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Fishermen prepare their trawler and nets for a fishing expedition in the Bay of Bengal. Each trawler typically carries 13-15 fishers who spend 10-12 days at sea catching fish before returning home. Each fisherman earns around Tk 5,000-6,000 per trip. The photo was taken at Ghat-5 in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Hasina, 58 others sued in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A case has been filed against 59 individuals, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, accusing them of attempting to murder a student during an anti-government protest in Dinajpur on August 4.

Fahim Faisal, 22, a resident of Rajbati area in Dinajpur, filed the case with Kotwali Police Station on Friday, claiming he was shot and injured during the demonstration.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Farid Hossain confirmed the development to The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the case statement, Faisal, who participated in the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, was shot during an attack on protesters near Dinajpur Sadar Hospital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

EC should be formed on political consensus

Speakers tell policy dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission should be formed based on political consensus, involving all political parties, media, and civil society members, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The policy dialogue was organised by Democracy International in Dhaka.

Speakers stressed the need for a search committee inclusive of representatives from all parties, the media, and civil society to ensure a transparent and fair process.

They also demanded the cancellation of the "Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Appointment Act, 2022", urging reforms to prevent government control.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, said, "When the Act was passed in 2022, we



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provided feedback on the draft, but our recommendations were ignored. The Act was passed with an indemnity provision, which

is unacceptable. This provision allows them [government] to appoint whoever they want to the Election Commission."

"The previous government appointed people of their choice, which was biased. An election that disrupts democracy is unconstitutional. They violated the constitution. Therefore, this law should be repealed and reformed," he added.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said on Wednesday that Badiul Alam Majumdar will head the Electoral System Reform Commission.

Yesterday, Badiul said his committee would propose forming the Election Commission based on political consensus and transparency.

At the discussion, former election commissioner and an adviser to the interim government Sakawat Hussain proposed a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

3 more die of dengue, 548 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three dengue patients died and at least 548 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, according to the daily statement of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the deaths, two were in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area while one at Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) area.

This year, the total number of cases rose to 18,589 while 106 deaths from dengue disease were reported during the period.

Currently, 1,932 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, of which 672 are from outside Dhaka.

‘Women’s role in movements often ignored’

Speakers tell seminar marking death anniversary of Noorjehan Murshid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite women playing an instrumental role in all movements, their voices are often ignored once the movements end, said Sharmeen Murshir, social welfare and women's affairs adviser of the interim government at a seminar yesterday.

Citing historical examples, she said, "They [women] are told to return home and are neither welcomed nor celebrated."

"Even though 100 women fought as armed freedom fighters during 1971, after the nine-month war ended, they were not accepted back into their families. Entering married life became a difficult matter for them, even though their male counterparts were celebrated upon returning home," she said.

She praised the women who participated in the July 2024 movement, highlighting their solidarity with men in defending protesters from attacks and arrests.

The seminar, titled Nariswar (Voice of Women), was organised by Uttarsury: Noorjehan-Sarwar Mushid Cultural Centre at Bangla Academy to mark the 21st death anniversary of Noorjehan Murshid, a key figure in Bangladesh's women's movement.

The event highlighted Noorjehan's crucial role in shaping Bangladesh's cultural and political foundation.

The second phase of Nariswar focused on "Movement, Progress, and the Language of Women's Resistance".

Sharmin said the 2024 mass upsurge saw female martyrs for the first time in contemporary history and stressed the importance of remembering their sacrifices.

She also criticised the interim government, which she herself is a part of, for failing to implement a women-sensitive administration.

Prapti Tapasi, female coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement at Jahangirnagar University, also said despite women contributing significantly to the mass uprising, they did not receive the respect they deserved.

Tapasi recounted how many female students from schools, colleges, and universities joined the protests, bravely holding placards and shouting slogans like, "Why did you kill my brothers?"

She pointed out that many of these young protesters, some of whom joined without informing their parents, are now injured and receiving treatment at hospitals.

She honoured the legacy of female pioneers such as Begum Rokeya, Nawab Faizunnesa,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Despite women contributing significantly to the mass uprising, they did not receive the respect they deserved.

PRAPTI TAPASI
Protest Coordinator

Nurses demand reform in sector

Form human chains in Dhaka, Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurses, midwives, and nursing students and teachers organised protests in Dhaka and Gazipur yesterday morning, demanding reforms in the nursing and midwifery sectors.

In Dhaka, under the banner of "Nursing Reform Council", they formed a human chain in front of the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology on Mirpur Road around 11:00am yesterday, which continued till 12:00pm.

In a letter sent to the health adviser, the protesters made a one-point demand, which is the removal of all non-nursing administrative officials from the positions of director general and director of Directorate General

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



No shortage of fertiliser in country

Says agri adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture and Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said that the country has enough fertiliser stock to last until December and there will be no shortage.

He made the statement while speaking as the chief guest at a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Farmers will be able to purchase and use fertilisers according to their needs, he said.

The meeting addressed the current flood situation across various districts, reviewed rehabilitation measures for affected farmers, and evaluated progress in relief efforts.

Officials also discussed the activities of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Pedestrians and vehicles struggle through a rain-soaked, pothole-riddled road in front of Mugda Hospital, Dhaka. Despite repeated repairs, the road remains in poor condition, continuing to disrupt daily life for commuters. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN