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HC scraps ICT case against Khaleda and Tarique

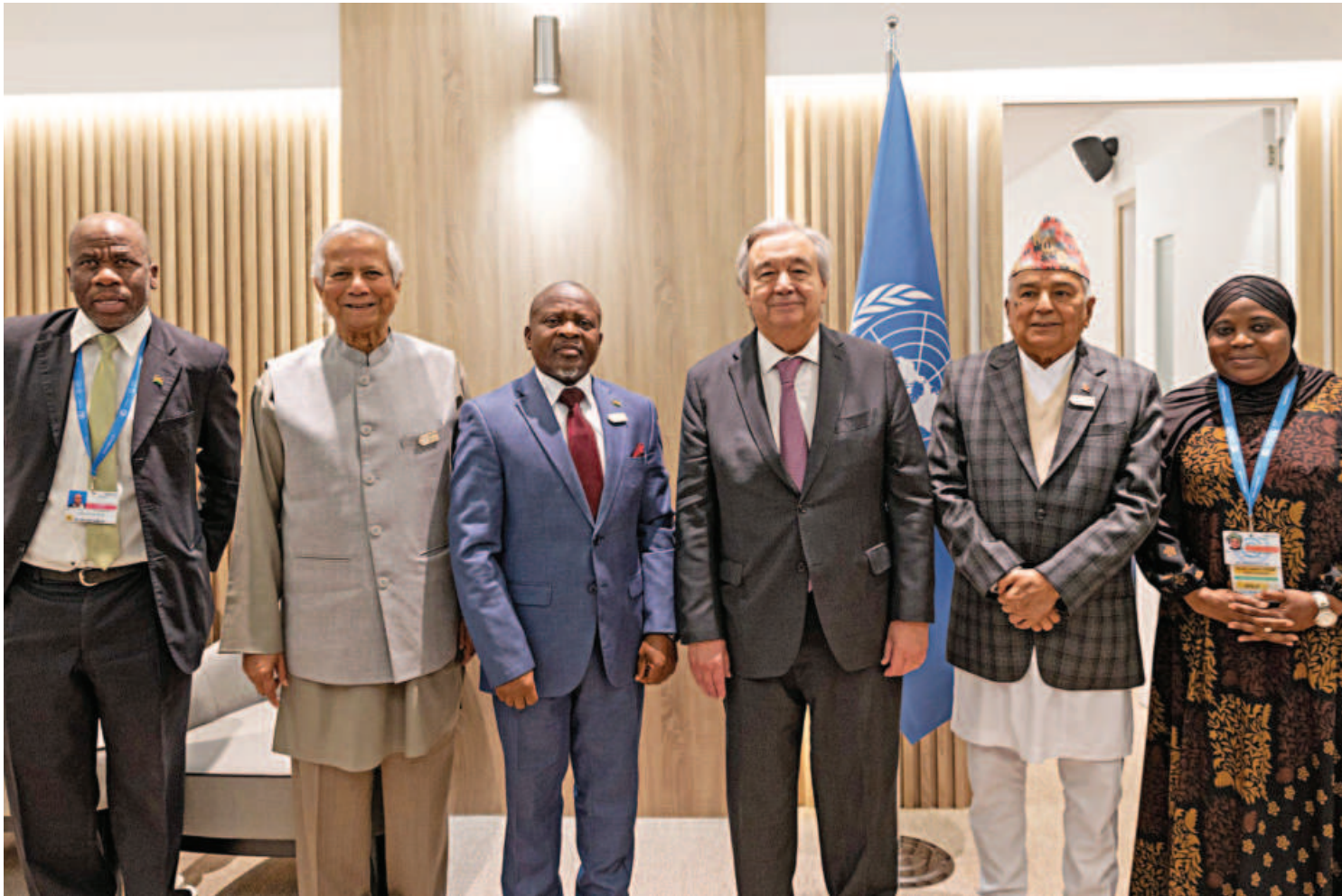
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the proceedings of a case filed against three people including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son and party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman in 2016 under section-57 of the Information and Communication Technology (Amendment) Act 2013.

Abdul Kader Sujon, an Awami League leader of Chattogram (South) unit, lodged the case with a court in the district on October 3, 2016 against them for their alleged involvement in issuing a death threat to the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina and defaming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman via Facebook posts.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus poses for a photo with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres following a high-level LDC meeting at the COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA

Trapped in clutches of the syndicate

Speakers urge govt to dismantle the nexus, action against those responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rahim (pseudonym), a financially struggling man from Tangail, was lured by a recruiting agency with promises of a job in Malaysia, with a monthly salary of Tk 37,000.

Rahim managed Tk 4.5 lakh and left for Malaysia on March 21 last year, but he has yet to get any job.

Instead, he was kept in a camp with 250 other workers. Eventually, he escaped and is now living with a relative, trying to get back the documents withheld by his employer.

Another worker went to Malaysia in July last year, paying Tk 5.5 lakh. However, he returned three months later after facing torture and ill-treatment and had to borrow money to return home.

The Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) presented eight such cases at a discussion programme, titled 'Labour Market Syndicate in Malaysia: Loss Assessment and Ensuring Accountability', yesterday at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Speaking at the event, CR Abrar, executive director of RMMRU, said there are hundreds of thousands of such victims.

He urged the government to take effective measures against the syndicate. He also stressed forming a task force to ascertain the number of the victims of the syndicate.

