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Invisible power pulls strings in country

Anu Muhammad tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An invisible government always determines Bangladesh's policies without ever stepping into the limelight, said eminent economist Professor Anu Muhammad yesterday.



If they are not held accountable, and if the economy continues to follow their prescribed path, as it is now with the interim government relying on the IMF and World Bank, then what will change?

organised jointly by the quarterly journal "Sarbojanakotha" and the German-Bangladesh Forum.

The former Jahangirnagar University professor alleged that policies enabling Sheikh Hasina's "looting and money laundering development model" were formulated by the World Bank, IMF, and their affiliates.

"Those who supported and praised

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"There are various issues within the state that need to be addressed. To build a Bangladesh free from discrimination, we must explore these aspects and bring about a comprehensive change in planning. When you attempt to bring about that change, you will realise that there is an invisible government... that formulates policies for Bangladesh but never comes to the discussion," he said.

He made these remarks at a seminar titled "From Autocracy to Democracy: In Search of an Equitable Bangladesh", held at Dhaka University. The event was



The new Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Bangladesh, Tracey Ann Jacobson, at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

US renews pledge to support govt
Chargé d'Affaires meets CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Bangladesh, Tracey Ann Jacobson, yesterday reiterated her country's support for Bangladesh's interim government on various issues, including development and counter-terrorism.

"We are prepared as a nation to support your government on a variety of issues," Jacobson told Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus during a meeting at the state guest house Jamuna.

The chief adviser spoke about ongoing reform initiatives in Bangladesh,

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Mostofa Jalal on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former Awami League lawmaker Dr Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin on a five-day remand in a case filed over the death of trader Abdul Wadud during quota reform protests in New Market area on July 19 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Joshiya Islam passed the order after Investigation Officer Amzad Hossain Talukder, an inspector of Detective Branch, produced him before the court.

The magistrate also rejected his bail petition.

On August 21 last year, Abdur Rahman, brother-in-law of Wadud, filed the case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 129 others. A DB team arrested Mostofa in Dhaka early yesterday.

Rallies, demos bring Dhaka to a standstill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four protests in Dhaka yesterday left parts of the city paralysed, causing severe gridlock and immense suffering for commuters. Demonstrations were held in Mohakhali, Shikha Bhaban, Agargaon, and Shaheed Minar, with varying demands disrupting daily life.

In Mohakhali, CNG auto-rickshaw drivers staged a sit in protest around 12:30pm, blocking the road in front of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority office in Banani.

The drivers pressed for a nine-point demand, including immediate implementation of a Tk 900 daily deposit rate set by the BRTA, registration for 5,000 additional CNGs from 2007, approval of 15,000 additional CNGs, Tk 10 lakh compensation for work-related deaths, and the freedom to form unions under ILO rules.

They also called for proper parking spaces, lane access on highways, and amendments to anti-worker transport laws.

The blockade caused a standstill

on the Mohakhali-Banani road and connecting routes, including the Banani-Airport Road. Commuters were left stranded for hours, with some resorting to alternative routes.

"I was stuck in traffic at Banani-II for an hour before taking the expressway," said private employee Rawshan Ali.

The protest ended around 2:00pm, allowing traffic to gradually return to normal.

Meanwhile, in Shahbagh, hundreds of job seekers rallied in front of the National Museum around 11:30am, demanding the age limit for government job applications be raised to 35 years for men and 37 years for women.

They cited recommendations from the Public Administration Reforms Commission, which proposed increasing the age limit from the current 32 years set by the interim government.

The demonstrators marched towards the Secretariat around 3:30pm but were intercepted by police near the Shikha Bhaban. A scuffle ensued as

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Traffic at key intersections in Dhaka came to a standstill yesterday as protesters with different demands blocked at least four important intersections of the city. The photos were taken in Banani, Shahbagh, and Shaheed Minar areas.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, AMRAN HOSSAIN



Hilly areas neglected in climate efforts Rizwana tells event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's hilly districts have been neglected in the climate change interventions, though the areas face a devastating impact, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

"When we talk about climate change and adaptation, yes, we do talk about Cox's Bazar and the coastal areas... We really don't talk about the hill areas where climate change also has a devastating impact," she said.

She made this remark while addressing the national-level launching event of a project titled "USAID Host and Impacted Community Resilience Activity" at a city hotel.

This five-year US \$70,199-activity will be



implemented in four districts -- Cox's Bazar and three Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) districts -- to empower the communities to improve well-being and resilience.

Rizwana said areas rich in natural resources in Bangladesh, such as Cox's Bazar and the hilly districts, have become conflict-prone zones due to inadequate interventions. "In other parts of the world, where local culture is respected and natural resources are protected, these regions are seen as assets," she said.

She highlighted the potential of e-commerce platforms to boost local economies by improving the visibility of products such as bamboo, cane, handicrafts, honey, and indigenous fruits from Cox's Bazar and the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

She called for training, financial support, better product quality, and the establishment of exhibition and marketing centres in major cities to expand market access.

Rizwana urged government, NGOs, and international partners to work together in promoting local products.

US Charge d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson reaffirmed the United States' commitment to supporting Bangladesh in building resilience in climate-vulnerable regions.

Must reorganise BNP for rebuilding nation: Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday emphasised reorganising the party with talented, diligent, honest, and productive people to rebuild the country as it has been battered by autocratic rule.

"We strongly believe that we will get the people's support (to form a government). After that, we must rebuild our country. If we do not reorganise the party properly, we will not be able to rebuild the country," he said.

He made the remarks while virtually addressing the BNP's primary membership renewal programme.

Tarique formally launched the programme by submitting his party membership renewal form online during an event at the BNP Chairperson's Gulshan office.

The BNP leader said their party has already presented a 31-point proposal for overhauling and rebuilding the state.



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Voting rights to be restored at any cost Says CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The nation must unite in the struggle to restore voting rights, said Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

He also stressed that public participation is essential for fair and inclusive elections.

Speaking at the launch of the "Voter List Update Programme-2025" at the Savar Upazila Parishad Auditorium, he said, "The day people can vote freely, without fear or intimidation, will mark the true establishment of voting rights. But we cannot achieve this alone; it requires collective effort."

The CEC highlighted the importance of an accurate voter list as the foundation of free and fair elections.

লেজার পাইল্স, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্টকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনক্ষপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোক্ষপি।



পেটের খাদ্যান্তী ও মলারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত খাওয়া, মলারের ফিস্টুলা, এনালিফিসা, রক্ত আমাস (Ulcerative Colitis), প্রাইম কলোস্কপি, স্টেটুল কলোস্কপে প্রাইম কলোস্কপে, মলত্যাগের জন্য (Obstructed Defecation) STARR অপারেশন, পেটের ডিটেক্ট বাদামালী কলোস্কপ (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, প্রাপ্তপথ ক্যান্সারে (Rectum Cancer) মলবার না কেটে অ্যালুমিনিক স্ট্যাপিল পক্ষতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোক্ষপি পক্ষতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, শিশুদের পার্সিয়ানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যাধুনিক পদ্ধতি এবং বিশ্বাসের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হবে ইটি পড়ুন।



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