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## At least eight BPL matches under scanner

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

The ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) has already been marred with a plethora of controversies, the latest of which include the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) identifying eight matches for suspicion of spot-fixing and match-fixing based on anonymous tips and media reports.

The Daily Star also saw a few documents in which the ACU is seen monitoring 10 different players and four franchises.

Out of the 10 cricketers, six have represented the Bangladesh national team, two are uncapped Bangladeshi players, and two are foreign cricketers. Among the franchises, Durbar Rajshahi and Dhaka Capitals have the most integrity flags, with each having 12, while Sylhet Strikers and Chittagong Kings have six and two respectively.



Meanwhile, according to documents seen by The Daily Star, the matches in question are: Fortune Barishal vs Rajshahi (January 6), Rangpur Riders vs Dhaka (January 7), Dhaka vs Sylhet (January 10), Rajshahi vs Dhaka (January 12), Chittagong vs Sylhet (January 13), Barishal vs Khulna Tigers (January 22), Chittagong vs Sylhet (January 22) and Rajshahi vs Rangpur (January 23).

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OCEAN'S FEATHERED MYSTERIES

A feather star clings to a coral in the Bay of Bengal at Saint Martin's Island. Also known as crinoids, these fascinating marine creatures are found in oceans worldwide, primarily in tropical and subtropical regions. They inhabit various environments, from shallow coral reefs to deep-sea habitats. With their distinctive, feathery appearance and branched arms, feather stars capture food particles from the water. Despite lacking hearts, eyes, and brains, they can "walk" along the seafloor using their flexible arms, and are capable of regenerating lost limbs. Sensory organs located along their arms help them detect environmental changes, allowing them to avoid danger or locate food. Their bodies display pentameral symmetry, meaning they are structured in fives or multiples of five. Feather stars play a crucial role in maintaining aquatic ecosystem health. As filter feeders, they help keep water clear and of high quality. However, these unique creatures face threats from habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

## Shab-e-Barat on Feb 14

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Shab-e-Barat will be observed on the night of February 14 as the Shaban moon was not sighted in the country yesterday.

The month of Shaban will begin on February 1.

The decision was made at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office in the evening.

Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain presided over the meeting.

## UGC considers 'July 36 univ' for seven govt colleges

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The University Grants Commission is considering a new public university named "July 36 University" for the seven government colleges that were under Dhaka University.

UGC Chairman Prof SMA Faiz, along with two other commission members, met Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday to discuss potential names for the university.

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## 'Economy my top priority'

Yunus tells FT in podcast

STAR REPORT

Getting the wheel of the economy rolling again is the top priority of Prof Muhammad Yunus, head of the interim government that took charge nearly six months ago.

The chief adviser discussed his sudden rise to the top of the government after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime, the student-led uprising that toppled her, and the potential of Bangladesh following the political changeover, besides his strategy, in an interview with the Financial Times in Davos on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum last week.



In the interview published as a podcast yesterday, the Nobel Peace Prize winner was asked what was his top priority now.

"Top priority, number one: get the economy moving again. Because the whole economy is devastated," he said.

"The entire country was kind of a subject of a highway robbery by the people who are running it. They stole everything. Banks are empty because they took the money and taking over the bank is easy on gunpoint," he said, referring to the activities of the previous regime.

In the changed political scenario, one of the possibilities is the students themselves will form a party, according to him.

Yunus said many believe the students have no chance of getting even one seat in parliament because no one knows them, but that is not what the chief adviser thinks.

"I said the whole nation knows them. Let them take a chance, whatever they want to do. So they will do it," he said.

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## 'No decision yet on us joining political party'

Says Nahid about the July uprising leaders in govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Adviser Nahid Islam said yesterday that there has been no decision about student representatives resigning from the interim government to join a political party.

"No such decision [to resign] has been made yet. If and when it happens, we will announce it ourselves. If we decide to join a political party or quit the government, we will announce it officially."

Nahid, also the posts and telecommunications adviser, made the remarks while speaking to journalists at the ministry.

