

## SHAHEEDI MARCH Unveil a roadmap for reforms

Students urge govt,  
place 5-point demand  
STAR REPORT

From a mammoth march to commemorate one month of the fall of Sheikh Hasina, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday demanded an immediate announcement of the roadmap for state reforms by the interim government.

Abu Baker Majumder, a key organiser of the movement that spearheaded the mass uprising toppling Hasina, announced a five-point charter of demand at the Central Shaheed Minar where a brief rally was held following the march.

Their other demands included financial and legal assistance to the families of the victims of atrocities during the mass uprising,

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Marking one month since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, thousands of students and people of all walks of life marched different streets of the capital yesterday. Students against discrimination, a platform which led the mass uprising, organised the event. The photo was taken near Farmgate.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## People won't have peace until Hasina brought back, tried Says Yunus in interview

AGENCIES

Bangladesh's ousted premier Sheikh Hasina should "keep quiet" while exiled in India until she is brought home for trial, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus told Indian media.

In an interview with Press Trust of India, conducted last Sunday at the chief adviser's official residence in Dhaka and released yesterday, Yunus made a strong case for Sheikh Hasina's return from India to face trial for atrocities she committed in Bangladesh.

Hasina, 76, fled to India by helicopter one month ago as protesters marched on her palace in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted rule of 15 years.

An interim government led by Nobel laureate Yunus has been under public pressure to demand her extradition

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CHIEF ADVISER'S MESSAGE ON A MONTH OF UPRISING -- PAGE 9

## Fascists won't be allowed to return before their trials

Says Adviser Asif; Gono  
Bhaban to be turned  
into museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government believes that there is no chance to rehabilitate the fascists in the country until they are tried, Sports and Youth Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said yesterday.

"We have seen some programmes which were organised to rehabilitate the defeated fascist forces. This government has been formed through a student people uprising. We think that there is no scope for the rehabilitation of the fascists until their trial is complete," he told reporters at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

The briefing was organised to

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## Restore caretaker govt system

Urges CEC Awal as he, all election  
commissioners resign

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Minutes before resigning as chief election commissioner, Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday proposed national elections be held under the caretaker government system. He also recommended the introduction of staggered elections and a proportional representation system.

Speaking at a press briefing, the CEC said a fair and neutral election free from the use of black money, muscle power, and the influence of the administration and police cannot be ensured by merely restructuring the Election Commission.

"Fundamental reforms to the electoral system will be needed. Changes in the political culture and behaviour, particularly in the behaviour of the candidates will be required," he said.

All the four other election commissioners also resigned yesterday. Of them, Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan and Md Alamgir were present at the press meet at the Election Commission Secretariat.

The CEC said they were resigning due to the changed situation in the country. The commissioners did not take any questions from journalists.

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## Cops working, not effectively

Suffering from a loss of  
credibility, morale a month  
after Hasina's fall

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and  
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police have been largely absent on the ground in the one month since the fall of the Hasina-led government amid a mass uprising, causing safety concerns for the public.

Members of the force, mainly responsible for maintaining law and order, are still suffering from a serious lack of morale because of a fear of getting withdrawn, transferred, sued, and even arrested.

In the last one and a half decades, police turned into unquestioning enforcers of an increasingly authoritarian regime, and many see the police as a symbol of oppression.

Police members understand this and are afraid of public wrath. Many officers went into hiding after August 5, said top police officers.

Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, adviser to the home ministry, yesterday urged the superintendents of police in the districts to work sincerely with the force and logistics they have.

It is the responsibility of the police to earn the people's trust which was eroded by past irregularities and corruption.

Sources said 700-800 officers, including some cadre officers, were still absent without leave.

Before and immediately after the ouster of Hasina, police faced unprecedented public fury as mobs set their vehicles and properties on fire and ransacked police facilities in reprisal to the law enforcers' use of excessive force, including lethal weapons, on demonstrators.

According to police sources over 450 police stations out of 664 were attacked, and some of the establishments were set on fire by mobs.

As per Police Headquarters data, 5,829 firearms and 6,06,742 bullets were looted. Of those, 3,763 guns and 2,86,082 bullets were recovered while the rest are missing.

Amid this situation, the law enforcers hardly venture outside their stations when not escorted by army personnel, especially after dark. Their services have remained largely limited to registering complaints and cases. National 999 hotline resumed operations on a limited scale on August 9 and fully on August 12.

But people are not getting the police services after calling the number because the police stations do not have enough police personnel and logistic support. For a time, all the 999 calls asking for police were referred to the armed forces.

"Everything including case dockets, warrants and vehicles have been burnt at my police station. Arms and ammunition were looted. We have started patrolling on a limited scale but many of the usual activities are suspended.

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- ➔ 278 cases against police in Dhaka city
- ➔ 38 cases filed against ex-DB chief Harun
- ➔ 36 filed against ex-IGP Mamun
- ➔ 450 police stations attacked nationwide
- ➔ 300 police vehicles vandalised, torched

## BUSINESS

### Unrest continues to weigh on industrial belts

After four days of closure, apparel production resumed in the Ashulia and Gazipur industrial belts yesterday morning amid tight security.

However, production was halted again in the afternoon in Ashulia as violence and vandalism erupted, leaving at least 37 people injured, including workers, police and pedestrians.

According to workers, unidentified miscreants attacked production units in the area despite the overwhelming presence of security personnel, forcing thousands of workers to flee.

However, production in Gazipur remained unaffected.

STORY ON B1



Farmers collect jute they had grown in the wetlands in the Birgram area of Natore. Officials said jute was farmed on 23,430 acres in the district this year.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## S Alam took more than half of Islami Bank's loans

Says the lender's new chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram-based business giant S Alam Group has taken more than half of the total loans disbursed by Islami Bank, said the Shariah-based lender's newly appointed chairman.

At the end of June, Islami Bank's total outstanding credit stood at Tk 174,000 crore, according to the bank's records.

Another week is needed to gather the exact amount taken by S Alam Group, said Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud, chairman of Islami Bank, after a meeting with Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur.

The group secured the loans by using overvalued assets; a reassessment of the group's assets is currently underway.

S Alam's collateral is insufficient to cover the amount borrowed, hence a letter has been sent to the law ministry to identify any assets outside the collateral, Masud said.

When the new board took charge, the bank faced a capital shortfall of Tk 2,300 crore.

The central bank reconstituted the Islami Bank board on August 22, with Masud, the former managing director of Rupali Bank, as its chairman. Four independent directors were also appointed.

"However, the shortfall is narrowing daily -- we expect the situation to improve by the end of this year."

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