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## HSC UNDERACHIEVERS Over 50 held as students enter Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained over 50 people after a group of HSC students, who failed or did poorly in the exams, entered the Secretariat and staged a protest yesterday demanding a reevaluation based on their SSC results.

Around 3:00pm, students were seen protesting in front of the main gate beneath Building 6 of the Secretariat, where the Ministry of Education is located. A large number of police officers, along with army personnel, were also present.

During the protest, a student said they want fair results for the HSC examination and justice for the attacks on them at various boards. The students vowed to continue their protest until their demands were met.

At one point, the police chased and dispersed the students.

By 3:15pm, law enforcement officers had removed a significant number of the protesters from the Secretariat, and some were detained.

Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that police detained over 50 students for questioning. After the questioning, further steps would be taken.

They were taken away in two prison vans from inside the Secretariat.



Bangladesh players celebrate as they claim a thumping 3-1 win over India in their final Group A game to ensure a spot in the semifinals of the SAFF Women's Championship at the Dasharath Stadium in Nepal yesterday. Forward Tohura Khatun netted a brace and defender Afeida Khandaker scored one before India's Bala Devi pulled one back in a frenetic first half.

## A rousing riposte from Bangladesh

ATIQUE ANAM

Under pressure following a listless 1-1 draw against Pakistan in their first match, Bangladesh couldn't have come up with a better response than 3-1 win against five-time SAFF Women's Championship winners India in their final Group A fixture at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu yesterday.

Tohura Khatun scored a brace after Afeida Khandaker's opener as Bangladesh blew away India with a three-goal burst inside the first 42 minutes to raise hopes of an encore of last edition's result against their more storied neighbours. India, however, dented that hope with a goal back in the first half and had quite a few chances to score more after the break, but Peter Butler's charges held on to the two-goal cushion to qualify for the semifinals as group winners.

Butler, who was openly criticised by midfielder Monika Chakma for not preferring senior players ahead of the second match, decided to go with two changes from the first match, bringing in experienced midfielder Maria Mandi in place of Sapna Rani and Masura Parvin in defence, replacing the inexperienced Sohagi Kisku.

Maria's inclusion, especially, gave the



PHOTO: BFF

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## HSC, EQUIVALENT EXAMS Demand for auto pass 'unacceptable'

Say experts, warn of far-reaching impact if govt gives in to illogical demands

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Education experts have urged the government not to concede to students' demands for automatic passes and result re-evaluations, terming such demands illogical, unacceptable, and with far-reaching consequences.

They alleged that the current unrest is a result of the government's hasty decision to cancel the previously postponed HSC exams in response to the "unreasonable" demands of the students in August.

Results of the HSC and equivalent exams were published on October 15. Six tests were postponed due to the anti-discrimination students' movement in July and were ultimately canceled later.

The announced results eventually relied partly on the students' previous SSC exam performances through subject mapping.

However, right after the results were published, students staged demonstrations at their respective education boards, including in Chattogram, Jashore, Mymensingh and Dinajpur, demanding that their results

"The demand to cancel the exams was never a logical one, and the government's lack of foresight has resulted in this situation. Students now believe they can demand and receive whatever they want, which is dangerous."

Prof Mojibur Rahman  
faculty member, Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University

be re-evaluated.

On October 20, protesters stormed the Dhaka Education Board and confined around 30 officials, including the chairman, for over eight hours, demanding automatic passes.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Siddiqur Rahman, former director of the Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, said such demands and protests are unfortunate.

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## HC scraps four extortion cases against Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped four extortion cases filed against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman during the regime of the military-backed caretaker government in 2007.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain delivered the verdict after holding hearings on the rules that questioned the legality of the trials of the cases.

The rules were issued by the HC following petitions filed by Tarique in 2008, when he was in Bangladesh.

Barrister Shanjid Siddique, a lawyer for Tarique, told The Daily Star that the cases were lodged in 2007 even though the alleged extortion incidents took place in 2004 and 2005.

Maksud Ullah, another lawyer for the BNP leader, said one Azam Ahmed filed one of the four cases at Gulshan Police Station on March 8, 2007, on charges of extorting Tk 1 crore.

On March 27 of the same year, Aftab Uddin, managing director of Reza Construction, registered a case at the same police station over extortion of Tk 1.32 crore.



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## Israel bombs historic Lebanese port city

REUTERS, Tyre/Riyadh

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken pushed yesterday for a halt to fighting between Israel and militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah, but heavy Israeli air strikes on a large historic Lebanese port city demonstrated that there was no respite.

Israel began to bomb the UNESCO-listed port of Tyre in south Lebanon roughly three hours after issuing an order online for residents to flee central areas. Huge clouds of thick smoke billowed above residential buildings.

Tens of thousands of people had already fled Tyre in recent weeks as Israel steps up its campaign to destroy Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, both close allies of its arch Middle East enemy Iran.

The port is typically a bustling hub for the south - with fishermen, tourists and even U.N. peacekeepers on a break from deployments near the border spending time there by the sea. But Israel's evacuation orders this week have for the first time encompassed swathes of Tyre, right up to its ancient castle.

Some Lebanese fear their country will end up like the Gaza Strip, where Israeli airstrikes and shelling have killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and levelled much of the small, densely populated enclave.

- » Lebanese fear same fate as Gaza
- » Israel confirms killing Hezbollah's next leader
- » In Gaza, assault intensified on the northern edge
- » Blinken urges halt to Middle East conflict

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## Tigers claw back

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

It has turned out to be a fantastic Test match between Bangladesh and South Africa so far in Mirpur, as the series opener remains tantalisingly in balance.

On day two, it was South Africa who fought back from 108 for six to take a 202-run first-innings lead. Yesterday, on day three, Bangladesh had their say, fighting back from 112 for six to post 283 for seven before bad light ended play.

According to weather forecasts, there is a chance of early morning showers, raising the question of whether heavier rain could arrive and disrupt day four entirely.

As it stands, South Africa are still in the driving seat despite Bangladesh's 81-run lead. The Tigers have three more wickets in hand, and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, unbeaten on 87, is the only recognised batter



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## Govt to appoint law firm to bring back laundered money

Says BB governor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will appoint legal firms to bring back the laundered money from abroad, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur.

While the development partners and the global community are cooperating in this regard, there is a legal process, he told journalists yesterday at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC.

"We are trying to follow the process. We will appoint private legal firms in this regard," said Mansur, who is in the US capital for the World Bank-International Monetary Fund annual meetings.

Bangladesh has yet to decide which firm or firms will be appointed.

"We will take policy support from the WB and the US government in which criteria we will work together and which type of firms we will appoint."

On October 26, Bangladesh had a discussion with the development partners including the WB and Asian Development Bank in this regard, Mansur added.

The government will take financial

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A flock of pigeons flies away as a smoke cloud erupts after a rocket fired by an Israeli war plane hit a building in Beirut's southern suburb of Shayah on October 22, 2024, amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hezbollah.

PHOTO: AFP

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## ICT's arrest warrant for Hasina sent to IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The arrest warrants issued for former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 45 others over crimes against humanity during the July-August uprising have been sent to the inspector general of police.

Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, shared this information with journalists yesterday during his visit to the tribunal. He was accompanied by Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan and Law Adviser Asif Nazrul.

"The legal process against those involved in the genocide is advancing rapidly," the chief prosecutor said.

The law adviser said the renovation of the tribunal building is going well. Trials of cases are likely to begin in the main building by November 3, he added.

On October 17, the ICT issued an arrest warrant for Hasina over crimes against humanity and genocide during the mass uprising.

This marked the first arrest warrant issued for the Awami League president since her government fell on August 5.

The tribunal also issued arrest warrants