the administrative building, hostels, some classrooms, and three buses.

By 6:00am, representatives from both BU and BM College, led by BU's acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Muhasinuddin, met to discuss the incident.

BU has agreed to compensate for the damages.

Shawkat Ali, divisional commissioner of Barishal, convened a meeting with law enforcement agencies and the heads of the two institutions in the afternoon.

Students of BM College also held a press conference, demanding justice and compensation for the damages sustained in the attack.

## Two ex-IGPs remanded

FROM PAGE 5

case on August 13 with court accusing former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six others. The court later asked the officer-in-charge of Mohamadpur Police Station to register it as a first information report.

Meanwhile, Shahidul was placed on a seven-day remand after he was produced before the court with a 10-day remand prayer in a case filed over the death of Abdul Wadud, 45, a trader in Dhaka's New Market area, on July 19.

Wadud's brother Abdur Rahman filed the case with New Market Police Station against Hasina and 129 others on August 21.

Earlier yesterday, police

arrested Mamun and Shahidul from Uttara area.

Both are accused in a number of cases, including those filed over murders.

In another development, Abdullah Kafi, an additional superintendent of police in Dhaka, was placed on an eight-day remand in a case filed with Hazaribagh Police Station over abduction of Arif Mynuddin, an engineer, in 2019.

## Sarah Cooke

FROM PAGE 3

receiving treatment at the hospital for 45 days.

A group of specialist doctors, led by Prof Shahabuddin Talukder, successfully installed a pacemaker in Khaleda Zia's chest on June 23.

Khaleda has long been battling various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and issues related to the kidney, lung, heart, and eyes.

Khaleda's doctors have been recommending sending her abroad since she was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in November 2021.

On October 26 last year, three US specialist doctors completed the hepatic procedure known as the transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS procedure) to stop water accretion in Khaleda Zia's stomach and chest, and bleeding in her liver.

She was placed in Old Dhaka Central Jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. On October 30, 2018, the High Court raised her punishment to 10 years. Later, she was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

## Think outside the box to bring

FROM PAGE 3

The first meeting with the secretaries was held at the chief adviser's office, where secretaries of all ministries, alongside secretaries from several constitutional and autonomous bodies, attended.

Sources said Prof Yunus expressed interest in holding such meetings with secretaries from time to time. The chief adviser office's press wing also issued a press release about the outcome of the meeting.

Prof Yunus said reforms need to be implemented at all government levels by moving away from conventional thinking, according to the press release.

"Identify the areas where reforms are needed and incorporate the aspirations of the July uprising into short, medium, and long-term reform plans," said the release, quoting the chief adviser.

It said the chief adviser issued a "marching order" to secretaries for adoption and implementation of reform programmes across all levels of government.

He emphasised bringing change in their mindsets and prioritising public interest through creative methods in government operations.

He also stressed the importance of conducting discussions and gathering opinions from relevant stakeholders when formulating reform programmes.

According to the press release, Yunus said, "We must build a

new Bangladesh with integrity, dedication, and accountability in our respective fields, inspired by the commitment to create an equitable and humane nation demonstrated by the July-August mass uprising."

"To build a new Bangladesh, we must break away from rigid thinking, reform our thoughts, and manage government activities with maximum consideration of public interest through creative approaches," he further said.

Regarding corruption, he urged, "We must eradicate corruption and achieve the highest level of public satisfaction by simplifying services."

Additionally, he emphasised the need to "ensure optimal use of public funds."

Yunus further stressed the need for ensuring proper competition in government procurement and addressing existing obstacles to transparency and accountability.

He instructed that each ministry and department submit a time-bound action plan for short, medium, and long-term reform programmes, which will be regularly evaluated.

The press release highlighted that there was significant global interest and positive perception of the new Bangladesh, born from the student and public uprising. It is crucial to leverage this global enthusiasm in the country's best interest.

Speaking about the meeting, a secretary told

The Daily Star, "We had a meeting with a person of great vision. He did not speak negatively about the administration at all. After the meeting, the secretaries realised that we, as top officials, also bear some responsibility for the current state of the country, and this cannot be denied."

A Cabinet Division official said, "Ministries and departments will submit their reform proposals to the Cabinet Division as soon as possible. Senior secretaries will review those before presenting them to the Advisory Council."

## SC upholds stay

FROM PAGE 3

The petitioners are Aziz Al Qaiser, Azim Uddin Ahmed, Benajir Ahmed, MA Kashem, Rehana Rahman and Mohammed Shahjahan.

Md Imam Hossain and Kazi Akhtar Hosain, the lawyers for the writ petitioners, on August told this correspondent that the HC order has revived the previous trustee board that included their clients as founders and life members.

The board led by the petitioners will operate following the HC order.

The Sheikh Hasina-led government reconstituted the NSU trustee board on August 16, 2022, after a University Grants Commission probe had "found involvement some of its members in anti-state activities, sponsorship of militancy, corruption and arbitrariness".

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**Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit the technical offer as per the mentioned bidding process.**



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Feni District Jail, Feni

[jailsuperfeni@yahoo.com](mailto:jailsuperfeni@yahoo.com)

Memo No. 58.04.1900.124.04.015.24.

Date: 04.09.2024

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing, closing date & time
1.	1009694	Supply of Unnotmanar Mashur Dal (Mota) for the period of September/2024 to March/2025	03 September/2024, 09:00, 17 September/2024, 12:00
2.	1009685	Supply of Unnotmanar Cholar Dal for the period of September/2024 to March/2025	03 September/2024, 09:00, 17 September/2024, 12:00
3.	1009681	Supply of Unnotmanar Mashur Dal (Sora) for the period of September/2024 to March/2025	04 September/2024, 13:00, 19 September/2024, 12:00
4.	1010077	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package No. 04 for the period of July, 2024 to December 2024	03 September/2024, 09:00, 17 September/2024, 12:00
5.	1010124	Procurement of Dietary Articles of Package No. 12 for the period of July, 2024 to December, 2024	03 September/2024, 09:00, 17 September/2024, 12:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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Reference No. : 28.16.9100.160.69.001.24

Dated: 03 September-2024

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID : 1010177 Package : e-GP-BCS-002 No Date of Publishing : 02/09/2024	Painting Works of 21 nos. DRS & CMS (Notunbazar, Nosratpur, Madhobpur, Moulvibazar, Vohobgonj bazar, Auskandi, Salamotpur, Hobigonj, Sunamgonj, Patibug, Kumna, KTL & Spur Line DRS, MSTE Metering Station, 150 MW, 20 MW, LSC, 330 MW, 70 MW, 90 MW CMS and Kumargaon Valve Station) Under Jalalabad Gas Franchise Area.	Last Selling : 17/09/2024, 14:00 Closing date : 17/09/2024, & time 15:00 Opening date: 17/09/2024, & time 15:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal/e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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General Manager (Operation Division)  
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GD-347



## Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC.

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Bank reserves the right not to purchase the item(s) from the lowest bidder and to accept or reject any or all of the tender(s) without assigning any reason. Bank also reserves the right to negotiate with all the participating vendors regarding price, warranty and specification of the item(s).

**Mahmudul Shamim Talukder**  
EVP & Head of Common Services Division (CSD)

[www.sjibld.com](http://www.sjibld.com)



## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

#### Time Extension of "Notice Inviting Bids" for Oil and Natural Gas Exploration Under Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round 2024

Notice Inviting Bids for Oil and Natural Gas Exploration Under Bangladesh Offshore Bidding Round 2024, published on 10th March 2024 in different National Daily Newspapers has been amended as follows:

Reference	Submission Date & Time as published on 10th March 2024	Amended Date & Time
BANGLADESH OFFSHORE BIDDING ROUND 2024	not later than 1:00pm BST on 09 September 2024	not later than 1:00pm BST on 09 December 2024

All other terms and conditions of the Bid Notice will remain unchanged.

04.09.2024

**Engr. Md. Rafiqul Islam**  
Director (Production Sharing Contract)  
Petrobangla  
Telephone: 88-02-55013610  
E-mail: [dpscpb@petrobangla.org.bd](mailto:dpscpb@petrobangla.org.bd)

GD-346

ILLEGAL ARMS Joint drives yielding positive results: IGP

STAR REPORT

The ongoing joint operation to recover illegal firearms which began on Tuesday has already shown positive results, said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md Mainul Islam yesterday.

The IGP mentioned that police are targeting three categories of firearms: those stolen or lost from the police, SSF, and other security forces; firearms with suspended licences; and illegal firearms.

"We have already recovered many arms, and several illegal firearms have been abandoned. We expect the drives will achieve the desired results," he told journalists at the secretariat.

Regarding firearms sold in the last 15 years, he noted that their licences have been suspended, and owners were instructed to submit them to local police stations by September 3.

"Any firearms not submitted by the deadline are now considered illegal," he added.

When asked about actions against individuals involved in crimes and corruption, the IGP confirmed that the drives have had success in this area as well.

"We have arrested two former police chiefs and even serving officers. The process will continue," he said.

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 5. Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha. AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-20 7-45. JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-25 8-15. SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



This student was among the 82 people who were hospitalised following a clash between students of Barishal University and BM College early yesterday. He was treated at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Inset, at least three buses of BM College were vandalised during the clash.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

150 hurt as BU, BM College students clash

82 admitted to Barishal hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Nearly 150 people were injured, and the administrative building and three buses of Brojomohun College in Barishal were vandalised after students from the college clashed with those from Barishal University early yesterday.

At least 82 students from both institutions were admitted to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital following the incident, said Dr Saiful Islam, Director of SBMCH.

Nurse Lincoln Dutta said 75 of those admitted were BU students, treated in the surgery unit on the hospital's fifth floor.

The clash, which occurred

between 1:00am and 4:00am, has left both campuses in a tense state.

Some BU students said the family of a fellow student had a longstanding land dispute with a neighbour.



Some students of BM College went to her house at the city's Baptist Mission Road around

11:00pm on Monday night to resolve the issue.

However, an altercation ensued and she went live on Facebook, asking her friends to intervene.

Some of her classmates went there and beat up the BM College students.

She also filed a general diary that night, accusing four individuals, according to Mostafizur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge of Barishal Kotwali Police Station.

The following night, BM College students attacked two BU students in Battala area.

In retaliation, about 40-50 BU students arrived on the campus at 1:00am on a bus. However, BM

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Two ex-IGPs remanded in murder cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun and AKM Shahidul Hoque, both former inspectors general of police, on remand in two murder cases filed centring the quota reform protests.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Akteruzzaman passed the orders.

Mamun was placed on an eight-day remand after he was produced before the court at 7:10am with a 10-day remand prayer in a case filed over the death of Abu Saeed, a grocery shop owner in Mohammadpur, on July 19.

SM Ameer Hamza Shatil, a resident of Mohammadpur, filed the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

GENEVA CAMP Man shot dead in clash over drug trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was shot dead during a clash between rival groups over drug peddling in Dhaka's Mohammadpur Geneva Camp yesterday.

The deceased, Sonu, 32, was a rickshaw-puller, said his family. Locals, however, claimed he was involved in drug peddling.

A leader of the community said Sonu was part of one of four active drug gangs in the camp.

The clash, which occurred around 8:30am, left at least three people injured.

Sonu was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Inspector Md Faruk, in-charge of the DMCH Police Outpost.

KHULNA HOSPITAL 41 doctors declared 'unwanted', medical service disrupted

DIPANKAR ROY

Patients at Khulna Medical College Hospital have been suffering immensely, as around 50 doctors of the hospital's indoor and outdoor departments remained absent yesterday.

