

FINANCIAL STRAINS Govt to sell or lease some Beximco units

Says labour and employment secy

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The government has decided either to sell the ownership of a good number of Beximco Group companies or find entrepreneurs to lease these units out.

It is among a number of decisions on Beximco as the group is struggling to pay its employees after the arrest of group Vice-Chairman Salman F Rahman, also a former adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

If it is possible, the government may stop the operation of some companies after repaying their loans to the banks and dues to the employees.

Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman confirmed the decisions to The Daily Star yesterday.

He said some government authorities, such as the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) were working on all these options.

The workers of Beximco Group companies have been staging street protests frequently demanding back pay and such incidents are creating troubles in the country,

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Cauliflowers are being unloaded from a pickup at Sadek Khan Krishi Market in the capital's Rayerbazar. Despite good supply of winter vegetables, their prices are still high. Cauliflowers were sold for Tk 50 to Tk 70 each, depending on their size, at the retail market yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Student bodies vow to resist attempts to ban campus politics

JCD hosts meeting;
Shibir, students against
discrimination uninvited

DU CORRESPONDENT

As many as 28 of the student organisations that were involved in the July uprising have vowed to resist any malicious attempts to ban student politics in educational institutions.

They made the promise at a discussion organised by the BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at a city hotel yesterday, several leaders who attended the meeting told The Daily Star.

They also affirmed their commitment to building a united movement to ensure safe campuses where students can exercise their right to organise.

Representatives of the Chhatra Federation, Chhatra Union, Chhatra Odhakar Parishad, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, and Bangladesh Chhatra League (JSD), among others, attended the event.

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REPORT ON GRAFT Star journo wins TIB award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday awarded three journalists and a television programme for investigative reporting on corruption.

The 26th edition of the TIB Investigation Awards was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Among the winners, The Daily Star reporter Zyma Islam has been awarded in the national media category for her report "S Alam's Aladdin's Lamp" published on August 4, 2023.

The story was regarding S Alam Group owner Mohammed Saiful Alam's offshore assets in Singapore. Zyma investigated how Alam built a business

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Workers erased from July mass uprising narrative Speakers tell Star discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long-term rehabilitation and comprehensive support are needed for the families of those killed and injured during the July uprising, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They said many families have lost their sole breadwinners, while injured survivors are unable to return to their previous professions due to their injuries, adding that the financial assistance provided by the July Smriti Foundation is insufficient and demeaning.

They made the remarks at a discussion titled "Marginalised Voices of the July Revolution," organised by The Daily Star at its photo exhibition and storytelling week -- "36 Days of July: Saluting the Bravehearts". It focused on the stories of struggle, sacrifice, and resilience of workers affected by the movement.

Md Jobaer Hasan recounted how his 15-year-old brother Julfiqar had been missing for six days before being found in the DMCH Burn Unit.

"His eye was completely damaged, and over 100 shotgun pellets were lodged in his body," Jobaer said.

Julfiqar's mother, who had raised her two sons with support from others, pleaded, "Doctors said his eye cannot be healed, even [if he is taken] abroad. But I want the government to help him regain his sight."

Shariful Islam, a private service holder who sustained bullet wounds on August 5, shared his experience of facing apathy from hospital authorities and the lack of state support.

He said he had to visit the July Smriti Foundation himself to receive financial aid.

Shariful said he dreams of a new Bangladesh that is free of discrimination, where everyone has enough to eat, voting rights are upheld, grassroots voices are heard, and police serve the people.

According to the speakers, 80 percent of those killed during the July uprising were not students but workers, including rickshaw-

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ICT slaps ban on circulation of Hasina's 'hate speech'

Asks govt to take
down her statements
from electronic,
social media

DU CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday banned the dissemination of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's "hate speeches".

The tribunal also ordered the concerned authorities of the government to take immediate steps for the removal of such statements already published on electronic and social media.

The ICT's ban and order came after the hearing of a petition filed by the prosecution yesterday seeking a ban on hate speeches and other statements made by Hasina.

Hasina is an accused in a number of cases and her statements may hinder the investigation process, or create fear among witnesses or victims, said ICT Prosecutor Gazi Monwar Hossain Tamim.

Referring to some

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'Israel committing genocide in Gaza'

Amnesty Intl's latest report says
Israel treating Palestinians in Gaza
'as a subhuman group unworthy of
human rights and dignity'

AFP, The Hague

Amnesty International yesterday accused Israel of "committing genocide" against Palestinians in Gaza since the start of the war last year, saying its new report was a "wake-up call" for the world.

The London-based rights organisation said its findings were based on satellite images documenting devastation, fieldwork and ground reports from Gazans as well as "dehumanising and genocidal statements by Israeli government and military officials".

Israel angrily dismissed the findings as "entirely false", denouncing the report as "fabricated" and "based on lies".

Amnesty chief Agnes Callamard accused Israel of treating the Palestinians in Gaza "as a subhuman group unworthy of human rights and dignity, demonstrating its intent to physically destroy them."

"Our damning findings must serve as a wake-up call to the international community: this is genocide. It must stop now," she said in a statement.

The Palestinian group Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, triggering a deadly Israeli

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2 key accused in Ctg lawyer murder case arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested two key suspects in the lawyer Saiful Islam murder case.

One of them, Chandan, 35, was arrested at Bhairab railway station in Kishoreganj around 12:15am.

A joint police team from Bhairab and Chattogram arrested him, said Muhammad Shahin, officer-in-charge of Bhairab Police Station.

In a video footage taken when Saiful was killed in the Chattogram Court Building area, a man wearing a helmet, orange T-shirt, and black pants is seen stabbing Saiful multiple times with a machete, said the officer, adding that that man is Chandan.

Abdul Karim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said Chandan went into hiding after the murder and lived in different places before travelling to Bhairab to go to his father-in-law's house.

Chandan, a cleaner by

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ELECTORAL REFORM Commission to sit with ex- polls officials on Monday

Past irregularities
to be discussed

BAHARAM KHAN

The Electoral Reform Commission will hold a meeting on Monday with the government officials concerned to discuss the polling irregularities that took place during the controversial 10th, 11th, and 12th parliamentary polls.

The officials, who served as returning officers and assistant returning officers, have been asked to join the meeting at the parliament building.

The commission chairman, Badiul Alam Majumdar, on Tuesday sent a letter to the senior secretary of the public administration ministry requesting him to take necessary measures for arranging the meeting.

According to sources, the commission will try to know who asked the officials to commit irregularities, and how they implemented the directives of their supervisors.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Badiul said

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

A flock of little Egrets, a small sized species of herons, soaring across the Dhaka sky. Little egrets are aquatic birds that are found in tropical parts of Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe. They stay mostly near waterbodies, where they can feed on fish, amphibians, small reptiles and mammals and even other birds. Their diet also includes crustaceans, molluscs and insects. These elegant birds are known to be sociable and are often seen in small flocks, mostly during the breeding season from October to February, like the one in the photograph. Due to their wide range and growing population, little egrets are categorised as "Least Concern" in the IUCN Red List.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Chennai cops round up 500 over protests

Demos staged in various
parts of India over minority
issues in Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Protests against alleged atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh spread to the southern part of India as Chennai police yesterday rounded up about 500 people, including 100 women for taking to the streets without permission from police.

The detainees are supporters of the BJP, RSS and its student front Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.

There were also protests in Dibrugarh town of Assam.

The protest in Chennai, led by Hindu Munnani organiser Raju, saw former senior BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan, RSS functionary Kesava Vinayagam, participating in the protest and raising slogans against the Bangladesh government.

When the protesters tried to march towards Anna Salai, police detained them. The police registered a case against the protesters for taking to the streets without permission. A team of 150 police personnel was deployed to prevent any untoward incidents.

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