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State reforms vital for improving education system

University teachers say at Star discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University faculty members at an event yesterday argued that a corrupt state system inevitably leads to a decline in education quality and emphasised that reforming the state system was essential for improving the education sector.

They made the remarks during a discussion titled "Pedagogy of Protest: A Discussion with University Teachers on the Frontlines," organised by The Daily Star. This was the second storytelling session in the weeklong programme "36 Days of July: Saluting the Bravehearts," held at The Daily Star Centre in capital.

Speaking on student politics, Dhaka University Prof Md Tanzimuddin Khan said public university students were often forced to join politics by party leaders, and it would be wrong to judge them solely based on their political affiliation.

"If students do not engage in politics, who will? This change we brought about was the result of a kind of political activism. While we can debate its quality, politics remains fundamental."

Prof Tanzimuddin Khan, also a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC), said universities established under the previous regime were in dire condition.

"Some universities exist only on paper. In the name of higher education, the previous authorities have deceived students. Not speaking out about such crimes is also a crime."

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Captain Nigar Sultana Joty (C) poses with Sharmin Akhter Supta (L), player of the match and Fargana Hoque, player of the series, following Bangladesh women's seven-wicket victory against their Irish counterpart in the third ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur yesterday which sealed a 3-0 series win for the hosts.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tigresses romp to clean sweep over Ireland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A record partnership between Sharmin Akhter and Fargana Hoque helped Bangladesh to a seven-wicket win in the third ODI of the three-match series against Ireland at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday, helping the hosts to a 3-0 sweep and pushing the team up the ICC Women's Championship standings.

Sharmin made 72 off 88 balls -- her fifth half-century in the format -- in a well paced innings while Fargana again played the anchor role at the top with a third straight fifty (61 off 99). Together they formed a 143-run stand -- the highest-ever partnership for Bangladesh in ODIs, eclipsing the 127-run stand between Rumana Ahmed

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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Two former Rab officials shown arrested in ICT cases



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former senior Rab officials were shown arrested yesterday in two cases of enforced disappearance filed with the International Crimes Tribunal.

The two -- former police superintendent Mohiuddin Farooqi and ex-additional police superintendent Md Alep Uddin -- were earlier arrested in other cases filed over the July uprising.

Farooqi had worked for Rab-10 and Rab-2, while Alep Uddin had served Rab-11.

Farooqi is facing trial in the case filed by a person who was forcibly disappeared, tortured, and jailed in a Digital Security Act (DSA) case for four and a half months.

Alep is being prosecuted in another case of enforced disappearance. The plaintiff of the case was jailed for seven years on charges of committing terrorism.

The three-member ICT bench, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, yesterday sent the two accused to jail after hearing the cases. It also fixed February

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INT'L DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

A school that supports children with special needs

JAHIDUL ISLAM, back from Kishoreganj

Bristi Akter has no legs since birth. Now 13, the Kishoreganj girl showed an increasing interest in studies and her family had her admitted to a local school. But her peers would often tease her about her condition, forcing her family to stop sending her to the school in the district's Bhogpara in Katiadi upazila.

Her father, an auto-rickshaw driver, was worried for her. Sohrab Mia, her father, said, "I used to take her to the school in a wheelchair every day. People would ask me what Bristi will do after completing her studies, as she is unable to walk."

He later came to know about a specialised school named Mrityika Pathshala and Rehabilitation Centre in Kishoreganj. The school is in Gothalia village of Pirijpur union under Bajitpur upazila, about two kilometres from their home.

Last year, Sohrab had Bristi admitted to this school, where she is now studying in class one.

Like Bristi, 149 children with varying degrees of disabilities are studying here. Of them, 106 have neurodevelopmental disabilities, including autism. The rest 43 have physical disabilities, said Noor-e-Hayat Afsana, headteacher of the school.

The school is fully free and runs mostly on small donations from private citizens. From Sunday through Wednesday, students, mostly accompanied by their guardians, come for lessons from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Students also get a free mid-day meal, often Khichuri.

Currently, the school has students with five types of disabilities -- intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, autism, and multiple disabilities. The focus here is more on various life skills as

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VOTER INFO

EC to launch door-to-door campaign in March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly constituted Election Commission, which held its first meeting yesterday, decided to send its representatives door to door to update the voter list in March next year.

The representatives will collect information to develop a voter list as mandated. However, this voter list will be finalised in March 2026.

In line with the existing law, a draft voter list will be published in January 2025 based on existing information, followed by the year's final updated list in March.

The chief election commissioner and four other commissioners attended the meeting.

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah, after the meeting at the EC office in the capital's Agargaon, said the EC has information of 17 lakh people eligible for the new voters. They will be included in the voter list on January 1, 2025. Out of 17 lakh people, the information of 13 lakh were

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Do not shelve LDC graduation

Says white paper on economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee on white paper on the state of the economy has advised the government not to defer the deadline for graduation from the least developed country bracket scheduled for November 2026.

Based on the committee's assessment of data and information, Bangladesh meets the requirements for LDC graduation despite the challenging economic situation, said its chair Debapriya Bhattacharya.

A group benefiting from market facilities is trying to halt the process but they must remember that Bangladesh will still enjoy three additional years of these facilities.

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA

"So, we don't see any reason to withhold the LDC graduation process," he said at a press conference yesterday.

A group benefiting from market facilities is trying to halt the process but they must remember that Bangladesh will still enjoy three additional years of these facilities, he said.

"We need to abandon the mindset that such privileges will last forever," said Bhattacharya, also a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

However, there is a discussion within the interim government on whether the deadline for graduation will be deferred or not.

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TAX VIOLATIONS

Biden issues 'unconditional' pardon to son

Trump calls the move 'an abuse of justice'

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden said on Sunday he had pardoned



his son, Hunter Biden, a reversal after pledging to stay out of legal proceedings against the younger Biden who pleaded guilty to tax violations and was convicted on firearms-related charges.

"Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter. From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted," the president said in a statement.



Abu Bakkar Siddiqi, a grocer from Cox's Bazar, tries out a new artificial leg at the CRP Chattogram - AK Khan Centre in the port city's Kalurghat area on Saturday. The 28-year-old lost his left leg in a bike accident nearly six years ago. The centre provides medical treatment, rehabilitation and support services to patients, particularly to those with disabilities. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is being observed today.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CTG LAWYER MURDER

Nine shown arrested

APP under fire after bail petition filed for 2 accused of attacking police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday ordered nine suspects to be shown arrested in a case over the murder of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif amid violence centring on the arrest of a former ISKCON leader.

The court of Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate also placed eight other accused individuals on a seven-day remand in another case over attacks on police and obstruction of duty.

Those shown arrested in the murder case are Rumit Das, Sumit Das, Gagan Das, Nayan Das, Vishal Das, Aman Das, Moon Methor, Rajiv Bhattacharya and Durlav Das -- all sanitation workers.

The eight accused who were placed on remand are Partha Chakraborty, Apurba Shil, Ujjwal Das, Apu Chandra Saha, Niloy Das, Dhruv Das, Delwar Hossain and Md Nuru.

Mofizur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (prosecution) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said the court granted police petitions for the arrest and remand of the accused in the two cases. The 17 accused were produced before the court in the morning under tight security. They were sent to jail in the afternoon.

Police said they arrested nine people last Tuesday and

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