

REVISING TEXTBOOKS

Govt dissolves committee in face of flak

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government yesterday dissolved a committee formed earlier this month to revise the textbooks under the National Curriculum and Textbook Board.

The decision came against the backdrop of sharp criticisms from some quarters for not including Islamic scholars in the 10-member coordination committee for revision of books for primary and secondary schools.

They had also been calling for the exclusion of two members -- Samina Luthfa and Kamrul Hassan, both teachers of Dhaka University -- for what they said was their anti-religion stance.

Over the last one week, the groups have been writing extensively on social media against the two, while others pledged their support for the teachers.

Samina and Kamrul are members of University Teachers' Network, which played a significant role in the mass uprising that led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina government on August 5.

A member of the now-disbanded committee, requesting anonymity, said the government showed that it would bow down if a quarter made such demands.

Moreover, by branding the two as anti-religion, the groups have put the teachers at "very real risk" of being attacked, said the former member.

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Several thousand residents of the Bhabadaha area in Jashore district suffer for nearly six months every year due to flooding by the Mukteshwari, Teka, Sree and Hori rivers, which have become shallow because of siltation over the years. As the rivers cannot drain the floodwater, mobility remains a challenge in the area for a long time. The problem also affects education and farming greatly.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Stop spread of hate speech

University teachers write to CA

DU CORRESPONDENT

The University Teachers' Network yesterday called on the government to stop the spread of hate speech, intolerance and interference in the citizens' freedom of expression.

They made the demands in an open letter, which was emailed to the Chief Adviser's Office.

Gitara Nasreen, a professor of Dhaka University's mass communication and journalism department, read out the letter to reporters at a press conference in Dhaka University Club.

"It's a matter of regret that within just a few weeks of the mass uprising, we are witnessing various intolerant, aggressive and anarchist gatherings in different parts of the country ... Three people were killed in mob violence at three universities. An army officer was killed in an attack while trying to apprehend criminals. People of different ethnicities have been brutally killed in the Chattogram Hill Tracts," the letter read.

"Women are being assaulted, molested and harassed on the streets and in tourist areas. Workers are being oppressed by goons hired by factory owners. In universities, colleges, schools and offices, a number of violent incidents are taking place. Shrines, temples and industrial

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Int'l support garnered to help reforms, growth

Experts say about Yunus' NY trip

PORIMOL PALMA and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

As Bangladesh embarks on a new journey toward freedom and democracy after the July uprising, the international support received by Prof Muhammad Yunus at the UN General Assembly is poised to significantly advance the country's reform and growth initiatives, say foreign policy experts.

The student-led uprising and Yunus's global fame have added unique significance to his presence at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Experts believe the relationship between the US and Bangladesh will enter a new phase, leading to



increased investment from Western nations and other key countries following Yunus's first ever visit to New York as head of government for the 79th UNGA session and other sideline events.

Yunus's address at the UNGA,

and meetings with global leaders, including US President Joe Biden, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and heads of the World Bank, IMF, European Commission, USAID and UNDP and other relevant UN agencies signify that his interim government enjoys both political and economic support.

Following a meeting with Yunus, Ajay Banga, president of the World Bank Group, said that the World Bank will provide \$3.5 billion to Bangladesh to support the interim government's reform initiatives.

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S Alam's tax file shows no foreign income

MOHAMMAD SUMAN and ZYMA ISLAM



S Alam Group owner Mohammed Saiful Alam's 2022-2023 tax file is a puzzle. In that tax year, he declared personal assets worth Tk 2,532 crore, but did not show any personal bank loans from Bangladesh or his foreign income.

He, however, declared Tk 2,546 crore in loans from his "relatives". A closer look at his tax file reveals that many of these extremely generous "relatives" are in fact companies owned by him and his family.

These "relatives" include his own companies S Alam & Co., Sonali Traders, Genesis Textile, Accessories and Apparels Ltd, his cousin Ansarul

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Israel kills Hezbollah chief

ME at precipice of 'full-blown war', warn Russia, EU; Tel Aviv vows to destroy Hezbollah; Khamenei swears revenge; Biden says his death 'measure of justice' for his victim

AGENCIES

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah has been killed, the Lebanese movement said yesterday, dealing a seismic blow to the Iran-backed group that has been engaged in a year of cross-border hostilities with Israel.

Hezbollah's statement came after the Israeli military said it had killed Nasrallah in an air strike on Beirut's southern suburbs Friday, a move that EU and Russia said risks pushing the Middle East at



the precipice of a "full-blown" war. "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, has joined his great, immortal

martyr comrades whom he led for about 30 years," Hezbollah said in a statement.

It said he was killed with other group members "following the treacherous Zionist strike on the southern suburbs" of Beirut.

The killing of Nasrallah has dramatically inflamed fears of a full-scale war in the Middle East -- a possibility that US President Joe Biden's administration has been desperately seeking for months to forestall, CNN reported quoting

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Who is Nasrallah?

AGENCIES

Slain Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, whose death was confirmed yesterday by his Iran-backed movement, wielded great power in Lebanon but led a life in hiding to avoid assassination by his group's arch-enemy, Israel.

Lebanon's most powerful man and the only one in the tiny Mediterranean country with the power to wage war, Nasrallah was killed aged 64 in a wave of Israeli strikes on Friday on

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Khamenei moved to a secure location

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been transferred to a secure location inside the country with heightened security measures in place, two regional officials briefed by Tehran told Reuters.



The sources said Iran was in constant contact with Lebanon's Hezbollah and other regional proxy groups to determine the next step after Israel announced that it had killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in a

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A man walks on the rubble of damaged buildings in the aftermath of Israeli air strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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আমাদের সাথে
সাফল্যের শীর্ষে

বছরে

আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংক

দীর্ঘ ৩০ বছর ধরে আমরা আছি গ্রাহক আস্থার শীর্ষে। ৩৬ লক্ষ গ্রাহকের
সাড়ে ৫১ হাজার কোটি টাকার আমানত (জুন'২৪) ও সাড়ে ৪৬ হাজার
কোটি টাকার বিনিয়োগের এই বিশাল ক্যানভাসই প্রমাণ করে
আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংকের উপর আস্থা রেখেছে গ্রাহক।
দেশব্যাপী বিস্তৃত নেটওয়ার্কের মাধ্যমে আমদানি-রপ্তানি,
রেমিট্যান্স সংগ্রহ ও বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নির্দেশনা
পরিপালনসহ ব্যাংকিংয়ের সবগুলো সূচকেই সুদৃঢ়
অবস্থানে আছে আপনার, আমার, আমাদের
আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংক।
এভাবেই আমরা এগিয়ে যেতে চাই
সমৃদ্ধির পথে আপনাদের সাথে।

আল-আরাফাহ্
ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি। aib