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‘BCL TIES’  
Bu et cancels dorm seats of several students

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

In the face of protests from a section of students, Bu et authorities yesterday cancelled seat allotments for some students who were allegedly involved in Chhatra League’s politics.

However, the authorities could not say the number of students whose allotments were cancelled.

Earlier, the students boycotted all academic activities for the second consecutive day yesterday as the authorities were yet to take any “visible steps” against those involved in BCL’s politics.

They said students of different batches would sit together and assess the overall situation and take the next step following the discussion.

Prof Mohammad Al

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Amidst the relentless rain and stormy skies, fishermen get ready to cast their nets on the Meghna with hope, chasing the elusive hilsa. The downpour may drench the earth, but their spirit remains unyielding. The photo was taken in Bhola yesterday.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

Social safety net fell short of expectation  
Speakers tell discussion

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Despite significant allocations in the national budget, the country’s social safety net programmes have fallen short of their expected impact, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

Wave Foundation, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, organised the national dialogue titled “Social Protection Programmes: Inequality and Rights” at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Asif M Shahan, an associate professor of development studies at Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper at the event, said a press release.

Even though Bangladesh witnessed notable economic growth over the past few decades, the benefits of this progress have not been distributed evenly across society, the speakers said.

While the National Social Security Strategy was deemed a positive step forward in addressing social vulnerabilities, however, the selection of beneficiaries and distribution of benefits have been criticised for inefficiencies, irregularities, and discrimination, they also said.

These programmes lack proper monitoring in absence of institutional framework to assess the progress of beneficiaries or to devise plans based on their evaluations, leading to a significant gap in accurate statistics regarding poverty alleviation levels among beneficiaries, the press release also read.

Addressing the event, Zakia Afroz, director (additional secretary) of the Department of Women Affairs, said the lack of comprehensive needs assessments makes it difficult to accurately identify true beneficiaries.

Mohsin Ali, founder and executive director of Wave

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WATER RIGHTS  
Will start negotiations with India soon

Says Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh will soon initiate negotiations with India concerning its water rights and its share of common rivers, said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Water Resources, yesterday.

These negotiations will take into account public opinion, and the results will be transparently shared with the people, she said.

Speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled “Bangladesh’s Fair Share of Water in Shared Rivers”, held at Pani Bhaban in the capital to mark World Rivers Day, Rizwana, who also serves as an adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, made these remarks.

“Although the issue of sharing international river water is complex, sharing important information is not political. Details about the locations



Bangladesh not only seeks a fair share of international rivers but is also committed to protecting its internal rivers.

of structures and rainfall data can be shared. In that case, many lives could be saved,” she said.

She further explained that a country cannot approach the International Court on such matters unilaterally; as both nations must be involved.

“Sharing rainfall data is a humanitarian issue, crucial for saving lives. Bangladesh’s claims will be made clearly and strongly,” the adviser said.

She said Bangladesh not only seeks a fair share of international rivers but is also committed to protecting its internal rivers, describing them as “living entities” that must be collectively preserved.

In his keynote presentation, Mohammad Ejaz, director of the River and Delta Research Center, pointed out that unilateral control is being exerted in the upstream portions of the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna

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Petition seeks ban on hilsa export

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the interim government’s decision to permit exporting 3,000 tonnes of hilsa to India.

Advocate Md Mahmudul Hasan submitted the petition, seeking the HC’s order on the government to cancel the decision and issue a ban on the export of hilsa captured from Padma and Meghna rivers.

In the petition, he said hilsa is not a freely exportable product, according to the Bangladesh Export Policy 2021-24.

“The commerce ministry did not follow the proper legal procedures to allow the export of hilsa. The fish is under jurisdiction of the fisheries and livestock ministry, and without its clear approval, the commerce ministry cannot single handedly approve its export,” he said.

The lawyer further said

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STUDENT MOVEMENT

Nahid meets families of two martyrs

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Family members of Miraj Hossain and Md Ismail Hossain Rabbi, both victims of the student-led mass uprising, yesterday met with Information Adviser Md Nahid Islam.

The meeting took place at the Department of Posts and Telecommunications.

According to a press release, Miraj’s father became emotional while recounting the death of his son on August 5. He broke down in tears while showing his son’s blood-stained shirt, creating a highly emotional atmosphere.

Nahid consoled the grieving father by embracing him.

Rabbi’s sister urged the adviser to assist with

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UK MP calls for probe into ex-land minister

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A UK lawmaker has called on the National Crime Agency (NCA) — UK’s leading agency against organised crime, trafficking, cybercrime, and economic crime — to investigate allegations of corruption and money laundering against former members of the Bangladesh government, including former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury.

In a letter to NCA Director General Graeme Biggar, Apsana Begum, a Labour MP of Bangladesh origin, urged the agency to scrutinise Saifuzzaman’s UK-based assets.

Apsana stated that Saifuzzaman is already under investigation by Bangladesh’s Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for alleged embezzlement and claimed that he laundered millions of dollars into the UK.

Citing a Financial Times report, Apsana noted that entities controlled by Saifuzzaman have acquired at least 280 properties in the UK, valued at over 150 million pounds. Additionally, an Al-Jazeera investigation revealed that he owns 74 properties in her constituency of Poplar and Limehouse.

“The assets in question belong to Bangladesh and I believe they must be returned to support the people of Bangladesh as they strive for democracy

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Apsana Begum



Saifuzzaman Chowdhury

SC launches helpline for service seekers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Supreme Court administration yesterday introduced a helpline number (+88 01316154216) to assist the litigants or service recipients so that they don’t face obstacles at any section of its registry office.

An officer of the SC registry will operate the helpline and provide necessary assistance to the service recipients.

The helpline service will remain open from 10:00am to 4:00pm every Sunday to Thursday except public holidays.

The users can contact the helpline to get advice with the necessary information regarding the service.

On September 18, the chief justice issued 12 directives for SC officials to provide justice seekers and lawyers with better services and refrain from engaging in financial transactions or corrupt practices.

DURGA PUJA  
Police to stay on high alert

Says DMP chief

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will remain on high alert to ensure a peaceful celebration of Durga Puja in all puja mandaps in the capital, said DMP Commissioner Mainul Hasan yesterday.

Necessary security measures have been taken, and police are working to ensure security centring the Durga Puja, he said while presiding over a meeting on security, law and order, and traffic management for Durga Puja at the DMP Headquarters.

The DMP commissioner said comprehensive security measures have been taken during Mahalaya, Durga Puja, and for the immersion of the idols.

Police have already begun their Puja-specific security operations, he added.

Alongside uniformed and plainclothed police officers, SWAT, Crisis Response Team, Quick Response Team, Crime Scene Van, and the Bomb Disposal Unit will be on standby during the celebrations.

The DMP Commissioner emphasised that CCTV must be active at all times during the festivities. He urged everyone to contact the National Emergency Service 999 or the nearest police station in case of an emergency.

The Puja celebration committee leaders present at the meeting sought maximum cooperation from Dhaka Metropolitan Police for the safety of the Puja mandaps and effective traffic management.



Even amid the continuous drizzling rain, these two friends found a little pocket of joy in each other’s company. The photo was taken in the TSC area of Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN