

It's time to go back to study

Yunus tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called upon the students to return to their classrooms and campuses, as a well-educated and competent generation is required to reap benefits of the revolution.

"Now it's time to go back to study. Schools, colleges and universities have reopened," he said.

The chief adviser made the call in a statement delivered on the occasion of one month of the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime in the face of a student-led mass uprising.

"Today (Thursday), we mark the first month of Bangladesh's second independence. Hundreds of students and people from all sectors made the

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UGC chair, five new VCs appointed

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

A new chairman was appointed at the University Grant Commission yesterday, while five public universities also got new vice chancellors.

The secondary and higher education division issued separate circulars regarding the appointments.

Prof SMA Faiz, former Dhaka University VC and Public Service Commission chairman, has been appointed as the new UGC chairman.

Rajshahi University's Physics Prof Saleh Hasan Naqib was appointed as the university's new vice chancellor, while Jahangirnagar University's Philosophy Prof Kamrul Ahsan was appointed VC of JU.

Meanwhile, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University's Entomology Prof Abdul Latif was appointed as the VC of the university.

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology's Mechanical Engineering Prof Mohammad Masud was made VC of KUET.

Dhaka University's Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Prof Muhammad Ismail was appointed as the VC of Noakhali Science and Technology University.

Sources in the respective universities said the new UGC chairman, along with the new VCs of JU and RU, are either current or former leaders of the

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Home adviser warns police against bribery and extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser to the interim government Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday vowed to take stern actions against police officials involved in bribery, extortion, and unethical practices related to recruitment and transfers.

Addressing a group of 26 newly appointed superintendents of police (SPs) at the Secretariat, he emphasised the need for immediate and decisive action to eliminate corruption within the

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PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 6

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:30	4:30	6:20	7:45
JAMAAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus pays tribute to the Armed Forces Division by placing a floral wreath at the Shikha Anirban inside the army headquarters yesterday. Prof Yunus, who visited the division as part of his official duties, laid the wreath to honour the sacrifices and dedication of the members of the Armed Forces.

PHOTO: PIO

Prepare, publish list of rivers within 2 months

Rizwana instructs BWDB, BIWTA, NRCC and DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the environment and water resources ministries, yesterday instructed the Bangladesh Water Development Board, BIWTA, National River Conservation Commission, and Divisional Commissioners to finalise the total number of rivers in the country within two months.

The jointly prepared list is to be published on a website for

determining the actual number of rivers in Bangladesh and ensuring the protection of endangered rivers from encroachment and pollution.

Representatives from the River Protection Commission, BWDB, BIWTA, River Research Institute, CEGIS, and eight Divisional Commissioners were present.

During the meeting, she said the environment department will prepare a list of the most polluted rivers and identify those

Waterway proposal, and relevant ministries would regularly review progress on implementing these directives.

In compliance with court orders, the amendment proposal for the National River Conservation Commission Act will be finalised within three months, with a committee formed for this purpose.

Opinions on the cost and impact of ongoing and completed river dredging projects must also be gathered.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Identify one river per district
- Create eviction plan for encroachments
- Focus on river protection
- Prepare 'Health Card' for each river
- Involve residents, youth, NGOs in monitoring
- Amend River Conservation Act in 3 months
- Joint campaign to stop polythene use



public opinion and objections, with hearings held to address any concerns, where applicable, she said.

Rizwana also directed the authorities to identify at least one river in each of the 64 districts and prepare a time-bound, cost-effective action plan within two months to evict illegal encroachments.

Coordinated operations for river eviction would then follow.

The environment and water resources adviser shared these directives during a virtual inter-ministerial meeting on Wednesday night. The meeting focused on

responsible for the pollution, ensuring regular monitoring.

The department will also prepare a "Health Card" for each river, reflecting the river's condition, she added.

Rizwana said residents, the younger generation, social organisations, and NGOs must be involved and given monitoring responsibilities to prevent future encroachments and pollution.

The environment adviser also said BIWTA would hold discussions with experts regarding the status and feasibility of the Dhaka Circular

During the meeting, Brig Gen (retd) M Sakawat Hossain, adviser to the shipping and textiles and jute ministries, instructed divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners to remove illegal structures along important rivers such as Kirtankhola and Rupsha.

He also mentioned that a joint campaign with the environment ministry would be launched to stop the use of illegal polythene bags and promote eco-friendly jute bags.

