



Beyond this lake in the Tentulia area of Panchagarh district is the rare sight of Mount Kangchenjunga of the Himalayas. Only under the right weather conditions can this beautiful mountain be spotted from Bangladesh. As the sun sets, the white mountaintops emit a soft reddish hue that relaxes the soul of any who looks upon it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Amu's lawyer assaulted in courtroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-BNP lawyers yesterday assaulted Swapan Krishna Roy Chowdhury, a lawyer for Awami League advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu, at the courtroom in the presence of a Dhaka magistrate during a remand hearing in a murder case.

With this, at least four incidents of assaulting defence lawyers have taken place on the premises of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka since August 14. Of them, two incidents occurred in the courtrooms.

Witnesses said Swapan was attacked at the courtroom around 11:45am while Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahin Reza was hearing a 10 day remand prayer for Amu, in a case filed over the death of a trader, Abdul Wadud, in Dhaka's New Market area. The lawyer was also driven out from the courtroom, they added.

**While the public prosecutor was speaking in favour of granting Amu's remand, Swapan commented that the state lawyer's speech was political. At that time, some unruly lawyers physically assaulted him and threw him out of the courtroom.**

A LAWYER WHO WAS PRESENT IN THE COURTROOM

"While Dhaka metropolitan public prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi was speaking in the courtroom in favour of granting Amu's remand, Swapan commented that the state lawyer's speech was political," said a lawyer who was present during the hearing.

"At that time, some unruly lawyers physically assaulted him and threw him out of the courtroom," he added.

On the court premises, Swapan told journalists that the lawyers from the state attacked him in presence of the magistrate when he said the state lawyer was giving a political speech in the remand hearing.

"I did not get security in court for defending my client," he alleged.

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## EU looks to develop ties with Bangladesh

### 2-day meeting on PCA concludes

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the European Union have completed the two-day introductory meeting on the Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) on Wednesday.

"These discussions signified a landmark in the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and the European Union," said a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The PCA meeting was postponed on July 31 amid the student protests that eventually led to the fall of Awami League government on August 5.

Md Nazrul Islam, additional foreign secretary of the ministry, led the Bangladesh side, while the EU delegation was led by Chief Negotiator Paola Pampaloni, deputy managing director, Asia and Pacific Division, European External Action Services.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium and Permanent Representative to the EU, Mahbub Hasan Saleh, also joined the discussion virtually from Brussels.

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## 15TH AMENDMENT

# AL passed it to stay in power for a long time

### BNP lawyer tells HC hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League government passed the 15th amendment to the constitution, which scrapped the nonparty caretaker government system, to remain in state power for a long time, BNP's lawyer Zainul Abedin told the High Court yesterday.

Being politically motivated, the then government abolished the 13th amendment, which had introduced the nonparty caretaker government system, to bring the 15th, he said.

Through this amendment, the AL government also assassinated several fundamental rights of citizens by using the judiciary, he added.

Zainul Abedin, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, made the comments while presenting arguments on behalf of BNP before the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury during the third day of hearing on the rule that questioned the constitutionality of the 15th amendment.

After concluding yesterday's proceedings, the bench fixed Sunday for further hearing.

During yesterday's hearing, Advocate Zainul Abedin also said during the hearing on the appeal in the 13th amendment case, a seven-member bench of the SC Appellate Division headed by the then Chief Justice ABM

Khairul Haque heard expert opinions from eight prominent lawyers as amici curiae (friends of the court) on the constitutionality of the caretaker government system.

Seven of the eight amici curiae had placed opinions in favour of the caretaker government system before the SC bench, he said.

The apex court bench on May 10, 2011 delivered a short verdict in the case.

In the short verdict, the seven-member bench of the apex court, by

a majority view, has scrapped the caretaker government system; however, it observed that the next two elections might be held under the caretaker government.

But these observations are absent in the full text of the judgement, which was released on September 16, 2012.

A judge of the same SC bench termed the exclusion of the observation in the full judgement as judicial misconduct, Advocate Zainul Abedin said.

The lawyer also prayed to the HC bench to scrap the 15th amendment of the constitution.

Advocate Farzana Sharmin Putul, who also placed arguments on behalf of BNP, told the HC that the AL government has established fascism by bringing the 15th amendment to the constitution.

