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## BREACH OF DISCIPLINE 252 trainee SIs dismissed month before graduation

Govt says no political reason behind it; several sacked SIs claim innocence

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A total of 252 trainee sub-inspectors (SIs) of the 40th Outside Cadet batch have been dismissed just a month before graduating from the Sarda Police Academy in Rajshahi.

The academy's principal sent discharge letters to the trainees at their home addresses on Monday morning, confirmed three senior officials of the academy and the Police Headquarters (PHQ).

The official reasons cited for their dismissal was "breach of discipline".

On Friday, the trainees were sent on a five-day vacation.

This correspondent spoke to four of the discharged trainees, all of whom claimed they had not breached any rules

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PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Harvesting of Aman has already started in Gaibandha as the paddy has begun ripening in many northern districts. Even though paddy fields across the country have suffered from severe floods this year, the situation in the northern regions was slightly better, giving the farmers there the opportunity to grow and harvest healthy paddy. The photo was taken from Gobindaganj upazila's Panitala area yesterday.

## UK MPs call for scrutiny of ex-land minister's business dealings

Saifuzzaman owns over 300 flats in UAE worth \$170m: Al Jazeera

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British MPs have urged regulators to investigate whether UK companies followed anti-money laundering rules when helping Bangladesh's former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury amass a property empire worth \$250 million in the UK.

An investigation by Al Jazeera's Investigative Unit (I-Unit) found Chowdhury, a close ally of the now deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, bought over 360 luxury properties in the UK worth \$250 million, more than 300 high-end apartments in the UAE worth nearly \$170m buying and nine properties in the US worth \$20 million.



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## EC REGISTRATION SC restores Jamaat's appeal against scrapping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday restored an appeal that challenged a High Court verdict scrapping the Jamaat-e-Islami's registration with the Election Commission as a political party.

The apex court will now fix a date for holding a complete hearing of the appeal on merit, said Mohammad Shishir Manir, a lawyer for the Jamaat. "If the Appellate Division allows the appeal after holding a hearing on it, Jamaat-e-Islami will get back its registration and will participate in elections," he told The Daily Star.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, passed the order yesterday after holding hearing on a petition filed by Jamaat, seeking restoration of its appeal.

The other three judges of the bench are Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam, Justice Zubayer Rahman

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## A MONTH OF ISRAEL-HEZBOLLAH WAR Death toll tops 1,550 as bombings go on

AFP, Beirut

Israel kept up its bombing of Lebanon yesterday after a late-night strike that killed 18 people near a Beirut hospital, state media reported, as its war on Hezbollah approached the one-month mark.

The latest deaths brought the overall toll in Lebanon since September 23 to at least 1,552, according to an AFP tally of health ministry figures, although the real number is likely to be higher due to data gaps.

The official National News Agency said four strikes hit Beirut's embattled southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, with AFP footage showing plumes of smoke rising over the area.

The strikes forced Hezbollah to cut short a press conference after the Israeli army issued an evacuation order for the area.

An Israeli strike hit a target several hundred metres (yards) away from the venue just minutes after reporters left, an AFP video journalist said.

One raid in the Ghobeiri area levelled an 11-storey apartment complex, AFP images showed.

In the country's south, the Lebanese Red Cross said three paramedics were wounded in a strike on Nabatiyeh as they carried out a rescue mission in coordination with UN peacekeepers.

The strikes on Nabatiyeh created a "belt of fire," with scores of residential buildings, shops and cafes wiped out in "less than 30 seconds", NNA said, calling it the heaviest Israeli bombardment of the city since the start of the war.

"One street looked like a terrifying battlefield," NNA said.

The Israeli army also bombed Al-Hawsh, just south of the southern city of Tyre, NNA said, with AFP TV footage showing smoke billowing over the area. "CHILDREN RIPPED APART" Yesterday's bombardment

followed heavy shelling the previous day that killed a total of 63 people and wounded 234, according to health ministry figures.

Monday's toll includes 18 killed, four of them children, in an Israeli strike near a south Beirut hospital, the ministry said.

