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Will start another mass uprising if needed: Sarjis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Students will start a new mass uprising if needed, said Sarjis Alam, a key coordinator of the anti-discrimination students' movement.



He made these remarks yesterday at a rally in Narayanganj, held under the banner of the anti-discrimination students' movement, protesting against terrorism, extortion, and corruption.

He criticised the previous government for filing false cases, imprisoning people unjustly, and engaging in extortion.

Addressing the students, Sarjis encouraged them to become self-reliant through education, talent, and skills, rather than becoming tools for others. "Prepare yourselves to be the next MPs and ministers, because your lives are controlled by parliamentarians. We want students to be represented in every sector of Bangladesh," he said.

Sarjis also demanded the immediate arrest of police, Chhatra League, Jubo League, and others associated with Sheikh Hasina, whom he accused of firing on protesters during the movement.

"We will not rest until those

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Winners of a speech competition organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad and Torkojaal pose with guests at an event yesterday. Besides, a discussion event titled "Abul Mansur Ahmad's Constitutional Vision, July Mass Uprising and Reform" was also held as part of the programme at Dhaka University. Notable guests included Dr Kamal Hossain, president emeritus of Gonoforum and an architect of the Bangladesh constitution, Prof Mirza Taslima Sultan of Dhaka University, constitutional expert Arif Khan and writers Zahed Ur Rahman and Sarwar Tushar.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Delhi working closely with Dhaka

Says Pranay Verma; govt lodges protest to India regarding teen's death in BSF firing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma has said New Delhi is working closely with Dhaka to take the bilateral relationship forward.

"We are working to closely engage with Bangladesh to fulfil shared aspirations of our people on security and development," he told reporters after a courtesy call on newly-appointed Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin yesterday.

The bilateral relations between the two countries have been witnessing strains since the ouster of the Awami League government and the fleeing of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India following a mass upsurge on August 5.

Border killing and water sharing of transboundary rivers, alongside rail transit, were some of the issues that the people of Bangladesh have been critical about.

There are allegations that India fully supported Hasina during the entire 15-year regime despite the accusations of widespread vote rigging, corruption, and human rights violations.

Verma told reporters that during the discussion with the foreign secretary, they discussed the broader relationship between Bangladesh and India.

He also said the two countries will continue to take forward the relationship in multifaceted areas.

He did not take any questions from the media on border

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34pc undecided on whom to vote for

Says survey; 10pc respondents want to vote for student-led party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recent survey conducted by a consulting firm said over 10 percent of respondents would vote for a student-led party if an election were held now, while more than a third remain undecided.

The survey conducted by Innovision Consulting sampled 5,115 field respondents from 50 districts and 3,581 online participants.

Md Rubaiyath Sarwar, managing director of Innovision Consulting, presented the findings at an event in Dhaka yesterday.

The survey, conducted between August 30 and September 8, was self-funded by the international advisory firm.

According to the field survey, 34 percent of respondents have not yet decided which party to support. Meanwhile, 21 percent said they would vote for the BNP, 14 percent for Jamaat, and five percent for Awami League.

Additionally, four percent of respondents were reluctant to vote, while three percent each expressed support for independents and Islami Andolan Bangladesh.

A further two percent said they would vote for none,

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The survey conducted by Innovision Consulting sampled 5,115 field respondents from 50 districts and 3,581 online participants.

DHAKA COLLEGE, IDEAL COLLEGE

At least 24 hurt as students clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A clash erupted between students of Dhaka College and Ideal College in the Science Lab area and its surroundings yesterday afternoon, leaving over two dozen students injured.

The clash, which began around 12:30pm, following an altercation, continued for over two hours, ending at 2:40pm.

During the clash, students of both colleges engaged in a chase, counter-chase, and hurled brick chunks at each other.

According to Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources, at least 14 students were injured in the clash -- ten from Dhaka College and three from Ideal College -- along with one pedestrian.

DMCH officials said the injuries were mostly caused by sticks and bricks, but none of the victims were critically wounded.

Mohsin Uddin, officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station, said the clashes between Dhaka College

and Ideal College students were triggered by an altercation between the students.

Ideal College students claimed that the clash initially broke out over a dominance dispute, during which two of their students were assaulted by Dhaka College students.



Talking to The Daily Star, a group of Ideal College students alleged that at least 20 of their peers were injured in the clash. Out of fear, they sought medical treatment at a private hospital rather than DMCH.

Students of Dhaka College, however,

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Measures to be taken to stop border killings

Says home adviser after meeting on Durga Puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said authorities concerned have been ordered to take measures so that border killings do not take place in the future.

The adviser made the remark in reply to a reporter's query after a meeting at the secretariat on maintaining law and order during the upcoming Durga Puja.

"Another issue arises during the [Durga] Puja. People from this side go to see the puja on the other side [in India], and vice versa. That is why I have requested everyone to arrange good puja pandals on the border belt so that

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US eager to work with interim govt

Senator Dick Durbin offers full support to Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States has trashed the speculation on US involvement in the recent student-led anti-government protests in Bangladesh.

"We continue to be ready and eager to work with the interim government led by Dr Muhammad Yunus as it charts its democratic future for the people of Bangladesh," Deputy Principal Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters at a regular briefing in Washington on Monday, reports UNB.

He said they are continuing to monitor the developments in Bangladesh closely.

Drawing his attention, one of the reporters said there had been claims about Chinese influence in recent Bangladeshi student protests.

In reply, Patel said he was just not going to speculate.

The reporter said some Indian media outlets have suggested US involvement in the anti-government protest in Bangladesh while India has historically been a close ally of the ousted government.

Patel said he had not seen those reports. "But what I can unequivocally say is that they are not true. That's probably why I've not seen them," he added.

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TAQI MURDER

3 associates of Osman family held, remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three men have been placed on remand by a Narayanganj court in connection with the murder of Tanwir Muhammad Taqi.

The arrestees are Shafayet Hossain Shipon, Mamun Mia, and Kajal Hawlader.

They are close associates of the Osman family.

Their names were on the list of a leaked Rab investigation alongside Azmeri Osman, son of the late Nasim Osman.

Rab-II conducted a drive on Sunday night, arresting Shipon and Mamun from Chashara and Kalir Bazar in Narayanganj city, and Kajal from Dhanmondi in Dhaka on Monday afternoon.

Rab produced Mamun and Shipon before the court on Monday, requesting a

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Police role in Abu Sayed's death 'shameful'

Says new Rangpur commissioner; two cops on 4-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Majid Ali yesterday expressed deep regret over the police's role in Abu Sayed's death, calling the incident "shameful."

"It won't take many witnesses to prove who shot Abu Sayed, and what followed was equally disgraceful," he said, referring to the wrongful arrest and framing of an innocent boy as the culprit.

He made these remarks during a press briefing with journalists at the RPMP office.

The commissioner assured that a thorough investigation would be conducted to bring the true perpetrator to justice and emphasised that Sayed's martyrdom had moved people worldwide.

"Abu Sayed's example will be remembered as a symbol of bravery in the history of Bangladesh. After taking office, I personally visited Abu Sayed's family and apologised on behalf of the police force," he said.

Meanwhile, a court in Rangpur yesterday placed two

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BEATING WOMAN

Former cop Kohinoor among three acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted three former policemen, including former DMP deputy commissioner (west) Kohinoor Mian, in a case filed for beating up of a woman in the city's Dhanmondi area in March 2006.

Two others are former DMP DC (south) Mazharul Hoque and constable Ruhul Amin.

Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (in charge) Md Hasibul Haque delivered the verdict in presence of Mazharul and Ruhul at the courtroom yesterday, said a court staffer.

Kohinoor, an influential police officer in the 2001-2006 BNP-Jamaat coalition government, is absconding in the case.

On May 14 last year, the court framed charges against the three accused.

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Sold for money, newborn returned to biological parents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Abdur Rashid, a day labourer from Dinajpur, was shot by law enforcers on August 4. Shotgun pellets struck him when police opened fire on anti-government protesters, leaving him incapacitated and in urgent need of medical care. With no steady income and mounting treatment costs, Rashid's family was driven to make an unimaginable decision -- to sell their newborn daughter.

The girl, born to Rashid and Rokeya Begum on August 9, was handed over to a childless couple from Kurigram just three days after her birth. In exchange, the couple received Tk 37,000, of which Tk 25,000 was paid upfront.

"It was the hardest decision of our lives," Rokeya said. "We couldn't see any other way to save him."

However, people across the country took notice of the matter after this newspaper published a report on this issue.



Locals reached out to authorities concerned for help. The social welfare department in Dinajpur and local officials intervened to reunite the baby with her biological parents.

Early yesterday, the child's biological mother, accompanied by Md Moinul Huq, deputy director (acting) of the department in Dinajpur, visited the house of the couple who adopted the baby in Kurigram, said Foisal Raihan, upazila

nirbahi officer of Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

The couple agreed to return the child. The payment they had made was refunded, and Rokeya returned to Dinajpur, arriving around midnight with her daughter safely in her arms.

"Giving her away was a mistake. I am very happy that she was returned to us," Rokeya said.

The local authorities vowed to bear the treatment cost of Rashid.