Yesterday, Barrister ASM Shahriar

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## Students, teachers regained freedom of thought thru uprising

### Prof Yunus tells DU event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the country's student teacher community has regained their freedom of thoughts and the practice of freethinking through the student-led mass uprising.

"Along with this, we must now add the capability to contribute to global science. With high aspirations, this can be achieved through daily learning and research," he said.

He was addressing an event at Dhaka University on the centenary of the Bose-Einstein condensate.

He said the fruits of the uprising have equipped the interim government with the necessary reforms and the readiness to create the conducive environment required for this purpose.

"We need demands and suggestions from all dedicated to this cause. If we have confidence in ourselves, we can do it — just as Bose had confidence in himself, which allowed him to write to Einstein even though he was a complete stranger."

"Always, we must nurture trust in each other, so that we don't have to go to the world, but the world comes to us," he said, adding, people must instill faith in the country's youths that "we are the world". "Today, we are celebrating the centenary of that very aspiration."

Recalling the early days of Dhaka University and the city, Prof Yunus said the peaceful little town, the green

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## Deputy commander of US Indo-Pacific calls on army chief

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation led by deputy commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Lt Gen Joshua M Rudd paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz Zaman at Army Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the existing good relations between the two countries and various issues of cooperation for future progress, said an ISPR release. The army chief also thanked Joshua M Rudd for the meeting.

## Govt to document spending of Mujib Borsho celebration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has decided to document the expenditure of public funds on the celebrations marking Mujib Borsho, the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

At a press conference following a meeting, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said ministries would compile details of how and where money was spent during the celebrations. "Several thousand crores of taka were wasted in these state-sponsored events. These are public funds," he said.

He added that private companies were pressured to contribute financially, including setting up Mujib Corners and constructing sculptures of the leader.

The celebrations, initially scheduled for March 17, 2020, to December 16, 2021, were extended by nine months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the extended timeframe, concerns have arisen about the financial implications of the celebrations, leading to calls for transparency.

In addition to the Mujib Borsho review, the advisory council announced the formation of a taskforce to assess the prices of essential drugs. The government currently regulates the prices of 117 essential medicines, and discussions will

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## Bury all divisions for national interests

### Jamaat ameer urges political parties

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman yesterday urged the political parties to work together for the sake of the country, burying all divisions.

He was speaking at an event marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, organised by the Dhaka Metropolitan Unit of Jamaat, at Al Falah auditorium in the capital's Moghbazar.

He called upon everyone to work together to build a discrimination-free society and a new Bangladesh.

"If we still think of divisions among us, there will be conspiracy, and a bigger danger will come," he said.

He told Jamaat activists, "There is no compromise on the question of independence and

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## Will continue fight for students' rights

### Say anti-discrimination movement leaders at HSTU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday alleged that politics gets more prioritised than academic activities at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur.

They made the remarks at a student gathering on the HSTU campus yesterday.

Hasnat Abdullah, a central coordinator of the movement, accused many HSTU teachers and officials of focusing more on political agenda than academic responsibilities, which has compromised the students' right to quality education.

"Teachers and officials at HSTU act as full-time politicians while students receive only part-time education," Hasnat claimed.

He alleged that promotions and other benefits for teachers and staffers are more dependent on political connections, rather than academic performance.

Hasnat said he observed such patterns during a visit to the HSTU campus in 2022.

Sarjis Alam, another central coordinator, stated that it takes six years to complete a four-year degree at HSTU as an impact of the alleged administrative negligence.

This delay causes serious setbacks for the students' careers, he said.

Sarjis and Hasnat expressed their determination to continue the fight for an improved and unbiased educational environment at the university.

A large number of HSTU students attended the gathering and underscored their ongoing frustrations with the university administration.



The rickshaw that carried the body of Golam Nafiz, a student killed during the anti-discrimination movement, will be preserved at the July Revolution Memorial Museum. The rickshaw was brought to the Gono Bhaban yesterday. Information Adviser Nahid Islam and special assistant to the chief adviser Mahfuz Alam were present during the time along with rickshaw-puller Nur Mohammad.

PHOTO: COURTESY