They did not join their duties after some students of the medical college, alongside some pro-BNP doctors of the hospital, declared some 41 doctors, including the director and deputy director of KMCH, as persona non grata.

Amid the sudden doctor shortage, hundreds of patients from outdoor department had to leave without receiving treatment, while many patients admitted to the hospital were also suffering.

"A section of medical students, led by Dr Mustafa Kamal, assistant professor of Cardiology Department, besieged the office of Dr Aktaruzzaman, acting deputy director of KMCH, and forced him to resign on Tuesday. They also declared 41 doctors unwanted in the hospital," said Dr Suman Roy, residential medical officer of KMCH.



As such, around 50 doctors, including those who were threatened, opted not to join the duty yesterday over security concerns, he added.

Visiting the hospital around noon, 20 doctors were found absent in the outdoor department, and 21 others, including registrar, assistant registrar, and consultants, were absent in indoor departments.

Many patients were seen buying tickets for outdoor consultations and waiting for long hours before leaving the hospital premises without receiving treatment.

According to KMCH, around 1,200 to 1,500 outdoor patients come every day while some 200 patients get admitted.

The correspondent could not reach Dr Mustafa Kamal for comment.

Contacted, Dr Goutam Kumar Pal, director of KMCH, said he did not go to the hospital as the working environment was not conducive, adding that higher authorities have been informed about the situation.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ. অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়. ৭ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন. সিলেট. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM). আরক নং-এপিবি(৭)/কিউএম-২০২৪/৮৭৬৭. তারিখ- ০৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রি।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ. পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়. ঝিনাইদহ. www.jhenaidah.police.gov.bd. আরক নং-পুজোঝিনাই/০৯৪০/ই. তারিখ ০৫/০৯/২০২৪খ্রি। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# 'FORGET ME NOT' is personal for me

## YASH ROHAN

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

From portraying the student leader Sagor in *Obujh Pakhi* to playing Fahim in *Forget Me Not*, Yash Rohan is establishing himself as a versatile actor in dramas and on OTT platforms through his diverse character choices.

As Bangladesh attempts to reform after a mass uprising—where students played a pivotal role in toppling a fascist regime that sought to silence the nation—dramas are highlighting the significance of the student movement. Coincidentally, Yash Rohan's recent roles involve characters deeply engaged in this movement. While Rubel Hasan's *Obujh Pakhi* continues to attract millions of views on YouTube, fans eagerly await Yash's performance in Robiul Alam Robi's *Forget Me Not*, slated for release today on OTT platform Chorki.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the talented actor discussed these two projects and shared why these characters hold a special place in his heart.

Playing Sagor was a significant challenge for Yash, as it was a role unlike any he had taken on before. "Initially, I was hesitant because it was completely outside my usual genre. However, stepping out of our comfort zone and succeeding in new roles makes us better actors. I was concerned about whether I could pull it off and how the audience would react, but I gave it my all and left the rest up to them," said Yash.

Recently, Chorki released the trailer for *Forget Me Not*, featuring Yash Rohan and Mehababien Chowdhury. The trailer introduces Fahim, a young man involved in the student movement,

who ultimately takes his own life, leaving his girlfriend grappling with understanding the reasons behind his depression as the story unfolds. Reflecting on his joining

the project, Yash mentioned a scheduling conflict with another commitment. "I told Robi bhai not to tell me the story because if I ended up loving it, I would be heartbroken if I couldn't work on it. But fortunately, everything worked out, and I was able to be part of this amazing project," Yash shared.

*Forget Me Not* is especially close to his heart because it addresses the issue of mental health—an experience almost everyone faces but rarely discusses. "When I heard the story, I immediately connected with the character. Although I haven't experienced exactly what Fahim went through, I've faced similar struggles, particularly with mental health. I wanted to play this role to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, which is often overlooked in our country compared to physical health. I loved working on *Forget Me Not* and am excited about it. I hope people will appreciate the project," Yash said.

This project marks the third



"Playing Sagor was a significant challenge for Yash, as it was a role unlike any he had taken on before. 'Initially, I was hesitant because it was completely outside my usual genre.'"

collaboration between Yash and Mehababien. Yash expressed his admiration for her, saying, "I'm a big fan of Mehababien apu and have great respect for her. Unfortunately, when I started working regularly, she had reduced her workload, so we didn't get many opportunities to work together. I really enjoyed this project with her."

When asked about the current trend of dramas focusing on student movements, Yash offered his thoughts, "I believe our dramas should explore a wide range of topics—whether it's student politics, protests, natural disasters, love, or family dynamics. While it's important to highlight student movements, I think directors should also focus on a variety of genres to offer audiences, especially unique stories on youth, and diversity."

## Sabrina Carpenter's 'Short n' Sweet' tops Billboard 200 chart



*Short n' Sweet*, the latest studio album by former Disney Channel star Sabrina Carpenter, has made an incredible debut at no 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, with all of its 12 tracks also landing on the Billboard Hot 100.

This sixth studio album of hers achieved impressive sales of 362,000 units in the United States, as reported by tracking service Luminate. This marks the third-highest opening week of the year, behind only Taylor Swift and Beyoncé.

Carpenter is now the second artist ever to have her first three top-five hits simultaneously, with three tracks from her album—*Taste*, *Please Please Please*, and *Espresso*—all ranking high on the chart.

## Sunerah Binte Kamal to return with new drama

Sunerah Binte Kamal is all set to return to screen with a new television drama. The actress first broke through with the film *No Dorai* and later starred in the movie *Antarjal*.

Under the direction of Ragib Raihan, Sunerah has resumed her acting career after a hiatus of over a year and a half, participating in the filming of an as-yet-untitled project, alongside her co-star Irfan Sajjad.

Sunerah spoke to the media about the drama and stated, "I took on this drama to get back into acting and gain new experience. My friend and co-star, Irfan Sajjad, encouraged me to join the project."



# NEWS

## Top criminal Sweden Aslam released

FROM PAGE 12  
He served his time in some cases and had got bail in others.

The last case in which he needed bail was filed over the murder of Tejaon Jubo League leader Galib on March 23, 1997.

Although the police filed a charge sheet on April 8, 1998, the trial has been slow, with only 14 of the 24 witnesses testifying so far. Aslam was released from jail after getting bail in this case.

Aslam, son of the late Sheikh Jinnat Ali, hailed from the Chatiar area of Nawabganj in Dhaka. He lived with his family on Indira Road in Dhaka and passed SSC from Tejaon Polytechnic School (now Tejaon Government School).

Sources in Karwan Bazar said Aslam became notorious around 1986, initially dominating the Rajabazar and Indira Road areas. He gained

infamy in 1987 after allegedly killing teenager Shakil in front of his mother at Nazneen School in East Rajabazar.

During that time, Rana Group of the Jatiya Torun Party controlled Karwan Bazar area and one of the members of the group was Pichchi Hannan, the sources said.

The turf war between Rana Group Aslam's group intensified in early 1990s. Aslam eventually managed to bring Pichchi Hannan over to his side. In 1996, Aslam allegedly had Rana killed by Hannan in front of Superstar Hotel in Farmgate and cemented his control over Karwan Bazar and surrounding areas, the sources said.

Despite his imprisonment following the murder of Galib, Aslam continued to exert control over his empire.

Hannan and his gang collected toll from traders in Karwan Bazar and the Tejaon Industrial Area on Aslam's behalf, sources claimed, adding that

Aslam got his cut even though he was in prison.

Prison sources say that the authorities recovered two mobile phones from his cell, which he had used for communicating with his cohorts and threatening witnesses and those who sued him.

Because of this, he had to be transferred from one prison to another several times.

In early naughties, Pichchi Hannan gained notoriety on his own and began distancing his gang from Aslam.

Pichchi Hannan was killed in a "crossfire" with Rab in 2004.

Sources said Aslam could have sought bail earlier, but he did not, fearing he would be killed in so-called crossfire.

The nickname "Sweden" was added to Aslam's name as he was married to a Swedish expatriate. Although they separated, the moniker stuck.

## 17,000 cases of casualties found so far

FROM PAGE 12  
It has been over three weeks since the committee was formed. While the list has yet to be finalised, the committee says that a first draft will be ready by next week.

"Collecting data from private hospitals is challenging as they don't strictly preserve data like government hospitals do. In some cases, victims' family members hid registry entries out of fear," said Muhammad Humayun Kabir, former senior secretary of the health service division, also head of the committee.

Besides, in some cases, the register books of the private hospitals had only

the names and ages for which it was difficult to trace the victims, he added.

"There were also cases where a good number of casualties were admitted to the hospitals as unnamed," Kabir said.

"We are still receiving information about those who were admitted with injuries and are dying while undergoing treatment," he said.

Kabir went on to say that the process was being delayed due to private hospitals providing information at a slow pace.

As of yesterday, there were no accurate government or private data on how many people were injured or killed in the student-led mass movement.

Meanwhile, the High Commissioner

for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the United Nations Office in its report titled "Preliminary Analysis of Recent Protests and Unrest in Bangladesh" said more than 600 people were killed between July 16 and August 11.

"In the last 15 working days, we have been working to verify these cases with the help of coordinators of the anti-discrimination student movement," Kabir said.

Speaking on the matter, Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Dhaka University's Institute of Health Economics said the sooner the list is completed, the quicker the government can begin assisting the victims.

## Preliminary proof of graft found

FROM PAGE 12  
about corruption by Aziz Ahmed. As this information has been found to be true, the commission has decided to launch an investigation."

According to ACC sources, Aziz purchased houses and flats in different areas, invested Tk 100 crore in building luxurious bungalows, bought a house in the capital's Mirpur DOHS and built another one named "Aziz Residence" on Road-6 of Nikunja-1 through abusing power.

There are allegations against him of owning illegal assets abroad,

including properties and businesses in Malaysia, Singapore, and Dubai of the UAE, which he bought after laundering money.

In another development, the ACC has decided to investigate corruption allegations against former Feni-2 Awami League lawmaker Nizam Uddin Hazari. He is accused of owning assets worth crores of taka. He purchased those properties under his name and those of his wife and family members, said sources.

The ACC has found information about his huge illegal assets at home and abroad.

NO EX-MP SHOWED UP AT ACC

The graft watchdog on Tuesday issued summonses to several former AL MPs to appear before it yesterday to face interrogation about corruption allegations, but none of them showed up.

The lawmakers include former Jatiya Sangsad chief whip Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury, ex-state minister for law Qamrul Islam, former state minister of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Kujendra Lal Tripura, Ziaur Rahman (Chapainawabganj-2) and Qashim Uddin Ahmed (Mymensingh-11).

## Biman gets new MD

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being just five months.

Rahman's predecessor Zahidul Islam Bhuiyan, who was an additional secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, was appointed in May.

Bhuiyan replaced Shafiul Azim, who was an additional secretary attached to the cabinet division.

During his 18-month tenure, Azim reopened and launched new route in different international destinations. But all of a sudden he was made the secretary to the Election Commission.

Azim was appointed the Biman MD in December 2022 after Zahid Hossain was sent to the ministry of primary and mass education.

Hossain, who lasted in the post

for five months, had replaced Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, an additional secretary at the cabinet Division dispatched to helm the flag carrier in September 2021.

Kamal was in the post for 17 months before he was made the director general of the social welfare department.

He replaced Md Mokabbir Hossain, an additional secretary of the civil aviation ministry, who was appointed in September 2019. He was in the post for 18 months.

But none of the past five Biman MDs met the requirements for the post as mentioned in the circular published in 2019 for recruiting the MD and CEO.

Candidates with 20 years' experience in the aviation sector, including 10 years in a senior management or directorial post, were asked to apply.