For the past decade, this syndicate has dominated the Malaysian

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Inclusiveness still a distant dream'

Anu Muhammad tells discussion on 'Bangladesh After a Mass Uprising: Reflections on Reforms'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite a massive uprising and deaths of thousands, the expectations and aspirations sparked by the movement have yet to materialise in rural areas three months later, opined speakers at an event yesterday.

They were speaking at a discussion, titled "Bangladesh After a Mass Uprising: Reflections on Reforms," organised by Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

At the programme, renowned economist Prof Anu Muhammad said, "I don't think the interim government's actions align with the hopes and expectations that arose after the previous government's fall."

"In my view, the aspirations expressed through graffiti on the walls appear more mature than the government's role. The inclusiveness represented on the walls is not being

reflected in the government's actions," he added.

He also said the dream of an inclusive and equitable Bangladesh, as expressed in art and slogans made by the public, is missing from the words and actions of those connected to the government.

The dream of an inclusive and equitable Bangladesh, as expressed in art and slogans made by the public, is missing from the words and actions of those connected to the government.

ANU MUHAMMAD

Author Altaf Parvez said democratic reforms are necessary in current Bangladesh. But the level of national consensus and inclusiveness necessary for implementing these reforms remains questionable, he said.

Citing the example of the proposed labour commission, Parvez said despite talks of its formation, no official notification had been issued a month after its announcement. "There is a gap in our commitment, and these gaps are becoming pronounced in several districts and upazilas across the country," he said.

"A sort of counter-narrative is also emerging. If you confine the revolution to Dhaka's Ramna

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Caretaker govt, 2-term limit for prime minister'

Propose eminent citizens to constitutional reform commission as changes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday proposed the restoration of the caretaker government and introduction of a bicameral legislature in the constitution while holding meetings with the constitutional reform commission.

They also proposed limiting the tenure of a prime minister to two terms and a balance of power between the president and the PM.

They said this while attending separate meetings held in the parliament building.

Prof Robaet Ferdous and Dilip Kumar Roy placed written proposals on behalf of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik at one of the meetings. Later Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar explained the details of the demands.

According to the meeting sources, Shujan proposed the restoration of the caretaker system in the constitution, but the judiciary should not be included in it.

It proposed that the tenure of the caretaker government should be six months.

Shujan also made proposals regarding a prime minister not being in office for over two terms and the balance of power between the president and the PM.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Power balance between PM, president
- Introducing bicameral legislature
- Increasing constituencies to 400
- Making judiciary independent
- Ensuring freedom of expression, media

It also proposed a bicameral legislature, increasing parliament constituencies to 400, of which 100 should be reserved for women. Bicameral is a type of legislature that is divided into two separate assemblies, chambers, or houses.

According to the proposal, direct elections should be held in all seats. In 200 of those seats, a proportionate representation system will be followed. The tenure of the parliament will be four years.

Shujan said the constitution should be a document of truly non-communal characteristics with the recognition of all ethnic minorities.

"The constitution is the supreme law of the state, so it must always be upheld. The Constitution can be amended in the public interest. But as long as a matter is enshrined in the constitution, it has to be followed properly," Shujan said.

The reform commission held separate meetings with Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiuur Rahman and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam.

Mahfuz Anam at the meeting proposed making amendments to the constitution and not rewriting it.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Petition seeks HC order to review power deal with Adani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to review or cancel the electricity agreement with Adani Group of India.

Barrister M Abdul Qaiyum submitted the petition, challenging the legality of the agreement of government with Adani Power (Jharkhand) Limited signed on November 5, 2017.

Qaiyum said the HC may hear the petition next week.

On November 6, the lawyer sent a legal notice to the chairman of Power Development Board and the secretary of the Ministry of Energy, asking to review or cancel the deal with Adani Group in three days.

Qaiyum said many experts have opined that under the agreement, Bangladesh will pay significantly higher prices in comparison to what it pays for its other coal-based power for lower grade coal.

AL, Sheikh family should apologise for Mujib, Hasina's roles

Says Mahfuz Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the interim government Mahfuz Alam has said members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's party and family should acknowledge, apologise, and face accountability for Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian rule.

"They should also recognise, apologise, and face trials for his daughter's fascist regime. She has made Sheikh Mujib a subject of sarcasm and ridicule. They should abandon the politics of 'Mujibism' and the idolisation of the Sheikh family," he wrote in his verified Facebook post early yesterday.

He said Sheikh Mujib and his daughter have faced the people's wrath and anger for their respective fascist regimes and the only difference is that, unlike Hasina, Sheikh Mujib was once a popular demagogue of the masses.

"The masses followed him against Pakistani tyranny, but he became a tyrant himself after '71. Due to his support and patronage of Mujibism, Bangladesh became crippled and divided after '71. For his fascist role, people didn't mourn his death in 1975," he said.

He said Mujib will be honoured for his pre-'71 role if his party and family members apologise to the people of Bangladesh for his post-'71 actions, including mass killings, enforced disappearances, corruption, famine, and the 1972 Constitution, which paved the way for BAKSHAL.

He further said Mujib's photo was removed by officers because of his daughter's "fascist rule" in the name and spirit of her post-'71 "authoritarian father".



As part of an initiative by the environment ministry, a raid was conducted in the Lalbagh area of Old Dhaka, targeting polythene factories, yesterday. Several factories were sealed off during the operation. Inset, protesting the drive, factory workers demonstrated in the area, which ultimately led to the magistrate halting the operation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED