



DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9, 2024

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIV No. 257

ASHWIN 24, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABIUS SANI 5, 1446 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00

## Interim govt struggling on many fronts

### Backtracks on its decisions on multiple occasions

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government on around a dozen occasions has backtracked on its decisions during its two months in office, casting doubts about its resolve.

Political analysts interpret this as signs of inconsistency, a lack of experience and determination, and the uncertainty troubling the government as it struggles to strike a balance between diverse demands.

But according to highly placed sources in the interim government, the main reason behind the backpedalling was a result of pressure created by social media outcry and public perception amid a shifting political landscape.

The government's U-turns sometimes appeared to be a result of it having to navigate diverse pressure groups and manoeuvre around different preferences of the political forces.

For several weeks after taking oath, Prof Muhammad Yunus faced an almost unrelenting wave of agitation from different quarters who had finally found an empathetic figure at the helm of the government.

Whether it is the appointment of a senior secretary or a deputy commissioner, the constitutional reform commission head or a public prosecutor, the government has backed down from its initial decisions time and again to balance practicality and public desire.

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman, who teaches government and politics at Jahangirnagar University, thinks turning back from its position is nothing but a sign of "indecision".

"The government had to take many quick decisions because time was of the essence and thus some mistakes were made," he said.

He told The Daily Star that the government needed capable people to run the administration but had to give

**"The government had to take many quick decisions because time was of the essence and thus some mistakes were made."**

Prof Al Masud Hasanuzzaman

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From left, SK Bashir Uddin, managing director of AkijBashir Group; Alihussain Akberali, chairman of BSRM; Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation; Salehuddin Ahmed, finance and commerce adviser; Kyaw Sein Thay Dolly, managing director of Cloths "R" Us Ltd; Mohammad Ali, managing director and CEO of Pubali Bank PLC; and Miarul Haque, managing director of DHL Express Bangladesh, pose for a photo at the 22nd DHL-The Daily Star Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden last night.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Bangladesh will never fail'

### Says Youngone chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's resilience will never allow Bangladesh to become a failure, said Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation.

He made the comments in his keynote speech before receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 22nd DHL-The Daily Star Bangladesh Business Awards ceremony

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## Accolade for BUSINESS ICONS

### Three individuals, two organisations get 22nd DHL-Star Bangladesh Business Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

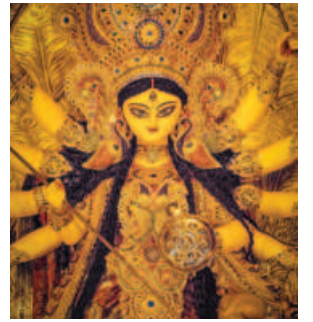
DHL Express and The Daily Star have for the 22nd year honoured five outstanding businesses and entrepreneurs for their hard work and zeal to take the economy and the nation forward.

This year the global logistics service provider and the most circulated English

newspaper in Bangladesh gave the awards in five categories: Business Person of the Year, Best Financial Institution of the Year, Best Enterprise of the Year, Outstanding Woman in Business, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Finance and Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed handed the trophies

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## DURGA PUJA GREETINGS!

We wish our readers a joyous celebration of Durga Puja. Let the festivities begin on a note of communal harmony and prosperity.

## Maha Shashthi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community, begins today with Maha Shashthi at temples and puja mandaps across the country with due religious fervour.

This year, Durga Puja is being celebrated at 31,461 puja mandaps across the country, said Jayanta Kumar Dev, president of the Sarbajanin Puja Committee, during a press conference at the Dhakeshwari National Temple yesterday.

Jayanta Kumar however, expressed dissatisfaction over security, citing several recent attacks on different Durga Idols and temples across the country.

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Displaced Lebanese children sleep at a parking lot in Beirut yesterday amid ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## No alternative to repealing CSA

### Say speakers at event, term the law 'fascist govt's tool' to suppress free speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Describing the Cyber Security Act (CSA) as a tool used by the previous "fascist government" to stifle free speech and instil fear among the populace, speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for the law to be immediately repealed.

They urged the government to replace the CSA with a new law that would truly protect the citizens' rights online.

The event titled "Revocable Cyber Security Act: People's Expectations" was held at the Jatiya Press Club, and was co-hosted by Digitally Right, Nagorik, and the UN resident coordinator's office.

Some 30 participants, including those victimised under the law, rights activists, political leaders, lawyers, journalists, and civil society members, made these demands.

They called for scrapping all the cases filed under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act-2006, the Digital Security Act (DSA)-2018, and the Cyber Security Act-2023,

alongside adequate compensation for the victims, and a formal apology from the state.

The speakers also demanded those responsible for misusing the law, from law enforcement officials to members of the judiciary, be held accountable.

Speaking at the discussion, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said that there is no alternative to repealing the CSA and the authorities have to make an announcement on this immediately.

He said that all cases filed so far under the CSA must be dismissed without delay.

"This law [CSA] has only led to the harassment of individuals. It is essential to ensure that those who misused the Digital Security Act are held accountable. Otherwise, a similar situation may arise again."

He said that both individuals and institutions involved in misusing the CSA and DSA must be held accountable.

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## Govt doesn't know where Hasina is now

### Says foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has asked Delhi and the United Arab Emirates about the whereabouts of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, but did not get any confirmation yet, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said yesterday.

Hasina fled to India amid a student-led mass uprising on August 5.

There were controversies over her stay in India, and Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul had said she would be brought back home if the courts required it. Hasina faces dozens of cases that accuse her of killings during the July-August student movement.

Recently, there have been rumours on social media that Hasina left New Delhi for the UAE.

Asked if some ministers who took shelter in India

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