Rahman though meets the criteria. He started his career as a trainee commercial officer at Biman Bangladesh Airlines in 1986 and retired in 2017 as the director of sales and marketing. He served in important departments of Biman.

"Nowhere in the world would you find the topmost post of an airline given to such a person who does not have any background in aviation and business—this is only possible in Biman Bangladesh Airlines," said Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert.

## Freeze Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12  
to demonstrate its commitment to helping developing countries like Bangladesh recover stolen assets hoarded in the UK and ensure accountability for corrupt actors.

"By bolstering anti-corruption efforts at this crucial moment for Bangladesh, the UK could play a decisive role in ensuring the country achieve the secure democratic and inclusive future that the UK has promised to help it achieve."

Duncan Hames, director of policy at Transparency International UK, said, "We know that Bangladesh politicians with unexplained wealth and members of the business elite accused of wrongdoing have significant asset portfolios here in the UK and abroad."

Hames said the British government should now work closely with allies around the world and civil society within Bangladesh to introduce a "sanctions regime" which freezes the assets of these corrupt figures and their enablers, ensuring they do not enjoy their ill-gotten gains.

In the letter to the UK secretary of state, it was highlighted that the extensive corruption by beneficiaries of the ousted authoritarian government is being uncovered in Bangladesh, which is currently in transition, said the TIB press release.

The assets smuggled by these beneficiaries rightfully belong to the citizens of Bangladesh. In order

to contribute to the reforming of a "New Bangladesh", it is essential to promptly locate and retrieve these concealed assets from different countries across the globe.

This will help improve transparency, accountability, democracy, and inclusivity in the country. The letter seeks cooperation from the UK secretary of state to support this effort, said the release.

The letter urges the UK government to promptly address three crucial matters, in line with their commitment to support the interim government of Bangladesh.

The five anti-corruption organisations (TI-UK, the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition, the International Lawyers Project, Spotlight on Corruption, and TIB) request that the UK's National Crime Agency proactively investigate whether money laundered by Bangladeshi individuals or companies is present in the UK.

They urged the agency to take all necessary measures, including freezing these assets, as an initial step towards repatriating the funds to Bangladesh, and sought the UK government's assistance in reforming key Bangladeshi institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Department, National Board of Revenue, Office of the Attorney General, and law enforcement agencies.

## Xi hosts two dozen African leaders

AFP, Beijing

Chinese leader Xi Jinping will host over two dozen African leaders at a lavish dinner in Beijing yesterday, kicking off the city's biggest summit in years with promises of cooperation in infrastructure, energy and education.

China, the world's number two economy, is Africa's largest trading partner and has sought to tap continent's vast troves of natural resources including copper, gold, lithium and rare earth minerals.

It has also furnished African countries with billions in loans that have helped build much-needed infrastructure but also sometimes stoked controversy by saddling governments with huge debts.

Twenty-five African leaders have arrived in Beijing or confirmed attendance at this week's China-Africa forum, according to an AFP tally, including some whose countries face a rising risk of debt distress.

The forum will kick off Wednesday evening with a family photo and a lavish dinner in the Great Hall of the People—followed by an opening ceremony at which Xi will deliver a speech the next day.



An injured resident follows emergency workers carrying the body of his daughter, who was killed together with her two sisters and their mother during a Russian missile and drone strike on a residential building in Lviv, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump has 'surprise' plan to end Ukraine war

AFP, Washington

Donald Trump said Tuesday he has plans that are "guaranteed" to end the deadly war in Ukraine, but will only reveal them if he wins the US presidential election in November.

The former US president and current Republican nominee is locked in a neck-and-neck race with his Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris.

"If I win, as president elect, I'll have a deal made, guaranteed. That's a war that shouldn't have happened," Trump said on the Lex Fridman podcast released Tuesday.

"I have a very exacting plan how to stop Ukraine and Russia. And I have a certain idea -- maybe not a plan, but an idea -- for China," he added.

"But I can't give you those plans, because if I give you those plans, I'm not going to be able to use them, they'll be very unsuccessful. You know, part of it's surprise, right?"

The comments echo the move by Trump loyalists in Congress earlier this year, when they tanked a bipartisan immigration plan reportedly because they did not want the Biden-Harris administration to earn credit on one of the 2024 election's biggest issues.

## Deadly strike hits Lviv as Zelensky reshuffles govt

FM among other ministers resigns ahead of tough months

AFP, Lviv

Russia struck the city of Lviv in western Ukraine yesterday, killing seven people and damaging historical buildings in a rare attack hundreds of kilometres from the frontline.

The strike came as several Ukrainian ministers, including top diplomat Dmytro Kuleba, offered their resignations, part of a major reshuffle President Volodymyr Zelensky said would bring "new energy" to the government.

Russia has stepped up its aerial attacks on Ukraine since Kyiv launched an unprecedented cross-border offensive into Russia's Kursk region last month.

"In total, seven people died in Lviv, including three children. The search and rescue operation is ongoing," Interior Minister Igor Klymenko wrote on Telegram.

The missile attack also wounded 40 people, damaging schools and medical facilities as well as buildings in Lviv's historic centre, according to the office of Ukraine's prosecutor general.

The western city near the Polish border is home to a UNESCO world heritage site that covers its old town. It has been largely spared the intense strikes that have rocked cities further east.

But at least seven "architectural objects of local importance were damaged" in yesterday's barrage, regional head Maksym Kozysky said.

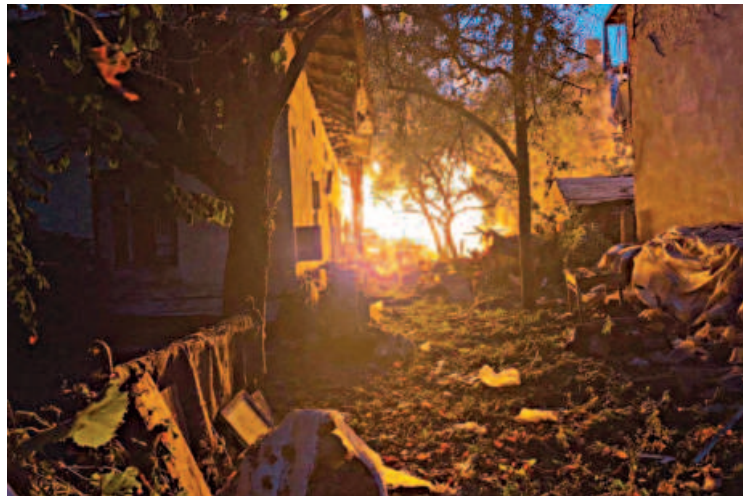
The assault on Lviv, which is sheltering thousands displaced

by over two years of war, came a day after a Russian strike on the central city of Poltava killed 53 people, one of the deadliest single strikes of the invasion.

"I heard terrible inhuman screams saying 'Save us,'" said

missiles and 29 drones launched at the war-torn country, the air force said. The air force said it downed seven missiles and 22 drones.

Russia also said it was pressing on with its offensive in the country's east, claiming the



Yelyzaveta, a 27-year-old resident of Lviv who rushed to shelter in her basement.

Others like Anastasia Grynko, an internally displaced person from Dnipro, did not have time to reach a shelter.

"The rocket hit our house. Everything was blown away. At the time of the explosion, I was somehow miraculously in the corridor, so I was not badly hurt," she said.

The attack on Lviv was part of a wider barrage on Ukraine, with 13

capture of the village of Karlivka, the latest in a string of territorial gains.

Ukraine yesterday was also in the midst of a major government reshuffle, as Zelensky seeks to boost confidence in the government two and a half years into Russia's invasion.

Ukraine's wartime Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba submitted his resignation on Wednesday, a day after six other officials including cabinet ministers said they were stepping down.

## Time for a Gaza ceasefire deal: US

US brings 'terrorism' charges against Hamas leaders

AFP, Jerusalem

The United States yesterday said it was time to "finalise" a deal between Israel and Hamas to end the Gaza war, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's refusal to bow to pressure.

Washington would work "over the coming days" with fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar "to push for a final agreement," said US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller.

He was speaking after Netanyahu rejected "concessions" in indirect negotiations with Hamas, despite growing domestic and international pressure following the recovery by Israel's military of six killed hostages from the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

"It is time to finalise that deal," Miller said. The United States on Tuesday unsealed a raft of "terrorism" and other charges against six Hamas leaders related to the group's October 7 attack on Israel.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk called for an "independent, impartial and transparent investigation" into reports that the six captives recovered dead from Gaza had been summarily executed.

Despite increasing grief and fury among Israelis, who have taken to the streets to pressure the government and express concern for the fate of the hostages,

Netanyahu said he would "not give in to pressure".

The Israeli premier on Monday said "the achievement of the war's objectives" requires control of the Philadelphi Corridor along the Gaza-Egypt border, to stop Hamas from rearming.

Saudi Arabia backed Cairo and expressed its "strong condemnation and denunciation of the Israeli statements regarding the Philadelphi Corridor", in a foreign ministry statement.

Israeli forces have killed at least 30 Palestinians across the northern West Bank since August 28, the territory's health ministry says, while Israel's military reported one soldier killed in the "counter-terrorism" raids.

Israel's offensive in Gaza since October 7 has killed at least 40,861 people in Gaza, according to the territory's health ministry. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.

With Gaza in ruins and the majority of its 2.4 million residents forced to flee, often taking refuge in cramped and unsanitary conditions, disease has spread.

After the first confirmed polio case in 25 years, a vaccination drive began Sunday amid localised "humanitarian pauses" in the fighting.

## Boko Haram kills at least 81 in Nigeria

AFP, Kano

At least 81 people died and several were missing after an attack by suspected Boko Haram jihadists in Nigeria's northeastern Yobe State, local officials told AFP on Tuesday.

"Around 150 suspected Boko Haram terrorists armed with rifles and RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) attacked Mafa ward on more than 50 motorcycles around 1600 hours on Sunday," said Abdulkarim Dungus, a Yobe state police spokesman.

"They killed many people and burnt many shops and houses. We are yet to ascertain the actual number of those killed in the attack."

Dungus said it appeared to be a revenge attack "for the killing of two Boko Haram terrorists by vigilantes from the village."

Bulama Jalaluddeen, a local official, added: "From these figures it has been established that at least 81 people were killed in the attack."

"Fifteen bodies had already been buried by the time soldiers reached Mafa for the evacuation of the corpses."

Boko Haram and other jihadist groups have waged a 15-year insurgency in northeast Nigeria that has killed more than 40,000 people.

## Beware of beautiful foreign spies

China warns students



AFP, Beijing

China's state security agency yesterday warned students with access to sensitive information against falling for "handsome men" or "beautiful women" that might entice them to spy for foreign powers.

Beijing's Ministry of State Security (MSS) has promoted claims that foreign spies are working to lure loyal Chinese to betray their country -- often in lurid and unusual ways -- since opening a WeChat account last year.

It has warned that foreign spies "have countless disguises, and can even change their gender" and called on citizens to "build 1.4 billion lines of defence" against threats to the country.

And it accused on Wednesday foreign intelligence agencies of deploying "romance traps" to lure Chinese students.

It said foreign spies were using job ads and even online dating to "lure and coerce" young students, especially those with access to "sensitive scientific research data", to hand over confidential information.

"They may even disguise themselves as 'handsome men' or 'beautiful women'... and drag young students into 'romance trap'," it warned.

The MSS did not name which countries were behind the alleged scheme.

But it warned that spies might be disguising themselves as university scholars, scientific researchers or consultants, luring students short of cash in what it called "targeted infiltration".

