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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

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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,

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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.

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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

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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.

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**STELLAR
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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 th September '24)	(31 st October '24)	(30 th November '24)

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