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## AGE LIMIT FOR GOVT JOBS 5 protesters hurt as police charge baton

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least five protesters were injured when police charged batons to disperse job seekers yesterday, who attempted to enter the secretariat area in the capital, demanding that the minimum age for entry into government jobs be raised to 35 years.

Initially, police used water cannons before resorting to baton charges when around 200 job seekers attempted to access the Secretariat area.

The protesters then dispersed from the area.

Earlier, around noon, the job seekers gathered at the Shahbagh intersection before marching towards Shikkha Bhaban to press for their demand.

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## 'It destroyed the basic structures of constitution'

### Petitioners' counsel tells HC on 15th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Sharif Bhuiyan, principal counsel for the five writ petitioners, who challenged the constitution's 15th amendment, told the High Court yesterday that the basic structures of the charter have been destroyed by the amendment.

The 15th amendment scrapped the nonparty caretaker government system.

Democracy, right to voting, free and fair elections, and separation of state powers are the basic structures of the constitution, and those have been damaged by the 15th amendment, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

# Empower women through RTI

Sharmeen S Murshid tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly half of the population, primarily women, are deprived of their right to access critical information, said Sharmeen S Murshid, adviser to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare, at an event yesterday.

"Poverty and low education primarily impact women, who are often victims of abuse. To overcome barriers to accessing information, the Right to Information (RTI) Act must be implemented at the grassroots level, involving women



**To overcome barriers to accessing information, the RTI Act must be implemented at the grassroots level, involving women and marginalised communities.**

SHARMEEN MURSHID

and marginalised communities. Public awareness must be raised about RTI," she said.

The remarks came at the "Annual Learning Summit of Advancing Women's Right to

Access Information in Bangladesh (AWRTI)", organised by The Carter Center and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at a city hotel.

Murshid also called for a cultural shift away from secrecy towards transparency regarding information disclosure.

"When information is not readily available, misinformation can easily take hold," she explained.

She also pointed out that women's full access to information reveals notable gender disparities, largely due to a lack of gender-sensitive policies, entrenched socio-cultural norms, and limited female involvement in civil society organisations.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, highlighted the significance of the project that was initiated in 2023, aimed at increasing public-led accountability and reducing corruption by advancing a meaningful right of access to information for women in 10 targeted districts.

"This initiative proves that when women have access to information, they not only empower themselves, but also bring about transformation within their families," she said.

Sumana Sultana Mahmud, chief of party at the Carter Center, presented the lessons learned from the past year of the project.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Govt tenure should be four years

### Says LGRD adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Local Government adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday said the governance tenure, currently set at five years by the Constitution, should be reduced to four years.

"If the United States, one of the world's major powers, can operate with a four-year term, then why not Bangladesh? This is my personal opinion," he remarked while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion with the Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF) at the Secretariat Media Center.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Egypt invites CA to attend D-8 Summit

STAR REPORT



Egypt has invited Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to attend the D-8 summit to be held in Cairo on December 16-19.

Egypt's Ambassador to Bangladesh Omar Fahmy handed the invitation letter from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to the chief adviser at the Chief Adviser's Office in Dhaka's Tejgaon.

The ambassador said the heads of government of at least five countries - Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Nigeria - have confirmed their participation.

He said an important sideline meeting at the conference will discuss how to support the Palestinians against Israeli aggression.



Students of the seven Dhaka University-affiliated colleges blocked the Science Lab intersection again for six hours yesterday, causing a halt to vehicular movement in the area. As a result, commuters had to endure immense suffering as many were forced to walk to their destinations.

PHOTO: PRABR DAS

## No new ACC probes for now

### Says its secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will not initiate any new investigations or cases, it will instead focus on ongoing probes and routine works for the time being.

ACC Secretary Khorsheda Yasmeen said this at a high-level meeting at the ACC headquarters yesterday.

The development came after the resignation of ACC Chairman Moinuddin Abdullah and two commissioners Asia Khatoun and Zahirul Haque on Tuesday.

In the meeting, Khorsheda said initiating any new actions is currently not possible as there is no commission right now.

However, she assured officials that ongoing investigations would go on.

Under the ACC Act, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 7 DU-AFFILIATED COLLEGES Students block Science Lab again for 6 hours

Edu adviser urges them to return to institutions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of the seven Dhaka University-affiliated colleges staged a blockade at the Science Lab intersection yesterday as well, to press home their demand for the formation of a separate autonomous university for their institutions.

They lifted the blockade at 5:00pm, six hours after taking to the streets.

Amid the blockade, city dwellers had to endure immense suffering as vehicular movement through the Science Lab intersection remained halted since 11:00am.

Many commuters were forced to walk to their destinations. Meanwhile, the students have postponed their blockade programme

till Saturday, and during this three-day break, they will wait for feedback from the authorities concerned, including the education ministry and Dhaka University, said Nayim Hawlader, a Dhaka College student and organiser of the protest.

"We will arrange a press conference on Saturday, where we will announce further proceedings in this regard," added Nayim.

Meanwhile, Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, in a statement yesterday, requested students to be patient and return to their respective educational institutions, as a committee has already been formed in this regard, which will submit their report within the next six weeks.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4







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