## CEC, all four deputies likely to resign today

FROM PAGE 1

at noon today.

At least two top EC officials said the CEC and his four deputies, following their resignations, will ask the EC secretariat to send their resignation letters to President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

The election commissioners are going to resign exactly a month after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government on August 5. Hasina quit and fled to India in the face of a student-led mass uprising. The president dissolved the 12th parliament on August 6.

EC officials said the commissioners decided to resign as there is a constitutional obligation for the commission to hold parliamentary polls within 90 days after the dissolution of a parliament.

"But we don't think the situation is suitable for holding a national election within the stipulated time," an election commissioner told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

"The 12th parliament was dissolved after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government. An interim government was subsequently formed, but the constitution was not suspended. If this Election

Commission stays in office, it may have to stand in the dock in future for violating the constitution," the commissioner said.

Top EC officials said that the election commissioners had been mentally prepared for stepping down since the fall of Hasina's government. The commissioners were trying to understand whether they would resign on their own, or the interim government had any other plans in this regard. The commission tried to contact the high-ups of the state for advice, but it did not succeed.

The Habibul-led commission took office on February 27, 2022 for five years.

The EC had been at the centre of controversy during the Awami League rule. The current EC has been criticised for holding the last national polls in which the AL had to field dummy independent candidates to make the polls appear participatory.

The previous EC was criticised for holding parliamentary polls widely believed to be questionable and the one before that held a national election in which 153 MPs were elected unopposed.

## Tarique envisions bicameral house

FROM PAGE 12

country governed by a national government in the future."

Tarique also said those who participated in the struggle to restore democracy and people's voting rights will all be involved in the future governance of the country, ensuring that the benefits of their contributions are not overlooked.

He remarked that the freedom fighters fought valiantly on the battlefield and secured independence for the nation in 1971.

"The key to winning that struggle was unquestioned national unity. It is unfortunate but true that we failed to utilise that unity after independence."

The BNP leader noted that from the very beginning, the nation was divided when the Awami League established a partisan government instead of forming a necessary national government after independence. "As a result, a significant portion of the population was unable to contribute to nation-building despite their willingness."

As part of a series of programmes, Tarique Rahman virtually joined the final views exchange meeting with BNP grassroots leaders and activists from Dhaka Division

yesterday.

BNP Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas, Abdul Moyeen Khan, and Babu Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, among others, also addressed the meeting.

Tarique said it is important to inform the nation about another significant reform plan of the BNP, which involves introducing a two-house parliament.

He mentioned that there are numerous scholars, talented teachers, artists, writers, journalists, researchers, doctors, technical experts, and humanitarian workers in the country who are not traditionally involved in politics but are eager to contribute to the development and governance of the nation.

However, the BNP leader said within the current constitutional framework, there is no opportunity for these individuals to contribute as members of parliament.

"To utilise their services and contributions to the cause of the country, BNP wants to see a bicameral parliament system with an upper house included in the constitution like many other countries in the world," he said.

Tarique said he is just humbly sharing BNP's future plans and intentions because he knows that

the support of the people of the country can only make these plans a reality.

"I hope the people won't certainly want those parties or individuals included in a national government who have turned the entire country into their party and family's personal property and those who, under the guise of so-called development, have burdened each of us with a debt of 1.5 lakh taka and syphoned off thousands of crore taka abroad," he added.

Tarique congratulated BNP leaders and activists for their steadfast participation and trust in the party over the past seventeen years of relentless struggle for the restoration of democracy.

He urged them not to let their sacrifices be diminished by the misdeeds of a few reckless individuals and advised them to remain vigilant and resist any troublemakers.

The BNP leader also advised party leaders to earn the trust and confidence of the people by aligning with their hopes, expectations, and language.

He also instructed them to use their political acumen and strategies to tackle emerging and unseen adversaries.

## UN warns of 'red alert' after record heat

AFP, Singapore

Rising temperatures should trigger a global "red alert", the United Nations' weather and climate agency chief said Wednesday, after global heat indices again smashed records in August.

The world saw record average temperatures in August for the second year running, preliminary data from the EU's climate monitor seen by AFP showed.

And Australia, Japan, parts of China and Norway all experienced their hottest August on record, according to meteorological agencies.

"It's clear that the temperatures are rising... above what we would like," said Celeste Saulo, head of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

"And it is because the action is not enough."

While the exact average global temperature for August 2024 is not yet known, the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) has established it will be above the record 16.82 degrees Celsius (62.28 Fahrenheit) measured in August last year.

"Thresholds are all the time being beaten," Saulo said, speaking in Singapore at a regional climate forum of local meteorological services.

## Take steps to reopen flood-hit schools

Prolonged learning disruptions are hurting students' future

Students just can't seem to catch a break. Over the last few months, there have been one disruption after another across all tiers of education that either put a stop to classroom activities or, worse, put students and teachers in harm's way. In particular, schools and colleges have been affected by intermittent closures during the weeks-long anti-discrimination movement, assaults and fatalities of students during the movement, subsequent disruptions including often forced resignations of teachers and administrators, and finally a flood that has left behind a vast trail of destruction in a number of districts, including their educational institutions. This shows how urgent it has become to ensure that students resume their education without further disruptions.

While the extent of damage suffered by schools, madrasas, and colleges in flood-hit areas is yet to be fully determined, one estimate says that 1,206 educational institutions have been damaged, resulting in a loss of over Tk 37 crore. But this is more likely an underestimation given how devastating the flood has been, especially in 11 south-eastern districts. Feni and Noakhali were the hardest hit among them, with more than 90 percent of their combined populations said to be severely affected and about 48 percent of homes destroyed, according to Oxfam Bangladesh.

So, it makes more sense when a Prothom Alo report claims that all 951 pre-tertiary educational institutions in Feni were inundated. This includes 559 primary schools, 351 secondary schools and madrasas, and 41 colleges, with the number of affected students reaching nearly four lakh. The flood has had a similar impact in some other districts including Noakhali and Cumilla. While some of the institutions have started classes after floodwaters receded, most schools and colleges remain more or less shut, their classrooms filled with mud and debris.

In Feni, the district administration has said that more than half of the educational institutions are still in an abandoned state. In addition to educational institutions, the district and upazila education offices were also inundated. Many buildings remain under water, many formerly used as flood shelters. Reportedly, school-college authorities are struggling to clean debris and repair any damage suffered, but the process has been slow, so there is no certainty about when the students can safely return. Their own situation back home also has to improve for them to be able to come to class.

We don't need to remind anyone of the consequences of prolonged school closures. Each day of missed schooling will exacerbate the learning gap accumulated over the past months, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. So, restoring normalcy in the educational landscape of flood-hit areas should be a priority. The immediate focus should be on accelerating the cleanup and repair efforts. In schools that remain waterlogged, the authorities may think of alternative arrangements using temporary learning spaces, digital tools, or community-based classes to bridge the learning gap. It is likely that many books and learning tools were also destroyed during the flood, so the education authorities must provide necessary help in this regard.

## A great gesture of goodwill

UAE pardoning 57 Bangladeshis raises hope of deeper ties

We are quite relieved to learn that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pardoned the 57 Bangladeshi migrant workers who were sentenced to prison for staging demonstrations in that country. The UAE president granted the amnesty on Tuesday, with our foreign adviser saying that the released workers might get another chance to work in the Gulf country. This is a great show of goodwill on the UAE's part, which we deeply appreciate. We also congratulate the interim government for this diplomatic win so early in its tenure.

These people, who had migrated to the UAE seeking better opportunities to support their families, staged peaceful demonstrations on July 19, protesting against the Sheikh Hasina government's crackdown on students who demanded quota reforms in public service recruitment. But as such protests are prohibited in the UAE, they were detained on July 20 and, through an expedited trial on July 21, sentenced to prison for various terms as well as deportation upon serving their sentences. Naturally, the conviction was condemned by human rights advocates at the time. As we also said in this column then, the nature of the punishment was excessive given that the protesters had merely acted on their conscience in a peaceful manner. We also requested the UAE government to consider deportation without imprisonment.

The UAE president's amnesty comes a week after he spoke with the chief adviser of the interim government in a congratulatory call, during which the latter appealed to him for the release of the 57 Bangladeshi nationals. We appreciate the gesture of respect shown to the interim leader as well as the people of Bangladesh. This certainly bodes well for the Bangladesh-UAE relations. Bangladeshis, who constitute one of the largest communities in the UAE, have long been a part of its journey of growth and development. It also remains one of the top sources of remittance for us. We hope that the recent positive exchanges will further deepen our ties, and open the door for fruitful discussion on resolving some labour rights issues faced by our migrants, including abusive labour conditions under the kafala system and alleged exploitation of construction and domestic workers.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Mother Teresa dies

On this day in 1997, Mother Teresa—who was awarded the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her charitable work with the poor, especially in India—died at age 87 in the then Calcutta.

## FROM FELANI KHATUN TO SWARNA DAS

# When will border killings by BSF end?



**Kallol Mustafa**  
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KALLOL MUSTAFA

After Bangladeshi teenager Felani Khatun was gunned down by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in January 7, 2011, her mother Jahanara Begum had said in anger and frustration that, no one should lose her child, not even a bird should die at the hands of the BSF on the border. Yet, the killing of people by BSF on the Bangladesh-India border has not stopped.

The latest victim is Swarna Das, a 16-year-old school girl, killed by BSF at the Bangladesh-India border in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar on September 1. According to *The Daily Star*, Swarna along with her mother, assisted by two local agents, had attempted to cross the Lalarchak border with India. A couple from Chattogram accompanied them. When they approached the Indian border's barbed wire fence around 9:00pm, BSF personnel opened fire, killing Swarna on the spot, while the Chattogram couple sustained injuries.

Fifteen-year-old Felani Khatun was returning from India to Bangladesh with her father through the Anantapur border in Kurigram 13 years ago, while Swarna Das was going with her mother through the Lalarchak border in Moulvibazar to meet her immigrant brother in Tripura, India.

After Felani's killing by BSF, her body was hanging on the barbed wire fence for a long time and the image sparked outrage and protests at home and abroad. However, the BSF member who killed Felani was not punished, rather the BSF court acquitted him. The case was then brought to the Supreme Court of India, but it has not been heard yet.

Not just the teenagers Felani or Swarna, the Indian BSF is regularly killing Bangladeshis by shooting or torturing them across the border. Incidents of shootings or killings on the border of two hostile neighbouring countries are not rare. But the case of one country regularly shooting and killing citizens of the other country on their common border, when the countries are officially "friends," is rare. According to human rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK),



FILE PHOTO: STAR

Despite India's claim to be friendly, the country's behaviour in border management is that of an aggressive and dominating neighbour.

31 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF along the border in 2023, of whom 28 were shot dead. The number of Bangladeshi citizens killed by BSF in 2021 and 2022 were 18 and 23, respectively, and at least 522 Bangladeshis were killed between 2009 and 2020.

Regarding border killings, the BSF gives the excuse of firing in "self-defence" under "compulsion." In July 2022, the then Director General of India's Border Security Force (BSF) Pankaj Kumar Singh tried to justify Bangladeshi nationals killed on the border—terming them as "criminals." He claimed that all those killed were involved in various crimes, including drug trade and cattle smuggling as if BSF can stamp any foreign citizen as a criminal without any trial and then kill the alleged criminal at will.

First, cattle smuggling, like all other commodity smuggling, is a joint venture involving both Indian and Bangladeshi sellers and buyers. The rules of a market economy dictate that any commercial transaction, whether legal or illegal, can only take place if both parties benefit. In this regard, Kirity Roy, secretary of a West Bengal based rights organisation Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM) has rightly said that,

"The story which is told to justify border killing is also not true. They say cattle are smuggled across the border and those smugglers are killed. It seems as if cows are born at the border and smuggled into Bangladesh. In fact, these cows are brought from Haryana and Punjab, crossing 2,000 to 2,500 kilometres distance within India. The cattle are brought on foot, by truck or by train. Is it believable that no one

Commander to whom the details, such as the tracks of the cattle and the criminals involved etc. will be handed over. The border Post Commander concerned will acknowledge receipt of the report and then inform the nearest police station in his own country, who will make all efforts to recover the cattle and apprehend the criminals.

Does the BSF follow this simple procedure to prevent smuggling while avoiding "unpleasant incidents?" Evidence suggests otherwise. According to an investigation report by Human Rights Watch titled, "Trigger Happy: Excessive Use of Force by Indian Troops at the Bangladesh Border," all the victims of BSF killings were either unarmed or armed with only sickles, sticks, and knives, which suggest that in shooting victims, the BSF are likely to have used excessive force. In several cases, the victims were shot in the back, suggesting that they were running away. In others, injuries indicate the person was shot at close range, with witnesses often alleging that the person was tortured and killed in BSF custody. None of the cases investigated by Human Rights Watch showed that BSF had recovered lethal weapons or explosives that could pose an imminent threat of death or serious injury that might justify killings in self-defence.

Thirdly, even BSF's excuses for self-defence are not acceptable. How could unarmed teenage girls like Felani or Swarna be a threat to the armed BSF? And there are many such examples.

Despite India's claim to be friendly, the country's behaviour in border management is that of an aggressive and dominating neighbour. Interestingly, the Indian BSF does not behave the same way on the borders with hostile neighbours like China or Pakistan. There may be a state of war, isolated shootings and killings on those borders, but one-sided border killings like the ones on the Bangladesh-India border are absent there.

No attempt was made by the past government to take a firm stand against the regular killings of Bangladeshi citizens by the Indian BSF on the border, to demand fair trial and investigation of every incident, to call the Indian ambassador and demand accountability, and to turn the matter into a bilateral and international issue.

We expect the situation to change in the interim government's tenure, which should send a strong message to India, protesting BSF's killing of teenager Swarna Das and demanding justice.

# The RMG workers' movement requires stronger demands



**Kalpona Akter**  
is a labour rights activist and president of Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation.

KALPONA AKTER

The current workers' protests are demanding very basic things. There is nothing revolutionary or new about them that needs attention for the most part. Some of these demands include our wages being paid properly and on time, enforcing managerial changes due to abusive behaviour, stopping suspensions, and implementation of a production bonus. Additionally, female workers, especially during the later phases of pregnancy, shouldn't be made to do physically heavy work. The practice of deducting wages for being late for three days must be stopped as well. There are also demands for the attendance bonus to be increased to Tk 1,000 from Tk 500. Among the many demands we have seen, one common one is that the mandatory 5 percent salary increase should be raised to 10 percent or more.

However, some demands that should be included are missing. For example, the minimum salary declared last November should be re-evaluated. We didn't see labourers demanding the lift of restrictions on trade unions or the cessation of harassment. This is because the scale of disregard for the law is so high that the labourers are thinking if some minimum demands are met, things will get better. They will then consider their factory to be running well and go back to work.

As an activist, what I feel is that the

insurmountable exploitation that the labourers have tolerated for the last 16 years or even more required much stronger demands if it were an organised movement. But the movement now is spontaneous, and it is unclear where it is beginning and where it is ending.

Regarding the issue of men not being employed in garment factories, this is a new demand and by itself, it is not surprising. However, what is surprising is the demand for equal rights for men and women. I see this as both positive and negative. The positive is that the men are not only talking about their own rights but are also demanding women's rights alongside theirs. The negative is that in the labour market, women are lagging quite far behind. If we say that 50 percent of men must be employed in the garment sector as well, then where will women labourers go? This demand is by male labourers who don't have jobs and are on the streets.

Something worth mentioning is that those who were connected with the previous government and involved in the business of collecting leftover fabric and other materials at a low price from the factories are now being replaced. The trade-off was that for the discounted price on these materials, they would "tackle" the labourers of the factories—essentially acting as goons. This is a multi-crore taka business, which is now being taken over by the

BNP overnight. We are seeing this in a lot of the industrial belts. In the protests, they are using the labourers for their own benefit.

Another aspect that is problematic for the labourers is that while they were oppressed primarily by the factory owners, the unions they used to go to for resolving their issues were also run and controlled by the owners. If workers got laid off, the compensation

can be empowered, then the grievances of the labourers would have a formal place to go. Additionally, the labourers will also be able to build faith in the legal system and have respect for it.

When do labourers or people go to the streets to protest? When they don't have a place to voice their concerns. The trade unions were supposed to be the channel for the workers. But these very trade unions have suppressed the voice of the labourers whenever they tried to bring something up. Whether through beating them up, putting them in jail, or blacklisting them, every method has been used. This needs to be stopped and trust should be rebuilt. The workers should be able to choose their own true leaders. Otherwise, there will always be protests every other day, and no permanent solution can be reached.

One source of fear is that as we are currently going through political instability, some other group shouldn't be able to take advantage of this situation. The garment sector is important for our labourers and our economy internationally. The workers also have to understand that if we want to keep our international orders, we have to keep production ongoing. Otherwise, some other country will grab this opportunity. The buyers are not here to do charity. If the trend of delayed shipments continues due to protests and instability, then the buyers will move to a different country. This will harm our labourers a lot more than the owners. The owners could potentially go to a different country and try doing business from there. But our large labour force cannot do that. So, the labourers also have to keep that in mind and have dialogue and voice their concerns in a manner that production doesn't come to a complete halt and disrupt future livelihoods.

**As an activist, what I feel is that the insurmountable exploitation that the labourers have tolerated for the last 16 years or even more required much stronger demands if it were an organised movement. But the movement now is spontaneous, and it is unclear where it is beginning and where it is ending.**

they should receive was determined at BGMEA by some so-called labour leaders who were actually working for the owners. In cases of terminations, they would use Article 20 and give a low amount in compensation just to be able to say they gave it.

This needs to change. Why would an organisation like BGMEA, which is run by the owners, be given the power of arbitration, making the labour court and Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) ineffective? If these two organisations





FILE PHOTO: ANRAN HOSSAIN

Thousands of people celebrate on the streets after the fall of Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024.

# One month after the new beginning



**NO STRINGS ATTACHED**

Aasha Mehreen Amin  
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

**AASHA MEHREEN AMIN**

If we tried to retrace all our steps to August 5, the day when the will of the people won and when 15 years of a repressive, autocratic rule ended, it would be a dizzying experience. Of course, the momentum for August 5 really sped up from July 15 when the quota reform movement took its revolutionary turn.

On that day, protesting university students were brutally beaten up by Chhatra League. The old formula of using brute force whenever there was any dissent royally backfired. The bloodied faces of fellow students that included female students, the images of which were furiously shared on social media, unleashed something that we never thought possible. It was when the students decided that it was time to fight back. And fight they did, not with bullets or machetes as their attackers used, but with fearlessness and a sense of justice. On July 16, the day Abu Sayed made history by standing with hands outstretched in defiance of the policemen who kept on shooting at the unarmed university student, everything changed and set the tone for what would follow.

From the government's side, a leader utterly blinded by her own hubris and the glaring disconnect with her own people was laid bare. It caused Sheikh Hasina to abuse the state machinery once again, using maximum force by the police and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to crush the students' spirit, resulting in mindless killings of at least 800 protesters and bystanders (including little children). But instead of quelling the spirit of dissent, these unconscionable acts ignited a thirst for freedom that spread like wildfire to all campuses all over the country, reaching the hearts of ordinary people who were stupefied to see students, the future of the country, being so brutally gunned down. Thus, on August 5, despite the horrific level of deaths and injuries of people, when it was clear that the autocrat who had shown her worst and most cruel side had fled through the backdoor of her grand office, the jubilations on the streets were as spontaneous as they were contagious. It was the united struggle of the people that culminated in victory.

From that pivotal moment, the subsequent events in the next 30 days have been just as dramatic.

Our emotions have been on an insane roller coaster ride. Horror, disbelief, anger, grief, gratitude, relief, uncertainty—all these feelings have been jumbled together into an impossible knot that desperately needs untangling. We are, if you will, in post-traumatic stress and events around us are not allowing us to breathe as freely as we had hoped.

No doubt, to have an iconic figure like Dr Muhammad Yunus as the leader of the interim government has given the people a sense of great relief. He is someone who has universal acceptance, and students and ordinary people are elated to be able to finally openly express their respect and love for the Nobel laureate. The speech he delivered on August 25 was full of genuine compassion, empathy, honesty and humility, virtues we have not seen in a leader for many decades.

He also frankly pointed out the challenges before us as we try to heal a country left in tatters after 15 years of misuse. He appealed to people to help him and his team to rebuild the country. He called for national unity—a call echoed by the student leaders and editors of major media houses. Many of his advisers are well-respected members of civil society. The public perception is that they are good, honest individuals who are interested in nation-building, not accumulating wealth through abuse of power.

One laudable move of the interim government has been to try to rein in the out-of-control corruption of the financial sector. In line with the finance adviser's vow to not spare big loan defaulters, the interim government has instructed the central bank, which has a new governor, to stop all concessions and rescheduling facilities given to loan defaulters, which has actually encouraged this continuous bleeding of the banks. The government has tasked a committee to formulate a white paper on the economy that will, among other things, review the energy sector's foreign loan agreements and other contracts. Curbing money laundering, aiming for accountability and transparency in the financial sector, is a breath of fresh air after years of financial haemorrhaging by the Awami League

government's "friends and family."

In this month, we have also witnessed remarkable scenes.

With no police on the streets for days after August 5, and incidents of arson, vandalism and robbery being reported all over the country, a sense of community that had long become extinct emerged. Residents became protectors of their neighbourhoods, staying up all night in shifts to guard their communities. In many instances, students came to help. In fact, when there was news of Hindus being attacked, their temples desecrated and homes ransacked, students, including those from local madrasas, stayed vigilant all night to protect them.

For many days, there were no traffic police, and the students quickly mobilised themselves to handle the gridlocks, refusing to allow anyone to break traffic rules.

To test our resilience further came the devastating floods, drowning villages in several eastern districts. Here again, the students spontaneously rose to the occasion, mobilising relief at the TSC and taking it to flood victims, often risking their lives. The people, inspired by the patriotism and sense of solidarity of the students, showed their generosity through substantial donations and relief efforts.

But the other side of these 30 days indicates the mess the last regime has left us with and how much work we have to do. The work of the interim government has been constantly impeded by a series of untoward events—some done deliberately. While the uprising was victorious in ousting a fascist regime, it also gave many groups the idea that they now had a licence to demand whatever they wanted and do whatever they felt like doing, especially in the absence of law enforcers on the ground.

The Ansar protests, which turned violent on August 25, with students being attacked and some Ansar members injured, have shown how volatile the atmosphere still is. Over the last few weeks, workers of garment factories, shoe factories and pharmaceuticals, and most lately doctors of public hospitals (after doctors were attacked at the DMCH when a patient died) have gone on strikes; factories, buildings and homes of individuals connected to the former regime have been vandalised and set on fire. Meanwhile, in a bid to "purge" all corrupt elements of the past regime, mob justice has taken over; there have been forced resignations of principals, teachers, VCs and public officials, and indiscriminate filing of murder cases against individuals because of their affiliation with the ousted government. Moral policing in the name of religion has also reared its ugly head. All this has created a feeling of unease and uncertainty among people and a sense of impunity among those who want to cause mischief.

While the advisers of the interim government, as well as the student leaders, have called for an end to such acts, these calls should have been backed by prompt action. Security of people and property should have been ensured from day one, which it was not. With the police still reluctant to do their job, other forces such as the army could have been deployed much earlier before these situations went out of control.

Such criticisms are valid, and we expect the interim government to be more efficient in restoring law and order and seeking justice for the victims of the killings by the former regime. Corrupt individuals, be they members of the former government or private citizens who were its illegal beneficiaries, must be punished for the crimes they have committed. They must, however, be accorded due process and not become victims of legal manipulations reminiscent of the AL regime.

The students have entrusted the interim government to carry out necessary reforms that can usher in a Bangladesh that reflects their aspirations and those of the people. As citizens of this country, we should be immensely grateful to the students for giving us the opportunity to dream again, to breathe freely without fear. But the students, too, have a responsibility to show the maturity, restraint, and tolerance needed to realise these dreams. They must live up to the ideals of democracy, freedom and unity for all citizens—not just through words, but actions. They must always be mindful that they do not make the same mistakes as those they have ousted.

# Reform the system, politics will fall in line



Shamsheer M Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, is a former foreign secretary of Bangladesh.

**SHAMSHER M CHOWDHURY, BB**

I begin this article with the following friendly piece of advice from a well-wisher from Sri Lanka, a country that has nothing but the best of interests for Bangladesh and its people at its heart.

"To my dearest Bangladeshis, I am overjoyed by what you have achieved. Truth be told, given my experience with the Monarchy in Bangladesh, I didn't think such an outcome was possible.

But let's remember, this victory is just the beginning—10 percent of the journey. The real challenge lies ahead. This is where we, Sri Lankans, faltered.

We once chanted that we didn't need anyone in parliament to run our country, and now, two years later, we're left with no option but to vote for the same old faces. Our revolution, in essence, accomplished nothing.

The Bangladeshi revolution, driven by students, now needs structure and formality. You can't depend on the current parliamentarians to bring about the change you seek. The youth, the educated, and those truly desiring change must take the reins.

Do not ease up now—the war has just begun... Set aside your ideologies and focus on shaping Bangladesh into the nation you want for your children."

viewed alongside our own "1/11" experience and what went wrong with it. To begin with, unlike the 2007-08 "government," the present administration must not set any arbitrary deadline for the end of the interregnum. Instead, it should set about incorporating a set of fundamental reforms, focusing on eliminating the zero-sum game that the existing political structure in Bangladesh entails.

A genuine friend of Bangladesh, who had a ringside view of events, believes that "during the 2007-08 period, nobody in Bangladesh or abroad actually believed that the

caretaker government may be worked out in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including all registered political parties and civil society. Such a system will not only ensure the legitimacy and credibility of the elections but also greatly enhance the role and image of the Election Commission. Hopefully, this will also eliminate the prevailing and pervasive culture of deep distrust among the political parties.

Second, the existing "first-past-the-post" system should be replaced with a system of proportional representation in parliament. This will eliminate the "winner-takes-all" phenomenon that debilitates the political culture in Bangladesh. Since Kazi Habibur Awal has already written extensively on this topic, I choose not to delve too deeply here, except to add that the Sri Lankan model may be studied as a possible template.

Third, it is high time that Bangladesh has a bicameral legislature that most, if not all, developed democracies have. While the structure and the terms of



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

**It is high time that Bangladesh has a bicameral legislature that most, if not all, developed democracies have. While the structure and the terms of reference of such a legislature may be discussed with all stakeholders, it will likely ensure government accountability—a feature that is currently conspicuous by its absence.**

The message conveyed above is as potent in substance as it is relevant to the dramatically changed situation in Bangladesh post-August 5. It is, at the same time, philosophical and emotion laden. Importantly, the author speaks from firsthand experience, as Sri Lanka underwent a similar people's revolution only two years back when the sitting president had to flee the country in the face of widespread public protests. The author's frustrations with the faltering of the revolution in the teardrop-shaped gem in the Indian Ocean is evident—and they hope the mistakes made there would not be repeated here.

For us in Bangladesh, comparisons with Sri Lanka must also be

reference of such a legislature may be discussed and deliberated with all stakeholders, it will likely ensure government accountability—a feature that is currently conspicuous by its absence.

Fourth, Bangladesh, with a current population of more than 170 million and growing, must move towards creating elected provincial governments with proper devolution of powers. Sri Lanka, with a much smaller population, has provincial governments, even though the country had gone through a long and bloody civil war that threatened its very territorial integrity. The other model that could be looked at is the Indonesian one, where in addition to having a bicameral legislature at the centre, it has elected provincial legislatures and an elected governor.

The steps suggested above, if implemented in the right spirit, would take time to formulate. Therefore, setting any timetable for elections at this time would be ill advised. Once the necessary reforms are instituted, politics in Bangladesh will fall in line.

I have deliberately refrained from discussing the importance of ensuring the independence of institutions that belong to the state and not to any ruling party.

Last but certainly not least, the interim government should be prepared for the unexpected. Just as Sheikh Hasina never would have predicted the spark that ultimately lit the fuse that ended her regime, all governments must be ready to deal with any contingency.

**Sundarban Gas Company Limited**  
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Planning & Development Division,  
218, M.A Bari Sarak, Sonadanga, Khulna.

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Tender Invitation Reference No.: 28.21.0000.133.52.001.24/2024-25/002 Date: 04-09-2024

### Re-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited through e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Planning & Development Division, Sundarban Gas Company Limited for the procurement of the following work which will be available at e-GP website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) from date 04-09-2024 & time 12:00:

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Reference No.	Package No.	Description of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01	Re-Tender ID: 1002144, Tender ID: 1011545, Reference No: 28.21.0000.133.52.001.24/2024-25/002	28.21.0000.133.52.001.24/2024-25/003	Construction of one 20 MMSCFD capacity DRS (300-140 psig) at Zogipole, Khulna.	18-Sep-2024 17:00	19-Sep-2024 12:00	19-Sep-2024 12:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

*(Signature)*  
**(Engr. Md. Salahuddin)**  
General Manager  
Planning and Development Division,  
SGCL, Khulna

GD-344

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

# ‘THRICE BORN’ The journey of Bangladeshi literature in English

Review of ‘Bangladeshi Literature in English: Critical Essays and Interviews’ (Routledge, 2024) edited by Mohammad A. Quayum and Md. Mahmudul Hasan

While the first two chapters focus on the colonial period, chapter three, which Kathryn Hummel writes, brings the readers to the present time with the analysis of Kaiser Haq’s poems. Haq is very popular in “dui Bangla”, meaning both in West Bengal and Bangladesh and thus, scholars from both sides of the border have worked with and written about him.

UMME AL-WAZEDI

*Bangladeshi Literature in English: Critical Essays and Interviews*, edited by Mohammad A. Quayum and Md. Mahmudul Hasan, focuses on critical essays on Bangladeshi literature in English—both from Bangladesh and its diasporas (US, UK, and Australia). Until recently, there was hardly any anthology or edited volume in English that one could access if one were to look for a collection of essays on Bangladeshi literature in English. Thus, *Bangladeshi Literature in English* as an edited collection with five chapters written by seasoned and young scholars fills that gap. It also has two interviews—one of Kaiser Haq and the other of Monica Ali. The writers of the chapters used an amalgamation of theorists, from Franz Fanon and Michel Foucault to Rob Nixon.

The introduction gives an overview of the history of literary evolutions in the South Asian continent, from the colonial period through and after the Partition of 1947 to the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. The editors use the phrase “thrice born” (ensuring readers do not confuse it with the twice-born concept in Hinduism) to discuss the Bangladeshi English literary journey in the Indian subcontinent. The introduction is succinct and helpful for new scholars. The editors also mention the challenges of English writing in Bangladesh. In addition, they contend that even if works are coming out, lack of publishers and the inability to cross the borders and grasp the readers are some of the reasons for these books not enjoying the popularity that they should (many of these issues are again highlighted by Kaiser Haq in his interview with Mohammad A. Quayum). However, the authors mention that diasporic writers receive the highlights. Md. Mahmudul Hasan’s first chapter is titled “Muslim Bengal writes back: Rokeya’s encounter with the representation of Europe”. In it he talks about the first Muslim feminist from South Asia, Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, and her interpretative summary of Marie Corelli’s novel, *The Murder of Delicia* (Kessinger Publishing, 1996). Hasan argues that she created a bridge between Muslim Bengal and England through her summary of Corelli’s novel. The chapter provides a new direction

where Hasan compares Corelli and Hossain to talk about gender norms both in India and England. The author’s focus is on the commonalities between the two and the fact that both Indian women and British women faced the same kinds of subjugation as Britain brought its Victorian moral values to the Indian subcontinent. This chapter will complement those abroad who teach Hossain’s *Sultana’s Dream* (1905).

Hasan’s second chapter, “Panchayat and colonialism in Humayun Kabir’s

talk about the socio-political lives of the villagers.

While the first two chapters focus on the colonial period, chapter three, which Kathryn Hummel writes, brings the readers to the present time with the analysis of Kaiser Haq’s poems. Haq is very popular in “dui Bangla”, meaning both in West Bengal and Bangladesh and thus, scholars from both sides of the border have worked with and written about him. Hummel argues that Haq is a transnational local

talk about the issues Gosh writes about. Using Rob Nixon’s work as a theoretical lens, Hossain weaves in the problems that we should be concerned about—the countries of the Global South as the dumping grounds for things that the Global North discards. Hossain’s chapter opens a new venue to see a Bangladeshi diasporic writer writing about environmental disasters. This chapter would complement any syllabi that focus on the environmental issues of the Global South.

marginalisation of the different groups of people in the 1971 war narratives.

Mohammad A. Quayum’s interview with Kaiser Haq brings out the problems of not having more anglophone literature in Bangladesh. Haq thinks that the fear of apasankriti drives writers away from writing in English. He talks about his background—growing up in an English-medium school and how that encouraged him to write in English. He mentions the teacher in his school who infused critical appreciation of a poem in the classroom and Haq’s desire to see “the music in free verse”. He refers to a plethora of English writers who have influenced him. In his response to Quayum’s query about the sustainability of subcontinental English, Haq says that literature will exploit various forms of English. He writes that translating works into English “enhances our critical awareness of the complexities of our cultural inheritance”.

Sadaf Saaz’s interview with Monica Ali centres around their conversation on the book, *Love Marriage* (2022). Ali’s conversation with Saaz revolves around British society and its outlook on class and race. Saaz also asks Ali questions about the differences between generations of immigrant communities. Ali’s main character, Yasmin, deals with multiple aspects of her personal and public life as a doctor. Ali candidly tells Saaz that this novel is not only about marriage but also about sex, infidelity, and sexual violence. Ali reflects on not being a writer of a particular type—only writing about Bangladesh because she has a connection to it.

The book will benefit scholars, Bangladeshis, as well as other South Asians and their diasporas, who are looking for a set of critical articles on Bangladeshi literature in English. Although numerous critics have written on Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, Kaiser Haq, or Zia Haider Rahman, the essays focusing on these writers in this collection have something new to add. Therefore, I am glad to have read the book and recommend it to those interested in teaching and researching Bangladeshi literature in English.

