



"I am going to resign from the CM position after two days. I will not sit on the CM chair until the people give their verdict."

Delhi Chief Minister
Arvind Kejriwal

The Daily Star

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TO KNOW

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eye taking India
to final session**

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reform agenda
for Bangladesh**

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**101 of the RTI
Act for our
youth activists**

P8



**Tk 523cr spent,
yet city drowns
every time it
rains**

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US stands ready to help carry out reforms

American delegation meets Yunus, holds talks on reforms, repatriation of laundered money, labour rights, Rohingya issue

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has expressed strong commitment to work with the interim government, which sought support to rebuild the country, carry out reforms, and bring back money laundered by corrupt individuals.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus asked for the help when a US delegation met him at the state guest house Jamuna.

The delegation, led by US Treasury Department's Assistant Secretary Brent Nieman, praised Prof Yunus' leadership and said Washington would be happy to support his reform agenda.

The US officials said they were eager to offer technical and financial assistance.

Yesterday, the two countries signed an agreement under which the US would provide \$200 million to Bangladesh as development support.

"Our delegation met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, affirming our dedication to fostering inclusive economic growth, institution building, and development to benefit the people of Bangladesh," the US embassy said on its Facebook page.

"As Bangladesh looks to chart a more equitable and inclusive future, the US stands ready to support those efforts."

This is the first visit by any US delegation after the formation of the interim government.

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

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PHOTO: NAHID MAZHAR

Residents pick up the pieces after the devastating flood left behind a trail of debris and mud in the Jagatpur area of Fulgazi, Feni. The embankment that used to protect this neighbourhood from being inundated by the Muhuri has been broken in 13 places.

Miladunnabi today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the day of the birth and passing away of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), will be observed across Bangladesh today with due religious solemnity. The day is a public holiday.

On this day in 570, the 12th of Rabiul Awal of the Hijri calendar, Muhammad (PBUH) was born in Makkah with divine blessings and messages of peace for mankind. He also passed away on the same day.

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. Stay tuned to our website for round-the-clock news coverage.

'At least 422 of the dead belong to the BNP'

Fakhrul says govt should focus on 4 areas of reform, leave others for elected govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said at least 422 of those killed in the July-August massacre were involved in party politics.

"According to various reports, 875 people were killed across Bangladesh until August 13, of whom at least 422 were involved in BNP politics," he said at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

"There is no scope for underestimating BNP's contribution [in the mass uprising]."

Reading out a statement, Fakhrul said, "It is not an isolated incident that the majority of the martyrs were BNP leaders and activists. It is a result of their long political struggle."

He said beside the student-led uprising, 1,551 BNP activists were killed



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Further uncertainty over Rooppur plant launch

Foreign workers constructing transmission line across Padma yet to return

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Bheramara Kushthia

The construction work for the transmission line through the Padma and Jamuna rivers for the Rooppur nuclear power plant has come to a grinding halt with the ouster of the Awami League government as the Indian contractor has left the site.

Without the transmission line, the commissioning of the \$12.65 billion nuclear power plant is not possible, according to Md. Zahedul Hasan, its project director.

A total of 669 kilometres of grid line, including 16 kilometres of river crossing line in both Padma and Jamuna, is needed for power transmission to the national grid from the country's first nuclear power plant, according to the Power Grid Company Bangladesh (PGCB).

Laying the transmission line across the two rivers forms the bulk of the work and that has not progressed well.

Only 38 percent of the work for the Padma river crossing line has been completed, while the progress on the Jamuna river crossing line is less than 25 percent, according to Md. Delwar Hossain, project director of the river crossing line for the Rooppur transmission line.



The Indian company Transrail Lighting got the contract for construction of the river crossing line for \$524 million: a 2 km single circuit 400kv line across Padma, and one 7 km double circuit 400kv line and another 7 km 230kv line through Jamuna.

Of the three river crossing lines, Transrail has agreed to complete 2 km of 400kv river crossing line in Padma by October such that electricity could be transmitted from unit-1 of the Rooppur power plant, according to Rooppur project and PGCB officials.

The construction work had to be put on hold from the middle of July due to a huge flow of

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Asaduzzaman Noor arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former minister for cultural affairs Asaduzzaman Noor and former state minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali were arrested in Dhaka last night.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) arrested Asaduzzaman Noor at Nawratan colony on Bailey Road around 11:00pm. He was accused in a case filed with Mirpur Police Station, said an official from the DMP media wing.

Noor, a prominent theatre activist, was a former lawmaker of Nilphamari-2 constituency.

Meanwhile, Mahbub Ali was arrested at Segunbagicha.

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Star INTERVIEW

Bangladeshi-American political scientist **Ali Riaz** spoke to The Daily Star's **Sadi Muhammad Alok** and **Sharif M Shafique** about the uprising, the constitution, wholesale cases and arrests, and ties with the US and India, among other issues.

Constitution needs rewriting to bar autocracy

TDS: What's your take on the uprising that toppled the Awami League regime?

Ali Riaz: This didn't happen suddenly. Oppression, murders, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings over the last 15 years played a key role here. Anger from these things combined with the 36-day student movement and determined the fate of autocrat Sheikh Hasina. The young students played a vital role in breaking the culture of fear, which was the base of her government's operation. People got out of that culture and took to the streets when the students called Hasina a dictator.

TDS: How would you define the regime's fall, described as a "revolution" or "mass uprising" by some and a "second independence" by others?

Ali Riaz: Definitely it's a mass uprising carried out

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No obligation to make arrest without probe Says DMP boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no obligation to arrest the accused named in the first information reports (FIRs) without conducting investigation into cases filed over deaths during the student-led mass uprising, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Mainul Hasan said yesterday.

He faced questions about a spree of such cases, and journalists being named in the FIRs, during a meeting with the Executive Committee of Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) at the DMP headquarters.

It is not as if the police will arrest journalists if they are named in the FIR, Mainul said.

"Action will be taken after conducting a collective investigation. That's the instruction we've been given," the DMP boss said.

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Incessant rains for three days have flooded most areas of Khulna city. The photo of struggling commuters was taken yesterday morning on Outer Bypass Road. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'Stay in power as long as it takes for reforms'

81pc say about interim govt in survey by a Brac institute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A survey on 2,363 people has found that 81 percent want the interim government to stay until the reforms are done.

In interviews conducted over the phone from August 22 to September 2, at least 47 percent respondents said the interim government's tenure should be two years or more while 35 percent said it should be one year or less.

Just 13 percent said the government should hold an election immediately and transfer power, according to the study by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD).

Findings of the "pulse survey" were presented yesterday at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of Dhaka University on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy.

The respondents are from all 64 districts; 43 percent of them were women; 67 were from rural areas and 33 percent from urban areas.

When it comes to politics, 71 percent of the respondents said that the country is on the right track.

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- 71 pc say country on right track
- 80 pc for banning partisan student politics