



ONE MONTH OF INTERIM GOVT Yunus navigating thru high hopes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A month ago, as Bangladesh teetered on the brink of chaos after the downfall of Sheikh Hasina, Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus returned home to steer the nation through political turbulences.

It was a dramatic turnaround for Yunus, who faced relentless legal peril at home but ultimately emerged as the saviour of a scarred nation. Many feared that Yunus, the nemesis of Hasina, would land in jail during her tenure, but on August 8 he came back from Paris to a hero's welcome and headed to the presidential palace to take over the helm of Bangladesh, a country in flux. His long-time tormentor, Hasina, had fled three days earlier.

The students, who had spearheaded the protests and catalysed the people's uprising, championed Yunus as their choice for the head of an interim government. People were relieved that he had indeed agreed to take charge. And as such, the economics professor came to personify the hopes and aspirations of Bangladesh.

His arrival ended a four day power vacuum. He spoke to the media as if he was already in charge, celebrating what he said was a "second liberation", imploring the countrymen to keep faith in him and sending a message of unity to the nation in times of an unprecedented crisis. At Dhaka airport, he shared words of empathy with anti-government protesters. At times, he struggled to fight back tears, a rare display of grief, when he remembered Abu Sayed, who died in

a hail of bullets fired by the police. The first few days, as expected, were steeped in symbolism. His carefully chosen words – the rebirth of Bangladesh and renewal after a period of turmoil – resonated deeply with the audience.

Then came the hardest part. The interim government nervously began the heavy task of restoring law and order after weeks of deadly protests. A month went by, but the morale of the police force was still low. The police administration underwent major reshuffles in the past month. Officers largely stayed away from work and appeared to be reluctant to respond to disturbances. Reprisal attacks spiked in the immediate aftermath of Hasina's downfall, although it has now come down. But extortion and murder cases against journalists continue to be a big concern. All of this means that maintaining law and order remains a formidable challenge for the interim government, as various groups try to exploit the social disorder to their advantage.

Yunus has initiated a major clean-up of key institutions, appointing a former IMF economist as the central bank governor to bring discipline to the banking sector. Additionally, he has tasked another prominent economist with drafting a white paper on the entrenched corruption during Hasina's 15 year tenure. While the economy is still facing challenges, businesses are gradually recovering. The advisory council now faces the crucial task of implementing effective economic policies and reforms to rebuild public trust and attract foreign

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Jobseekers stage a demo blocking the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday demanding the age limit for entry into public service be raised to 35 from 30. The protest disrupted traffic movement in and around the area. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt moves to rein in easy ride to secy post

New additional secretaries must work a year before being considered for promotion

BAHARAM KHAN

New additional secretaries who have been pressing for promotion to secretaries must work for a year before they are considered for the promotion, according to a recent decision.

The decision comes in the wake of promotions of around 450 officials to the ranks of deputy secretary, joint secretary, and additional secretary.

As the promotions were made with retrospective effect, many of the recently promoted additional secretaries, who have been in service for over 22 years, are eligible to be

immediately promoted to secretaries.

However, the public administration ministry has decided not to promote them before they work as additional secretary for at least a year, officials said.

As per the current rules, the requirement is two years.

The interim government is under tremendous pressure from civil servants who are pressing for promotion because they deem themselves as "discriminated against" by the Awami League administration, ministry officials said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

ICT gets new chief prosecutor, 4 prosecutors

3 of them were defence lawyers during war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer Md Tajul Islam has been appointed as chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, which will now deal with alleged crimes against humanity committed during the quota movement.

Four other lawyers have been appointed as prosecutors. They are Mizanul Islam, Gazi Monwar Hossain Tamim, BM Sultan Mahmud and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

DHAKA AIRPORT 3RD TERMINAL

Opening not before 2026

RASHIDUL HASAN

Passengers will have to wait for a year and a half to use the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport as the authorities are yet to figure out the modalities for running the state-of-the-art terminal.

As much as 98 percent of the works for the third terminal is complete, said Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan, who was appointed the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) on August 9.

However, it will not be possible to open the terminal for passengers in October as planned earlier, he said.

The reason for the delay is that the consultant commissioned to recommend the vendor to run the terminal and the terms and conditions for the vendor is yet to submit its report, said Sadiqur Rahman Chowdhury, the immediate past chairman of CAAB.

In September last year, the Public-Private Partnership Authority

under the Prime Minister's Office inked a deal with the International Finance Corporation, a concern of the World Bank Group, for transaction advisory service on the operation and maintenance of the third terminal.



The ousted Awami League government had decided in principle to operate and maintain the third terminal by a Japanese consortium under a public-private partnership.

The Japanese company will be responsible for the operational activities of the terminal and CAAB

will be in charge of security.

IFC's report was supposed to recommend the operating cost and the distribution of profit between CAAB and the vendor.

Once the IFC report comes through, the government will examine the report and then sign the agreement with the vendor, Sadiqur said.

Once the PPP agreement is locked, CAAB will start manpower training and trial run of the third terminal, The Daily Star has learnt from the officials involved with the proceedings.

The standard operating procedure for the terminal, which cost more than Tk 21,300 crore to build, is yet to be formulated, they said.

About 6,000 people are needed to operate the third terminal spanning 542,000 square metres round-the-clock in four shifts. About 4,000 people would be required for security alone.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি আইন এর অধীন সনদপ্রাপ্ত না হইয়া ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করা বা অনুরূপ কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত রাখা থেকে বিরত থাকা বিষয়ক

সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি আইন, ২০০৬ এর ধারা ১৫(১)(ক) অনুযায়ী কর্তৃপক্ষের সনদ ব্যতীত কোন ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠান ক্ষুদ্রঋণ সংক্রান্ত কোন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করতে পারবে না। এছাড়া ৩৫(১) ধারা অনুযায়ী সনদপ্রাপ্ত না হয়ে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করা বা অনুরূপ কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত রাখা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। সম্প্রতি লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে, কতিপয় অসাধু প্রতিষ্ঠান/চক্র/ব্যক্তি অথরিটির সনদ ব্যতীত ক্ষুদ্রঋণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামে অবৈধ শাখা খুলে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার অপচেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে যা মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি আইন, ২০০৬ এর ধারা ৩৫(১)(ক) ও ৩৫(১)(খ) অনুযায়ী শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

এ প্রেক্ষিতে, অথরিটির সনদ ব্যতীত বেআইনী ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা অথবা বিদ্যমান সনদপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামে অবৈধভাবে শাখা খুলে কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ বিধায় এ জাতীয় কার্যক্রম হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।