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HASINA'S RESIGNATION 'I have no documentary evidence'

President tells Manab Zamin chief editor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Mohammad Shahabuddin has said he heard Sheikh Hasina had resigned as the prime minister, but he does not have any documentary evidence.

"I tried [to collect the resignation letter] many times but failed. Maybe she did not get the time," he added.

The president said these when Manab Zamin Chief Editor Matur Rahman Chowdhury met him and wanted to know about ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation letter.

The write-up that carries the conversation was published in the daily's political magazine "Janatar Chokh" yesterday.

Hasina left the country on August 5 following a student-led mass uprising.

According to section 57(a) of the

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New Zealand players celebrate winning their first-ever ICC Women's T20 World Cup after romping to a 32-run win over South Africa in the final of the ninth edition of the tournament at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Amelia Kerr scored 43 and scalped three wickets to help the White Ferns restrict South Africa to 126 for nine after setting a 159-run target.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Kerr inspires NZ to maiden triumph

AFP, Dubai

An outstanding all-round performance by Amelia Kerr led New Zealand to their maiden Women's T20 World Cup title as they beat South Africa by a commanding 32 runs in Sunday's final in Dubai.

Player of the Match Kerr top-scored with 43 as New Zealand posted an imposing 158-5 in their 20 overs before taking 3-24, and crucially picking up the key wickets of Laura Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch, to restrict South Africa to 126-9 in their 20 overs.

It marked a sweet finish to skipper Sophie Devine's career.

The victory came 14 years after the White Ferns lost to Australia by just three runs in the 2010 final. They also lost to England in the 2009 championship match.

For South Africa, it made for a double disappointment having lost last year's final to Australia in Cape Town.

After being put into bat by South Africa captain Wolvaardt, the New Zealand openers began aggressively with Georgia Plimmer smashing two fours in the first



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HONOURS EXAM Abu Sayed secures 14th spot among 69 students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Abu Sayed, a 23-year-old student from Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) whose killing by police on July 16 fuelled the anti-discrimination student protests, has posthumously passed his honours final examinations.

Sayed, who was a student of the Department of English, secured a CGPA of 3.30 on a scale of 4.00, ranking 14th out of 69 students.

The results were approved and published yesterday by BRUR Vice-Chancellor Professor Md Showkat Ali.

Speaking at an event marking the publication of the results, Prof Showkat said, "Our brilliant student, martyr Abu Sayed, is no longer with us, but his final exam results have been released. It brings joy to all students and faculty, yet we are deeply saddened by

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Forestland given away for illegal sand lifting

District admin gave Indian firm nod for road-widening project in Ctg; forest dept seeks to scrap deal



SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

In a move that violates laws, the Chattogram district administration has given permission to a foreign contractor to lift sand from a portion of the Ramgarh Sitakunda reserve forest in Chattogram's Jitali area for a road widening project.

Ashoka Buildcon Limited, an Indian firm, can now lift 29,000 cubic feet (cft) of sand from 6.8 acres of land of the 84,000-acre reserve forest, according to an agreement document seen by The Daily Star.

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No Indian tourist visa 'anytime soon'

Says high commissioner

STAR REPORT

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma yesterday once again cleared his country's position not to resume tourist visas for Bangladeshis anytime soon.

The envoy said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka is issuing visas only on emergency cases.

Randhir Jaiswal, the spokesperson for India's external affairs ministry, said at a briefing on Thursday that the country currently has limited visa operations in Bangladesh and visas are only being issued for medical and emergency reasons.

He also said India would resume full visa operations when law and order improved, and the situation became conducive for India.

Verma yesterday came up with similar remarks after meeting with Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin.

He faced questions about the timeframe for

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PROTESTS OVER HSC RESULTS Dhaka Board chairman to quit

Underachievers confine officials; protests spread across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid demonstrations demanding reassessment of HSC graders by a group of students, Dhaka Board Chairman Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar announced his resignation yesterday.

The announcement came after the students confined officials, including the board's chairman, and demanded cancellation of their results.

Speaking to this newspaper last night, Prof Tapan said the students were demanding an "auto pass", a decision beyond the board's jurisdiction.

"We followed the education ministry's decision in evaluating and publishing the results. Nevertheless, I announced my resignation. I told the students I would visit the education minister tomorrow [today] with my resignation letter and demands of the students," he added.

Earlier in the day, students forced their way into the board premises breaking through the main gate around 1:00pm.

Board officials alleged that the students vandalised furniture. Witnesses reported a scuffle when protesters attempted to enter the chairman's office.

By 3:00pm, the students claimed that they were attacked while trying to access the office, leading to several injuries. In response, they staged a sit-in to press for their demands.

As of 9:30pm, approximately 25-30 board officials, including the chairman, remained confined to the building, while police and military personnel were deployed to maintain order.

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Ex-minister Imran Ahmed arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have arrested Imran Ahmad, former expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested



Imran at the capital's Banani early today, Obaydur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (media) of the DMP, told The Daily Star.

Talking over the phone around 1:35am today, he said Imran was accused in several cases filed recently. "We may be able to disclose later in which cases he has been shown arrested."

After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime on August 5, at least 1,695 cases were filed, mostly on murder charges, accusing cabinet members, ministers, lawmakers, and police officers.

At least 75 "high-profile" individuals having ties with the previous government have been arrested so far in those cases, according to sources at the Police Headquarters.

Bangladesh rescue draw against Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamsunnahar Jr scored a stoppage-time equaliser to help Bangladesh avoid a massive embarrassment, and a potential early exit from the SAFF Women's Championship, with a 1-1 draw against Pakistan in their first match of the competition at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu on Sunday.

The defending champions, who had brushed aside the same opposition with a 6-0 win during their triumphant last edition at this very venue two years ago, dominated the game in all aspects except for proper gameplan and finishing touches.

A defeat would have

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This photo taken yesterday shows the aftermath of an Israeli airstrike that reduced residential buildings to rubble in Beit Lahia, in the northern Gaza Strip on Saturday night.

PHOTO: AFP

Overnight Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 87

AGENCIES

Israel said it had struck Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Sunday, while officials in Gaza said they were still trying to recover bodies from the rubble after an Israeli strike that killed dozens.

At least 87 people were dead or missing following the airstrike on Beit Lahia in northern Gaza late on Saturday, the health ministry in the Palestinian territory said, one of the highest death tolls reported for months from a single attack. Israel said it was investigating reports of the incident.

It marked an intensification of Israel's offensives against Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza and Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, days after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar had raised hopes of an opening for ceasefire negotiations to end more than a year of escalating conflict in the Middle East.

With U.S. elections approaching, officials, diplomats and other sources in the region say Israel is seeking through military operations to try to shield its borders and ensure its rivals cannot regroup.

Israel is also preparing to retaliate for an Iranian missile barrage earlier this month, though Washington has pressed it not to strike Iranian energy facilities or nuclear sites.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was the subject of an assassination attempt by "Iran's proxy Hezbollah" on Saturday when a drone was directed at his holiday home. In a call with former U.S. President Donald Trump, the prime minister reiterated that Israel would make decisions based on its own interests, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office.