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ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

*Men and Rivers*”, has several diverse aspects. Hasan not only does a comparative study to discuss the panchayat in Humayun Kabir’s *Men and Rivers* (1945) but also uses critics like Franz Fanon and Mary Luis Pratt to present the multiple “contact zones” in a small village during the colonial period. The author argues that Kabir critiques the colonial influence in destroying the lives of the peasants as they struggle to understand the strength of bribery and theft by middle managers. Kabir presents the non-volant nature of the peasants at a time when India saw peasant movements. The chapter does an elaborate analysis of the characters and their multiple relations with the different constituents of the village to

who talks about home without going far away from home. Haq’s resistance against colonial mimicry involves writing about the most mundane things you see in Bangladesh, such as lungi or stray dogs. The chapter brings about the multifaceted nature of Haq’s poetry.

“Toxic grace? Tahmima Anam’s *The Bones of Grace* and the pollution trade” is written by Md. Alamgir Hossain. The importance of this chapter in this collection is noteworthy because Anam’s *Bones* has not received the attention it should have in South Asia. Sometimes it is hard to get out of the India-centric Amitav Gosh environmental novels, and there are reasons for that—people are willing to

Zia Haider Rahman, the focus of chapter five, is another Bangladeshi writer in English whose work has been written about extensively. Like Haq, he crosses borders when it comes to analysing his works. In this chapter, “Beyond national(ist) binaries: The case of Zia Haider Rahman’s *In the Light of What we Know*”, Md Rezaul Haque gives a background of the war of 1971. He also questions what role a nation-centred or nationalist discourse plays when presenting different groups of people in different narratives. For example, how do non-Bangalis appear in literature? A contested and controversial issue about the role of the non-Bangalis is a topic of many recent critical essays as more and more scholars are trying to voice the

THE SHELF

## Diverging perspectives: Exploring Bangladesh’s history through controversial narratives

TASNIM ODRIKA

When it comes to the history of Bangladesh both pre- and post-Liberation War, certain aspects have either remained hidden from the public or been deliberately obscured. The general understanding of this history is often oversimplified, usually presented from a single party’s perspective, lacking the nuance it deserves. This list of books offers essential reading from various voices that present this history through different lenses—voices that were once drowned out by dominant narratives.

**The Black Coat**  
Neamat Imam  
Penguin Books India, 2013

This historical fiction novel explores Bangladesh’s turbulent history during the period of 1972–75, a time marked by severe famine and widespread misgovernance under the Awami League, led by Sheikh Mujib. Given the longstanding taboo around discussing

and criticising this era, this novel offers a fresh perspective by blurring the lines between fiction and fact.

The novel follows journalist Khaleque Biswas, who, after losing his job, mentors a simple country boy named Nur Hussain, ultimately transforming him into a counterfeit Sheikh Mujib.

Set against the backdrop of Bangladesh’s post-independence corruption and food shortages, the story provides a varied portrayal of Sheikh Mujib, depicting him as a totalitarian leader rather than the benevolent Father of the Nation he is often celebrated as.

**Ami Serajul Alam Khan**  
Shamsuddin Payara  
Sucheepatra, 2020

Serajul Alam Khan, one of the early leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), has long been a figure of intrigue. His influence on both Bangladesh’s independence and the post-independence struggles is a crucial part of our history. Although he never authored any books to

tell his side of the story, this memoir offers insights into the life and contributions of this mysterious figure.

How did this man, who was Bangladesh’s most beloved and influential student leader, become one of the key figures in the anti-Bangabandhu movement in independent Bangladesh? Some of these questions are addressed in this book, while others, to this date, remain unanswered.

**Amar Fashi**  
Chai  
Motiur  
Rahman  
Rentu  
Shornolota  
O Bonolota,  
1999

In the history of Bangladesh, one figure who has often remained cryptic is our former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This book delves into that mystery, offering deeper insights into her character.

The author, who served as Sheikh Hasina’s aide for nearly 12 years, from 1981 to 1997, wrote this book after being labelled “undesirable” by the regime

for speaking out about certain irregularities within the Sheikh family. The book draws heavily from the author’s personal experiences of working with the Awami League and criticises its leaders, particularly Sheikh Hasina. However, since the book was written after the author’s dismissal, there are speculations that some stories may be exaggerated. Given that some of the accusations and criticisms cannot be independently verified, it might be a good idea to approach the book with an open mind.

**Bangladesh Er**  
Jonno  
Rao Farman  
Ali Khan  
The University  
Press Limited (UPL),  
1996

Following the 1971 Liberation War, which culminated in Pakistan’s humiliating defeat, many Pakistani military officers began writing autobiographies. The intent behind these memoirs was often to obscure the crimes against humanity they committed in Bangladesh and to mask

their guilt. Among them was Rao Farman Ali, a military officer often recognised as a central figure in orchestrating the 1971 Bangladesh genocide.

This book is carefully crafted to deflect blame from himself. Therefore, to fully grasp its context, it’s crucial to read the insightful introduction provided by Professor Muntasir Mamoon. As readers, we often seek to understand history from the perspective of the victors. However, this book offers a rare glimpse into how Pakistanis may have perceived our Liberation War. While this book may be a controversial addition to any reading list, it is essential for understanding the mindset of the Pakistani military officers—in their own words—who brutally massacred Bangladeshis during the war.

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## GRUDGE OR MERIT to decide Hathurusingha's fate?

BISHWAJIT ROY

As Bangladesh's head coach, Chandika Hathurusingha has ample reasons to be proud of his charges' achievements following their historic 2-0 Test series win in Pakistan. However, all is not well for the Sri Lankan, who had to confront questions about his future with the Tigers during the recently concluded memorable tour, despite his current contract with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) running until the Champions Trophy in 2025.

Usually, uncertainty surrounds this kind of job when the team underperforms, but for the current Bangladesh coach, the situation has turned out differently due to the change at board's top position.

It is no secret that the new BCB president, Faruque Ahmed, is not in favour of Hathurusingha. The former national captain has been most vocal against Hathurusingha for the last few years and made it clear after taking charge of the country's most prominent sports body that he hasn't changed his stance.

Will the success against Pakistan put Faruque in a difficult position regarding the decision to remove Hathurusingha from his role?

The most important question, however, is whether the former skipper will act on a previous personal grudge when making decisions about Hathurusingha's future, or whether he will base his decisions on merit for the greater good of Bangladesh cricket.

In June 2016, the then-chief selector Faruque resigned from his post hours after the Nazmul Hassan Papon-led board ratified significant changes to the selection procedure. It was believed that Hathurusingha played a vital role in changing the system, which Faruque said created the possibility of interference.

Since then, Faruque has repeatedly

complained about the Sri Lankan's detrimental interference in the team, influencing decision-making outside his purview, and the damaging impact on Bangladesh cricket's decline.

If we look at Hathurusingha's success rate as Bangladesh coach, it is not unimpressive: During his first stint (May 19, 2014 - November 9, 2017), Bangladesh won six Tests out of 21 and drew four, while winning 25 ODIs out of 52. In 29 T20Is, the Tigers won 10 matches. During his second stint (from December 8, 2022, to date), Bangladesh won five Tests out of 10 and lost five, while winning three ODIs out of six and 10 T20Is out of 21 matches.

Hathurusingha's planning during his first tenure received much praise before his controversial departure. Bangladesh not only secured several memorable ODI home series wins - against India, Pakistan, and South Africa, as well as Test victories against England and Australia, and an away Test win against Sri Lanka - but they also reached the semifinal of the Champions Trophy and the quarterfinal of the 2015 World Cup.

His current tenure has been marked by a home T20I series whitewash victory against the then-reigning champions England and a Test win against New Zealand, before

the Rawalpindi heroics.

Unfortunately, this time around, he has been in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. The Sri Lankan agonisingly failed to manage the team properly in two disastrous ICC showpiece events - the T20 World Cup and the 50-over World Cup. Moreover, rather than fostering unity, he seemingly created more chaos, particularly in the fraught relationship between Shalim Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal.

During Nazmul Hassan Papon's tenure, Hathurusingha was hardly accountable to anyone, as the former BCB boss always preferred to look at the short-term success his reign followed and made exceptions in viewing how the Sri Lankan operated. Faruque, however, values systems, and he must determine whether a lack of a proper system has caused all the problems.

If, after analysing everything, he concludes that Hathurusingha lacks the long-term vision and calibre to manage the team or has issues with discipline, then his earlier stance will be justified, regardless of the team's historic success in Pakistan.

Personal bitterness, however, should not influence these decisions. After all, it is the board's responsibility to ensure the system remains untainted.



## Booters' Bhutan test today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team were expecting tough competition from Bhutan in the two FIFA friendly fixtures, the first of which kicks off at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu at 6:00pm today. And that is not necessarily due to the strength of the opposition but also an apparent lack of match-practice and fitness of the Bangladesh players.

The Bangladesh players and head coach have been playing up this issue ever arriving on Friday in Thimphu, with the high altitude being used as a big hurdle towards displaying natural performance. The fact that Bangladesh players have been out of action since their last World Cup qualifying fixture on June 11 is being portrayed as the biggest issue for the team.

Coach Javier Cabrera was realistic in his assessment of the situation, saying that the three FIFA windows this year will be crucial for the team's prospects in the Asian Cup Qualifiers, which start in March next year.

"There are some challenges for us as we are not in the middle of the season like the Bhutan players and the altitude is taking a little bit of time for us to adjust. But we are positive about both games and in the end I think both teams it's going to be very important for especially what's coming up in March and SAFF next year," the Spaniard said at the pre-match press conference yesterday.

Apart from the fitness and acclimatising issues, Bangladesh need also be aware of the attacking threat from the Bhutan team, and the pace with which their forwards operate. Since the match will be played on artificial turf, Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuiyan had a word of caution for his teammates. While Bangladesh will not be facing Bhutan's most celebrated footballer, Chencho Gyeltshen, Jamal knows there is enough quality in the opposition ranks.

"I always find Bhutan, especially on the counter, very difficult to manage. Now they have a few other players [other than Chencho] who are also very fast and quick. So we'll have to keep an eye on these players," said the Bangladesh captain.

Considering records, Bangladesh should feel comfortable, having beaten Bhutan on 11 occasions out of 14 meetings, losing only once - in 2016 defeat at Changlimithang. The most recent meeting between in the SAFF Championship in June last year saw Bangladesh win 3-1.

## Test continuity in demand now

ABDULLAH AL MEHEDI

Bangladesh's Test win at Mount Maunganui against the then World Test champions New Zealand in 2022 would certainly go down as a historic achievement in the Tigers' history. But even Mominul Haque, the Tigers' skipper back then, believes that winning a series away from home evokes a very different kind of feeling within the team than what a one-off win produces.

The Mount Maunganui win was clinched under hostile conditions against one of the best Test sides in the world. But the following Test in Christchurch did not follow a similar script.

This time, however, in Rawalpindi, the first Test was won in style as a massive first innings score blunted Pakistan's eager pace attack. It ultimately paved the way for a commanding comeback win in the second Test at the same venue in a week's time.

From batting brilliance of Mushfiqur Rahim, and Liton Das to Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana's bowling masterclass and Mehedi Hasan Miraz's all-round showing, there were many stories of personal triumph that turned a distant dream of an away series win since 2009 into reality.



"We won a Test match in New Zealand and that was one kind of feeling but winning a series here is a completely different kind of feeling. Winning a Test and drawing a series, and on the other hand, winning a series, are completely different things," Mominul, part of the Tigers' 2-0 whitewash of Pakistan, told The Daily Star over the phone from Pakistan on Tuesday.

Bangladesh's mix of youth and experience worked in perfect alignment in the Pakistan Tests. Veterans like Mushfiqur and Shakib stepped up whenever needed.

The sheer courage of youth also prevailed, especially in the pace attack.

