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Sarjis steps down from Shaheed Smriti Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sarjis Alam, a coordinator of the Students Against Discrimination, has resigned as general secretary of the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation.

He shared this information in a post on his verified Facebook profile yesterday's morning.

"I am no longer the general secretary of the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation. Changes have been made to the foundation's constitution, structure, and working process to accelerate its progress," he wrote.

He said the executive committee will now oversee the foundation's operations, with the chief executive officer (CEO) SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Students of Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATS) blocked Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday to realise their four-point demand, including recruitment to vacant positions in the 10th grade and the creation of employment opportunities. The protest caused severe gridlock, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Protests disrupt city life again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protests blocking major thoroughfares in Dhaka's Karwan Bazar and Shahbagh yesterday left the capital largely paralysed, causing immense sufferings to commuters.

The traffic situation worsened as a demonstration by stranded migrant workers blocked Karwan Bazar and another by students of Medical Assistant Training Schools (MATS) Shahbagh intersections for hours, disrupting traffic almost all day long.

Vehicular movement at Karwan Bazar remained suspended for nearly three hours as a group of stranded migrant workers demonstrated from around 9:00am till 12:00pm, demanding government steps to ensure their return to Malaysia.

The blockade caused severe traffic congestions on the roads across Farmgate, Bangla Motor, Panthapath and adjacent areas.

Afternoon, the protesters marched towards the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment on Eskaton Garden Road to press home their demand, and continued their demonstrations there till 3:30pm.

Meanwhile, students of MATS blocked Shahbagh intersection for over six hours to realise their four-point demand including recruitment to vacant positions in the 10th grade, and creation of employment opportunities.

The students initially started their protest at 10:40am, blocking one side of the main road under the Karwan Bazar metro rail station. Later, at around 11:15am, they rallied to the National Museum in Shahbagh, and enforced a blockade there around 12:50pm, halting vehicular movement around the four sides of the intersection, prompting many commuters to walk to their destinations.

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Stop using loud horns, black glass

DMP urges people to use footbridges, zebra crossings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drivers must stop installing loud horns and black tinted glasses on vehicles. Pedestrians must use foot-over bridges and zebra crossings where available, said a public notice issued by Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday.

Signed by DMP Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali, the notice said any driver or pedestrian failing to comply will face legal actions through regular operations and mobile courts.

Drivers often use their horns unnecessarily or excessively. Sometimes they even use illegal high-decibel horns, which poses significant health risks to those nearby, the notice added.

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Reforms should reflect people's aspiration

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reforms that are being discussed must align with the aspirations of the people to uphold the unity achieved through the July mass uprising, speakers said at an event yesterday.

They made the remarks at a discussion titled "National Unity: Why, On What Basis, and Which Path?" organised by a platform named "Unity for Bangladesh" at Dhaka University.

In his keynote speech, political analyst Tuhin Khan said, "In election-centric politics, polarisations are inevitable. However, if the government or the political leadership fails to take effective steps on the discussed issues unitedly, it will undoubtedly undermine the aspirations and achievements of the July uprising."

"The greatest political challenge at this moment is to transform the

discussion of unity into a fruitful and actionable process rather than limiting it to political rhetoric or formalities," he said.

He said if this challenge is not addressed, Bangladesh might face another major political crisis.

The greatest political challenge at this moment is to transform the discussion of unity into a fruitful and actionable process rather than limiting it to political rhetoric or formalities.

TUHIN KHAN, Political Analyst

"With this in mind, everyone should think sincerely about the process of unity," he added.

He said political parties are expressing their concerns about

the reform initiatives of the interim government. "They are worried whether these reform efforts will create a new political reality and whether that reality will be favourable for them."

New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said he regarded post-uprising fragmentation in the unity of political parties as a natural phenomenon.

"I don't see any reason to be worried. Every political party or group operates based on its goals and principles... Differences among political parties are natural," said the veteran journalist.

He added people are repeatedly sacrificing their lives to realise the unfulfilled promises of the Liberation War.

He said one of Awami League's major misdeeds was to abolish the provision for referendums. "Changing a company's rules

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Khaleda Zia acquitted in sabotage case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A Cumilla court has acquitted BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 35 others in a sabotage case filed with Chaudhagram Police Station in 2015.

Judge of Cumilla Additional Sessions Judge Court-1 Afroza Jesmin passed the order on Monday, said Public Prosecutor Advocate Kaimul Haque Rinku yesterday.

According to the case statement, a covered van was vandalised and torched

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Dhaka airport gets 2 bomb threats in a day

No explosives found, say officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) received two bomb threats in a single day yesterday, prompting emergency security measures and heightened vigilance.

The first incident involved a Dhaka-bound Biman flight from Rome, while the second threat was sent hours later, targeting the airport.

The initial threat came from a WhatsApp message sent to the official number of an Armed Police Battalion (APBn) duty officer. The message, traced to a Pakistani phone number, claimed that 34 kilograms of explosives were aboard flight BG 356 from Rome, set to detonate upon landing at HSIA. The plane made an emergency landing at 9:20am, and all 250 passengers and 13 crew members were safely evacuated.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan said the sender described the message as a warning rather than a direct threat. They speculated that an opposition group may have planted the explosives to gain international attention.

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Man found hanging from tree at DU identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The man found hanging from a tree in the Dhaka University area yesterday has been identified as Abu Saleh from Keraniganj upazila.

Khalid Monsur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said a national identity card was found with the body.

The CID crime scene unit confirmed the identity by matching the fingerprints with the NID server. Shahbagh police, in association with fire service teams, recovered the body around 9:00am.

Later, it was handed over to the family after an autopsy, Monsur added.

He said locals believe the man lived on the sidewalk and had mental health issues.

"Preliminary findings suggest he climbed the tree on Tuesday night and hanged himself. Further investigation is underway," he said.

ROBBERY PLOT

Four, including two army men, arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police claim to have foiled a robbery plot and arrested four suspects, including two army members, near Banani Star Kabab restaurant early yesterday.

The suspects, along with several others still at large, were preparing to rob a house in the capital's Moghbazar area, believing Tk 30-40 crore was stashed there, according to a case statement filed with the Banani Police Station.

Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a sub-inspector of the Banani Police Station, filed the case.

The arrestees are identified as Salam Sheikh, 36, Saibel Jon Sagor Rozario, 55, Md Abu Hanif, 32, and Rabiul Alam, 32.

As per the case statement, Salam acted as an informant for the group, while Rozario, who allegedly used a fake identity card, claimed himself to be a reporter for an online television channel.

Hanif is a corporal with the Army Headquarters' Overseas Operations, and Rabiul is a soldier stationed at Mirpur Cantonment.

Police recovered several items from the suspects, including three sets of army uniforms with nameplates (Yasin, Nazmul, and Parvez), three pairs of boots, two rank badges for a major, a hammer, screwdrivers, a microphone, a camera, and three mobile phones.

A microbus used by the group was also seized.

Rasel Sarwar, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, told The Daily Star, "We arrested four individuals, including two army members, and informed the Army Headquarters about the incident."

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A woman covers her face as she walks through a cloud of dust and fumes to cross the street in the Madani Avenue area of Baridhara. Dhaka's deteriorating air quality continues to pose serious health risks to its residents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN