

President pays tribute to Liberation War martyrs

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing a wreath at the Shikha Anirban (Eternal Flame) in the Dhaka Cantonment area, marking Armed Forces Day yesterday. He was accompanied by the chiefs of the armed forces and other military personnel while paying the homage at 8:00am.

After placing the wreath, the president, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, stood there in solemn silence for a while as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyrs who made supreme sacrifices during the 1971 War of Liberation.

Later, a smartly turned-out contingent of the Army, Navy and Air Force presented a salute on the occasion. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A woman carrying her baby, along with other family members, had to walk a long distance to return home from a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. Their hardship was a result of the ongoing blockade by battery-run rickshaw drivers demanding rehabilitation. The photo was taken near the Mohakhali level crossing.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Will defend Sheikh Hasina if opportunity arises: ZI Khan Panna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna has expressed his willingness to defend ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina in the International Crimes Tribunal over genocide charges linked to the mass uprising.

He was speaking at a press briefing yesterday about the suspension of bail for former additional attorney general Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury.

When contacted, Panna told The Daily Star the same.

Asked if his willingness to defend Hasina contradicts his previous criticisms of her regime's alleged human rights violations, he acknowledged the contradiction but emphasised, "Every accused has the right to legal defence. From this humane consideration, I expressed my willingness to represent her."

He also voiced his opposition to the death penalty, saying it should be repealed for all offences.

Earlier in the day, the Appellate Division had suspended the High Court's bail order for SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

HAZRAT SHAHJALAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT APBn at odds with aviation force over security duties

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A conflict has emerged between the Aviation Security Force (AVSEC) and the Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn) over security responsibilities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA).

APBn claims that AVSEC took control of their office on October 28, hindering their ability to perform duties effectively.

On October 29, APBn filed a general diary (GD) with the Airport Police Station in this regard.

However, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) denies any conflict between the two forces, asserting that each is fulfilling its responsibilities within its respective jurisdiction.

Mohammad Sihab Kaiser Khan, commander of the airport APBn, told The Daily Star, "We want our reinstatement... we just want to do the policing, perform regular duty to ensure security and law and order at the airport, as we did before."

In response to this, CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal Md Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan said, "Everyone is carrying out their duties from their respective positions. There's no problem with anyone. Aviation security is performing its duty, and APBn is supposed to operate outside, which they are doing."

"Some unpleasant situations

may arise while working together, but these issues can be resolved internally. We are committed to working collaboratively -- aviation, civil aviation, and APBn -- to ensure security," he told this newspaper.

Regarding APBn's office space, the chairman explained that APBn has multiple offices inside and covers a large area around the airport.

ALLEGATIONS FROM APBn

AVSEC took control of APBn's Airside Command office

APBn barred from terminal and apron security operations

APBn office instruments removed and signboard damaged

CAAB limits APBn's mandate despite international regulations

AVSEC released trafficking suspects, neglecting proper legal action

Replying to questions about limiting APBn's access, he reiterated, "APBn is responsible for performing duties outside... we will be happy if they do the duty properly."

APBn officials said around 1,050 APBn personnel were stationed at 79 posts across the land side

(the area between the airport's boundary and the boarding gates), terminal building, and apron side (where aircraft are parked, loaded, and serviced) before August 5.

They allege that the civil aviation authority now restricts APBn from performing duties within the terminal building and apron areas.

An APBn official, requesting anonymity, cited the International Civil Aviation Organization's Aviation Security Manual Book 1, Section 10.4.1.1, which mandates APBn to prevent and detect crimes within civil aviation facilities.

This includes surveillance and patrols in designated airport areas, as well as the security screening of passengers and baggage, with authority shared among law enforcement agencies, immigration officers, and airport police.

The arrangement of various security forces at HSIA has been a topic of discussion since 2010. Following a series of meetings, the home ministry directed the inspector general of police on July 19, 2010, to establish an APBn force specifically for HSIA, known as the Aviation Armed Police.

Meanwhile, a week has passed since APBn filed the GD, yet the police have not taken action.

The GD stated that the APBn's Airside Command and Control Center's office instruments had been removed, and the signboard SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

RTI ACT Chairman of NCTB for classroom assignments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Encouraging secondary school students to apply for information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act as part of classroom assignments can significantly raise awareness and strengthen the law's implementation, said National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Chairman Prof Reazul Hassan yesterday.

Speaking at a workshop titled "Review of Teaching Methods for Right to Information in Secondary Teacher's Guides", organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at the Bangladesh Information Commission, Prof Reazul highlighted the inclusion of the RTI Act in the ninth-grade curriculum to deepen students' understanding of the law.

According to an MJF press release, he said practical assignments would help students grasp the act's importance and contribute to its effective use.

Presenting findings from an MJF study under its "Advancing Women's Right to Information" project, researcher Mustafizur Rahman said while ninth-grade Digital Technology SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

HC scraps 6 cases against Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The High Court yesterday quashed all proceedings of six cases filed against Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, now chief adviser to the interim government.

Of these, five cases were lodged under the Labour Act in 2019, accusing Dr Yunus, then chairman of Grameen Telecommunications, and its managing director, Nazneen Sultana, of unlawfully terminating workers. The sixth case, a defamation suit, was filed in 2011.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain delivered the verdict on October 24 after hearing six petitions challenging the legality of the cases.

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan, counsel for Dr Yunus, said the Labour Court cases were initiated by former workers of Grameen Telecommunications, alleging their termination was due to their roles in a proposed trade union. However, the HC ruled that the workers' appointments were contractual and had expired, disqualifying claims of illegal dismissal as trade union members.

The court also noted that the Directorate of SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

INT'L CRIMES TRIBUNAL Toby Cadman 'special adviser' to chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Toby Cadman, a top human rights lawyer and the joint head of the London-based Guernica 37 law firm, has been appointed as a special prosecutorial adviser to the International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam.

"I am delighted and deeply honoured to announce that I have been appointed as a Special Prosecutor Advisor to the International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh," Toby Cadman, also an extradition specialist, posted on his X, formerly Twitter, account on Wednesday.

On September 2, he met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna.

During the meeting, they discussed the need SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PLOT TO KILL JOY Shafik Rehman granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to senior journalist Shafik Rehman after he surrendered in a case filed over a plot to abduct and kill Sajeeb Wazed Joy, for which he was sentenced to seven years in jail last year.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court granted bail upon his surrender and appeal for the cancellation of his sentence.

Earlier, the home ministry suspended Shafik's jail term for a year, on the condition that he surrender and file an appeal. In his absence, Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Nur had sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment on August 17 last year. SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

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