It was under Mominul that Bangladesh's pace renaissance began and he put due credit to the pace stars.

"Behind winning this series, 70 percent credit goes to them [pacers]. The way they train, and the high intensity net sessions that they go through are pretty unbelievable. Even when I was the captain, I have seen that fire and will within themselves to keep improving."

"If you look at the circumstances five years ago, there was no competition amongst the pacers. Now there is a lot of competition and if one gets injured he almost doesn't get a way back in," Mominul said.

An x-factor in Nahid, who deals in express pace, was on show in Rawalpindi. Mominul divulged the energy that the pacer has been able to transfer.

"I believe that a different quality of pace bowler is coming to the world with Nahid. A lot of the players are very hopeful and the vibes within the team are really positive about his prospects. The one great thing about him is that he is always trying to learn something new. Some bowlers often just try to bowl fast but when I was playing with him in the 'A' team, and even before that, I noticed that he has a great interest in learning," Mominul said about the 21-year-old lanky pacer.

Given how Mominul had to bear witness to Bangladesh's Test fortunes taking a hit even after that Mount Maunganui triumph, it is only logical that he wanted the Tigers' continuity in the longer format from here on.

"My feelings are that winning this Test match, this series will give us the chance to take our cricket culture, our game to new heights," Mominul hoped.

## 'Pakistan weren't poor, we were better'

Pakistan spin wizard **Mushtaq Ahmed** has been in charge of the Bangladesh spinners for the past two international assignments - the T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies followed by the two-match Test tour of Pakistan. His troops have delivered remarkable performances in both tours but the 54-year-old is yet to be offered a long-term contract. In an interview with **The Daily Star's Samsul Arefin Khan** yesterday, Mushtaq shared his take on Bangladesh's historic series win in Pakistan and his future with the Tigers.



**The Daily Star (DS):** Your overall assessment of the Pakistan tour?

**Mushtaq Ahmed (MA):** The credit goes to the whole team. [Najmul Hossain] Shanto has been very good as captain. I think it was a mixture of everything. It was a great achievement. They were very dedicated, worked really hard, and were together. I believe they had no doubt amongst themselves. If you don't have the belief, you can't challenge any team. Skill comes last. Belief comes first.

**DS:** How do you evaluate Bangladesh spinners on a Rawalpindi wicket that is not known to provide assistance for them?

**MA:** It was outstanding. [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz was really good. The reason for that is he worked really hard, and Shakib [Al Hasan] got vital wickets in the first Test, especially in the second innings. One thing you should always remember is that if players put themselves under pressure in practice, Allah always gives them results. We also talked about angles, field positions, overspin, reading the pitch, and which area you need to bowl on; we communicated a lot during those Tests and even in training. The guys played with full passion and heart and the result speaks for itself.

**DS:** Do you see Miraz as a regular match-winner now?

**MA:** He is a match winner because he can bat, he is a good fielder and a good bowler. He is a package, three in one. It's a great combination to have for any team. The good thing about him is that he is very coachable. He is a very good listener and is hungry to learn. He understands whatever we discuss at the nets. He uses angles, the crease, pace variations, and reads the batter. He can play all formats and will become a key player for Bangladesh cricket.

**DS:** What went wrong for Pakistan in this series?

**MA:** Before saying what went wrong with the Pakistan team, I must say that Bangladesh, our team, played good cricket. Lots of people think that they didn't play good cricket. Whenever we needed a partnership, Liton [Das] and Miraz stood up. That was a great partnership. When you needed somebody to bowl a very good spell, [Nahid] Rana got three to four quick wickets. So, those are the vital moments in

which we played better than them.

All I can say is that Pakistan perhaps lacked confidence. They weren't sure of what they were doing. Planning wise, I could see they were playing aggressive cricket without understanding the condition and situation unlike our guys. Overall, it was about Bangladesh players who played better than Pakistan cricketers.

**DS:** You have been working with BCB on a short-term basis for the past few months. What's next? Do you want to sign a long-term contract?



**MA:** I am very hopeful. My manager and agent are talking to the cricket board. Hopefully, if things become better, it will be a great honour for me to be part of this team because this team can do wonders.

As things stand, I won't be there for the India series [later this month]. I have a few commitments in the next three-four months. There are a few family commitments as well. Maybe after December or January, I will try my best to serve Bangladesh cricket.

**DS:** Your take on the competition in the spin department?

**MA:** Taijul [Islam] is a match-winner. Nayeem [Hasan] is also a very talented off-spinner who can bat. Good kind of competition to have. They aren't ordinary spinners. They are all very coachable, and good learners.

We have to focus more on grassroots

cricket. That's very important. We have to look to the grassroots level for leg-spinners and mystery spinners. If you go to Australia, South Africa or England for white-ball cricket, you will need mystery spinners. My idea which I will share with the cricket board and other stakeholders is that they should go and find mystery spinners and make them ready for the first-class cricket and the national team. I think it will take some time but it is a great opportunity.

**DS:** You have worked with Rishad Hossain during the T20 World Cup. Do you see him

as a prospect for red-ball cricket or do you want him to focus on white-ball only?

**MA:** He can improve his legspin in red-ball cricket. For that, he has to play first-class cricket and four-day cricket. We don't have to rush him into Tests. If he plays a lot of four-day cricket, he will improve his white-ball cricket also because it will make him skilled by consolidating his basics.

Communication is a key aspect of my coaching philosophy and I've been in constant communication with Rishad. I have been watching his videos, and we are talking about his alignment and planning for the future as well. We just have to make sure he plays red-ball cricket as much as he can so he can become better in ODIs and T20s. If we need a leg-spinner to play Tests, he can be ready then. It might take some time but he is one of the cricketers who can play red-ball cricket.



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## Biman gets new MD



RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman at last has a managing director with relevant experience after Md. Shafiqur Rahman, a veteran of the national flag carrier, was chosen by the new board to steady the ship riddled by years of malpractices.

In recent years, bureaucrats with no relevant experience in the aviation sector have been appointed to run the national airline.

Not just that, Biman became a revolving door of MDs, with none lasting for more than two years. In the last six years, Biman had five MDs, with one tenure

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Sand traders occupy a part of the Turag river along the Mirpur-Ashulia Beribandh Road in Savar's Birulia. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Eid-e-Miladunnabi on Sept 16

STAR REPORT

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the anniversary of the birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), will be observed across the country on September 16 with due religious solemnity. The day is a public holiday.

The decision was made at the National Moon Sighting Committee's meeting held at the Islamic Foundation (IF) Conference Room at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday evening with Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Md Abdul Hamid Jamaddar in the chair.

The meeting informed that as the moon of Rabiul Awal of 1446 Hijri was sighted in the sky of Bangladesh yesterday, the holy month of Rabiul Awal would begin today.

Prophet Muhammad (SM) was born in Makkah of Saudi Arabia on the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar in 570 AD. He also passed away on the same day in 632 AD.

## Tarique envisions bicameral house

Promises people who fought to restore democracy will be involved in governance in future

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said his party envisions a future where the country is governed by a national government to fully harness the power of national unity.

At a views exchange meeting yesterday, he also expressed the party's willingness to introduce a two-house system in parliament through constitutional amendments to ensure governance with support from all segments of society.

"We have observed how members of a single party dominate everywhere in a partisan government, rendering the positions of others insignificant. Consequently, the country was deprived of the services of a significant portion of the population," Tarique said.

He added that the BNP wants to avoid repeating the mistake of missing the opportunity to harness the power of national unity as happened previously.

The BNP leader said the opportunity to leverage the power of national unity was missed immediately after independence. "We do not want to repeat that mistake. With the support of the people, the BNP aims to see the

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## Preliminary proof of graft found against Aziz: ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to open an investigation into the corruption allegations against former army chief Gen (ret'd) Aziz Ahmed as it has found preliminary proof of graft.

Aziz was involved in corruption and unethical activities, including the purchase of homes and flats in and outside the capital and buying of hundreds of bighas of land in Dhaka under the names of his brothers, ACC Secretary Khorsheda Yasmeen said yesterday.

The graft watchdog has also gathered information about his huge illegal assets at home and abroad, she told journalists.

"Primary investigations have uncovered information

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## 'Freeze Bangladeshis' illegal assets abroad'

TIB, 4 UK-based anti-graft bodies call for global action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh and four UK-based anti-corruption bodies have jointly called for the immediate freezing of illegal assets held by Bangladeshis in countries, including the UK, the US, Switzerland, Australia, EU nations, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and the UAE.

Ti-UK, the UK Anti-Corruption Coalition, the International Lawyers Project, Spotlight on Corruption, and TIB sent a joint letter to the UK secretary of state for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs on August 30, said a TIB press release.

They stressed on the importance of fostering active collaboration with the Bangladeshi government to hold those who possess illegal assets accountable and facilitate the return of laundered money.

"This initiative is viewed as a crucial step towards creating a future for the envisioned 'New Bangladesh' that is transparent,

accountable, democratic, and free from corruption," said the release.

TIB Executive Director Ittekkharuzzaman said most of the countries where illegal money and assets from Bangladesh have been laundered are key development, trade, and investment partners of Bangladesh, committed to combating corruption both nationally and internationally.

**The letter urges the UK government to promptly address three crucial matters, in line with their commitment to support the interim government of Bangladesh.**

"Now is the time for them to take such commitments to a new level of effectiveness by immediate necessary actions to freeze illegal assets owned by all Bangladeshi individuals and entities in their respective jurisdictions."

He urged the governments of the UK, the US, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, EU countries, as well as Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and the UAE, to freeze such assets as a step towards repatriating them to Bangladesh and holding the perpetrators accountable.

Spotlight on Corruption Executive Director Susan Hawley said the UK needs

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## STUDENT MOVEMENT 17,000 cases of casualties found so far

Says govt committee analysing hospital data from July 17 to Aug 5

AHMED DEEPTO

The committee formed to compile a list of casualties from the student-led mass movement between July 17 and August 5 has so far identified over 17,000 cases of fatalities and injuries at various hospitals across the country.

"So far, we've confirmed 600 fatalities. Of them, at least 440 people were declared dead on arrival at different hospitals. As such the death toll between July 17 and August 5 is believed to have reached 1,000," a member of the committee told The Daily Star.

On August 15, the health ministry formed a 13-member committee to prepare a complete list of the casualties that occurred during the recent mass uprising.

The initiative was taken in a bid to provide financial support to the family members of the deceased and provide proper medical support to those who are undergoing treatment at different medical facilities across the country.

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Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Liton Das, key performers in Bangladesh's historic Test series win over hosts Pakistan, were all smiles as the first contingent of the Bangladesh team -- including captain Najmul Hossain Shanto -- arrived at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 11:20pm yesterday. Speaking to reporters, Shanto described the victory as "the greatest achievement in Bangladesh cricket history."

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Top criminal Sweden Aslam released after 27yrs in jail

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Top criminal Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, also known as "Sweden Aslam", has been released on bail after being in prison for 27 years.

Aslam, 62, was freed from Kashmir High Security Central Jail in Gazipur around 9:00pm on Tuesday, Senior Jail Superintendent Muhammad Abdullah Al-Mamun told The Daily Star yesterday.

Aslam was arrested on May 26, 1997, at the age of 35, from his home in the DOHS area. He had been transferred between various prisons before being moved to Kashmir High Security Central Jail in 2014, according to Jailer Lutfur Rahman.

Aslam was accused in 22 cases, of which nine were for murders, according to police.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

We fondly remember one of our founder partners



**M. Saifur Rahman**

6 October 1932 – 5 September 2009

From all at



**Rahman Rahman Huq**  
Chartered Accountants