Another 60 people were wounded in the strike near the Rafic Hariri Hospital,

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- Late-night strike kills 18 people near Beirut hospital
- 4 strikes hit Beirut's embattled southern suburbs
- 3 paramedics wounded in Nabatiyeh

## Ex-MP Sumon arrested, put on remand His counsel hit by 'pro-BNP lawyer'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Sumon, a former independent lawmaker, on a five-day remand in a case filed over the shooting of Jubo Dal leader Ridoy Mia on July 19 in Dhaka's Mirpur area during the uprising.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Jakir Hossain passed the order after police produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer in the case, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

During yesterday's hearing, pro-BNP lawyers hurled abuse at Sumon in the courtroom. He was silent during the whole hearing.

After the proceedings, he was seen apologising to pro-BNP lawyers' leader Omar Faruq Faruqi, said witnesses.

Lawyer Morshed Hossain Shahin, who defended Sumon, was assaulted by a "pro-BNP lawyer" yesterday noon while he was briefing journalists about the hearing in front of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

A video clip of the assault was making the rounds in social media.

"A pro-BNP lawyer struck Shahin on



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## Harris and Trump push for every vote

AFP, Washington

One of the tightest US election races of modern times enters its final, two-week stretch Tuesday, with Republican Donald Trump making a pitch to Latino voters as Democratic rival Kamala Harris sits down for a national TV interview.

Both campaigns are pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into a last push for undecided voters who could tilt the balance in their favor, with polls showing the candidates in a dead heat ahead of Election Day.

About 18 million Americans have already voted by mail or in person – representing more than 10 percent of the total in 2020 – and turnout could well be the deciding factor in who wins the White House.

**US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**13 DAYS TO GO**

Whatever the result, Americans will make history on November 5: they will either elect the first woman president in the world's leading superpower – or they will put the first convicted felon into the White House.

Some polls appear to be giving Trump, who at 78 is the oldest nominee from a major party in US history, a slight edge recently – but all within the margin of error.

The former president still refuses to accept his 2020 election defeat to outgoing President Joe Biden and is expected to reject the result if he loses – potentially pitching the United States into chaos.

**THE OBAMA FACTOR**  
Harris – the vice president who only threw herself into the race in July, when Biden made the stunning decision to drop out – will give an interview to NBC on Tuesday.

The 60-year-old, who celebrated her birthday over the weekend, will also deploy two of her party's most popular emissaries onto the campaign trail: Barack and Michelle Obama.

## Tigers look to set Proteas a target

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Mushfiqur Rahim steadied the ship to take Bangladesh to 101 for three at stumps on the second day of their second innings against South Africa in Mirpur yesterday. There is still a 101-run deficit and paceman Hasan Mahmud recognised that at least a 200-run target needs to be set to challenge the visitors in their second innings.

Problems, however, had arisen when South Africa were allowed to motor along towards a big first-innings lead of 202 runs. Having ended Day 1 at 140 for six, not many would have expected South Africa to survive past lunch on a track that was taking spin and bounce. Kyle Verreynne nullified that spin and went on to score just his second Test ton and along with Wiaan Mulder, provided late resistance.

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Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto made a meal of a rather straightforward delivery to get trapped in front by South Africa's left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj as the Tigers' top-order problems continued in their second innings of the first Test against the Proteas in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh managed to end the second day at 101 for three, still trailing by another 101 runs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## BRICS, not West, will drive global economic growth

Putin tells businessmen, officials on first day of summit

REUTERS, Moscow

The BRICS group will generate most of the global economic growth in the coming years thanks to its size and relatively fast growth compared with that of developed Western nations, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday.

Putin hopes to build up BRICS - which has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates as well as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - as a powerful counterweight to the West in global politics and trade.



The Kremlin leader is due to host a BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan on Oct. 22-24.

"The countries in our association are essentially the drivers of global economic growth. In the foreseeable future, BRICS will generate the main increase in global GDP," Putin told officials and businessmen at BRICS business forum in Moscow.

"The economic growth of BRICS members will increasingly depend less on external influence or interference. This is essentially economic sovereignty," Putin added.