"No such decision has been made from my end or Asif's [Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan] end. We're carrying out our roles within the government."

A Bangla daily newspaper reported yesterday that advisers Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud were set to resign from the cabinet and join a political party likely to be floated by the July uprising

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## Trump admin to cancel US visas of student protesters

Unveils plan to detain 30,000 migrants

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Wednesday to "combat antisemitism" and pledged to deport non-citizen college students and others who took part in pro-Palestinian protests.

A fact sheet on the order promises "immediate action" by the Justice Department to prosecute "terroristic threats, arson, vandalism and violence against American Jews" and marshal all federal resources to combat what it called "the explosion of antisemitism on our campuses and streets" since the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Palestinian group Hamas.

"To all the resident aliens who joined in the pro-jihadist protests, we put you on notice: come 2025, we will find you, and we will deport you," Trump said in the fact sheet.

"I will also quickly cancel the student visas of all Hamas sympathizers on college campuses, which have been infested with radicalism like never before," the president said, echoing a 2024 campaign promise. Rights groups and legal scholars said the new measure would violate constitutional free speech rights and would likely draw legal challenges.

Meanwhile, Trump said on Wednesday he will order the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to prepare a migrant detention facility at Guantanamo Bay for as many as 30,000 migrants. The US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, already houses a migrant facility - separate from the high-security US prison for foreign terrorism suspects - that has been used on occasion for decades, including to hold Haitians and Cubans picked up at sea.



## EC for change in provision for delimitation of constituencies

Says Election Commissioner Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is taking into account the number of voters, along with the population and the area, while redrawing constituencies.

According to the law on delimitation of constituencies, boundaries of Jatiya Sangsad constituencies should be redrawn based on the distribution of population as given in the latest census report, keeping in mind administrative units and administrative convenience.

"The existing law is causing problems in two aspects ... The EC will prepare a proposal to amend it," Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah told reporters after a meeting of election commissioners at the EC office.

He said that primarily constituencies are redrawn based on population, geographical area, but they

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## All 67 dead as US jet, chopper collide mid-air

Trump blames diversity hirings for crash

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump confirmed the deaths of all those aboard an airliner and a military helicopter which collided mid-air over Washington's Potomac river yesterday.

Trump launched an extraordinary political attack blaming diversity hires for the collision and mentioned pilot error on the helicopter in the nighttime crash.

As Trump spoke in the White House, police divers searched for more bodies in the water.

Wreckage of the Bombardier jet operated by an American Airlines subsidiary protruded from the river surface, surrounded by emergency vessels and diving teams. It had been carrying 64 people.

The army Blackhawk helicopter, which had three soldiers aboard, was also in the river.

"We are now at a point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation," Washington Fire Chief John Donnelly said. Twenty eight bodies had already been found.

The collision -- the first major crash in the United States since 2009 when 49 people were killed near Buffalo, New York -- occurred late evening on Wednesday as the airliner came into land at Reagan National Airport after a routine flight from Wichita, Kansas.



Emergency personnel work at the site of the crash after a Black Hawk helicopter and an American Eagle flight 5342, which was approaching Reagan Washington National Airport, collided and crashed in the Potomac River outside Washington DC, US, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## JULY UPRISING KILLINGS

Sluggish probe, failure to arrest irk the ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of investigation in cases filed for the killings in the July uprising.

The tribunal was also dissatisfied at the prosecution team and investigators for their failure to arrest those accused of crimes against humanity.

Furthermore, the SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Quotas in edn institutions, govt jobs to be reviewed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to review the quota system for entry into government jobs and admission to educational institutions.

The decision was made during a meeting of the advisory council at the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday.

During the meeting, presided over by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, the advisory council made three key decisions

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## 'Muggers' hack young man's hand off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspected muggers chopped off the hand of a young man reportedly after robbing his mobile phone in the capital's Adabor yesterday in broad daylight.

The incident occurred in the Balur Maath area at around 2:45pm.

The victim, Sumon Sheikh, 26, a resident of Darussalam Ansar Camp area, is a mason by profession.

He is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical SEE PAGE 7 COL 8