The meeting was chaired by Nazmul Ahsan, secretary to the ministry of water resources.

Government responsible for wellbeing of martyrs' families

Says Nahid, meets family of student killed in police firing on Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the government's responsibility to ensure wellbeing of the families of those martyred during the mass uprising, Information Adviser Nahid Islam said yesterday.

Nahid said this at the Secretariat while talking to family members of Md Ramjan Ali, who was killed in a police shooting at Savar's Baipail on August 5, according to a media release.

Nahid, also the posts, telecommunications and ICT adviser, said a "new Bangladesh" was achieved because students and people took to the street and shed blood.

Nahid, one of the coordinators of the students' movement that culminated in the toppling of the Awami League government on August 5, pledged to provide monthly allowance and other benefits for the families of those killed during the movement.

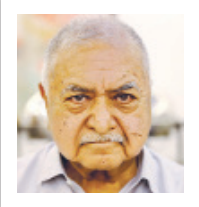
Ramjan was a student in Natore's Singra. Besides, he worked at a fish depot in Baipail to meet family expenses as the sole breadwinner.



Dr Kamal proposes commission for NRB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain, president emeritus of Gonoforum, has proposed the interim government to establish a commission to address the challenges of the Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) community.



The commission will be given a mandate to address the challenges and explore new opportunities by engaging meaningfully with the diaspora community, Dr Kamal said in a letter dated September 4.

Addressing the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, he wrote, "I am very pleased and encouraged by the steps you are taking to address the urgent political and economic issues affecting the country..."

While proposing the establishment of the commission, he wrote that it could explore how non-resident men and women, particularly young people of Bangladeshi heritage worldwide, can participate and contribute more to the country's development.

"I sincerely hope you will consider this proposal sympathetically and act at your convenience," Dr Kamal wrote in the letter.

Banks asked to inquire about ex-Speaker's accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) yesterday instructed banks to seek information on all accounts of Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, former speaker of Jatiya Sangsad.

The anti-money laundering agency also directed banks to inquire about the accounts of four of her family members, including her spouse, son, and daughter, according to a letter by the BFIU.

Earlier, the BFIU had frozen the accounts of several influential politicians and professionals, including ministers from the recently ousted Awami League government, which was overthrown following a mass uprising on August 5.

BASHUNDHARA CHAIR, MD

CID to probe allegations of money laundering against them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Crime Investigation Department is going to investigate money laundering allegations against Bashundhara Group's Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir, and others.

CID's Superintendent of Police (Media) Azad Rahman confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Citing various sources, the CID, in a press release, yesterday said although some parts of the proposed land for the Bashundhara Residential Project received approval from Rajuk, the majority had not.

Allegedly, through their influence and financial power, Bashundhara Group has implemented the project by illegally filling in public and government properties, such as canals, wetlands, rivers, government land, fallow land, cemeteries, and memorial sites.

In the case of "Bashundhara Riverview", there are accusations of illegal land grabbing and filling without the Rajuk's approval, followed by selling plots to affluent members of society through advance payments or instalments, raising hundreds of crores of taka, it said.

"There have also been allegations of massive land grabbing in various blocks of the Bashundhara Residential Area by East-West Property Ltd, with an estimated value of over Tk 1.5 lakh crore."

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Stop violence against sex workers

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh yesterday issued a 10-point demand, urging immediate government intervention to stop the widespread violence and abuse targeting female sex workers across the country, particularly in Dhaka.

The SWN's demands include bringing perpetrators of violence against sex workers under legal jurisdiction to ensure swift punishment, ensuring that relevant departments and individuals actively safeguard sex workers, and providing protection to sex workers through local administration.

They also demanded a halt to the eviction of brothels and the misuse of laws by the police against sex workers. Additionally, their demands included creating opportunities for the children of sex workers to grow up in a healthy, supportive environment within the mainstream community.

The demands were made at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Aleya Akter Lili, the network's president, emphasised the urgent need for swift legal action against those responsible for abusing sex workers.

Expressing concern over the safety of sex workers and the fear of eviction from the 11 brothels operating in the country, Lili called on the government to prioritise their protection.

Lili demanded equal treatment for sex workers in death and burial arrangements, without discrimination.



Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal walks out of the Election Commission office in the capital yesterday after submitting his resignation to the EC secretary. Besides him, all four election commissioners also resigned.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS