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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.

"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



**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 "Sarbojonakotha" 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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



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: PTI

## 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,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 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 Joshita 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, Abdul 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, Shikkha 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 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 Shikkha Bhaban. A scuffle ensued as

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



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 Chargé 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Voting rights to be restored at any cost

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 পাইলস, ফিস্টুলা অপারেশন, কোষ্ঠকাঠিন্য, পলিপ, কোলোনস্কপি, কোলন, রেকটাম ক্যান্সার ও ল্যাপারোস্কপি।**

পেটের খাদ্যনালী ও মলদ্বারের (Colon, Rectum and Anus) বিভিন্ন সমস্যা যেমন- মলত্যাগের পর রক্ত যাওয়া, মলদ্বারের ফিস্টুলা, এনালফিশার, রক্ত আমাশয় (Ulcerative Colitis), **লেজার পাইলস অপারেশন, সবুজ পাইলস অপারেশন**, মলদ্বারে বার বার অপারেশনে ব্যর্থ হওয়ার কারণ, বাধাগ্রস্ত মল ত্যাগের জন্য (Obstructed Defecation) STARR অপারেশন, পেটের ভিতরে খাদ্যনালীর ক্যান্সার (Colon Cancer), Colonoscopy, পান্থপথ ক্যান্সার (Rectum Cancer) মলদ্বার না কেটে অত্যাধুনিক স্ট্যাপলিং পদ্ধতিতে পেটে ব্যাগ না লাগিয়ে অপারেশন, ল্যাপারোস্কপিক পদ্ধতিতে পেট না কেটে কোলন ক্যান্সার অপারেশন, শিশুদের পায়খানার সাথে রক্ত যাওয়া ইত্যাদির অত্যাধুনিক ও বিশ্বমানের চিকিৎসা সম্পর্কে জানতে হলে বইটি পড়ুন।

**বইটি লিখেছেন আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতি সম্পন্ন পাইওনিয়ার কলোরেকটাল সার্জন**

**কলোরেকটাল সার্জিরে বিশ্বব্যাপী অধিক সংখ্যক সফল অপারেশন সম্পন্নকারী সার্জন-**

**অধ্যাপক ডাঃ এ. কে. এম. ফজলুল হক**

এমবিবিএস, এফসিপিএস, এফআইসিএস  
ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কলার (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র), ফেলো কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি (সিগাপুর)  
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান (অবঃ), কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি বিভাগ,  
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল ইউনিভার্সিটি।

**সম্পাদনা : ডাঃ আসিফ আলমাস হক**

এমবিবিএস (এসএসএমসি), এফসিপিএস (সার্জারি),  
এফসিপিএস (কলোরেকটাল সার্জারি)  
এফআরসিএস (ইল্যাত), এফএসিএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র), এফএসসিআরএস (যুক্তরাষ্ট্র)  
কনসালট্যান্ট ল্যাপারোস্কপিক, লেজার ও কলোরেকটাল সার্জন

**ডাঃ ফজলুল হক কলোরেকটাল হসপিটাল লিঃ**

৭২৬/এ, সাত-মসজিদ রোড, (ঈদগাহ মসজিদের বিপরীতে) ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।  
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