



An excavator tears down the Dhanmondi-32 residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman while it is still on fire around 1:30am today.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ADMIN, JUDICIAL REFORMS

- Dividing the country into 4 administrative provinces
- Reducing the number of ministries to 25 from 43
- Abolishing the zila parishads
- Moving 26 cadre officials to 13 services
- In-service exams for officials for becoming deputy secretaries
- Every upazila to have an assistant superintendent of police

- Establishing permanent HC benches in divisional cities
- Setting up civil, criminal courts in upazilas
- Curbing president's power to pardon
- Limiting mobile court's power to sentence
- Enacting laws to establish independent criminal investigation service
- Preventing filing of false cases

'Capital city government' for greater Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Administration Reform Commission has proposed a "Capital City Government" for governing Dhaka city, Narayanganj, Keraniganj, Savar, and Tongi.

This government, similar to that of the federal government-controlled New Delhi, will have an elected legislature and local government.

The proposal was made considering the population and scope of services in the capital, according to the commission's report submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

It also proposed introducing a provincial governance system, by turning four older divisions into provinces, to decentralise the service delivery system for the country's large population.

"This will reduce the potential for power concentration by a unitary government and alleviate the pressure on Dhaka as well," said the report.

However, implementing such a system would require constitutional amendments.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Decentralised judiciary at the core

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Judiciary Reform Commission recommends curbing the president's power to pardon convicts and establishing permanent High Court benches at every divisional city.

It also proposes establishing civil and criminal courts at upazilas; reducing the mobile court's jurisdiction in sentencing; formulating legislation to establish an independent criminal investigation agency; and preventing filing of false cases with a law.

The reforms are proposed in 28 areas.

The commission led by Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman handed over the 380-page report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters that the judiciary was not fully independent under the previous government.

"That's why the Judiciary Reform Commission proposes making the judiciary fully independent," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director **Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)**. We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

All Employees

ABUL KHAIR GROUP

22nd Death Anniversary



Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)

Death: 6th February, 2003

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-matured departure has made us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishers to pray for him from the core of heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved members of the family

Houses of AL leaders smashed

STAR REPORT

Protesters demolished homes of Awami League leaders and defaced murals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in different parts of the country last night and early today.

Yesterday evening, they demolished the Khulna SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Protest by Transcom Group Against False, Fabricated, Malicious, Defamatory, and Baseless News Reports

A series of false, fabricated, malicious, defamatory, and baseless news reports are being continuously published about Transcom Group, one of the country's leading industrial conglomerates, by media outlets owned by Bashundhara Group. As part of this, on February 3, Kaler Kantha published a report titled "Simeen Gave Tk 100 Crore Bribe to Hasina," which is false, fabricated, and defamatory. The same false and fabricated news item was also published under different headlines by Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Sun, and Bangla News 24. The online editions of these newspapers also published this false news.

Regarding this, Transcom Group states that in the face of the fascist government's conspiracy, Transcom CEO, Simeen Rahman, was outside the country from February 20 to April 3, 2024, which is evident from her passport records. It is incomprehensible how it is possible to be at Gonobhaban while being abroad at the same time. This claim is completely baseless and false. It is necessary to mention that Simeen Rahman has never, in her lifetime, met the head of the fascist government, Sheikh Hasina.

The news report states that Simeen Rahman issued a cheque from her Standard Chartered Bank account.

— In reality, Simeen Rahman does not have any account at any branch of Standard Chartered Bank. How is it possible that the media outlets owned by Bashundhara Group, citing the country's well-known state institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), can spread such outright lies?

The report further states that Simeen Rahman's brother, Arshad Walir Rahman's body was exhumed, autopsied, and later the matter was covered up.

— This is another blatant falsehood. The actual fact is that Arshad Walir Rahman's body was never exhumed or autopsied. This false, fabricated, and baseless information has been published with extremely malicious intent.

The report also states that after the exchange of bribes, the then-government suppressed the murder case and the share-related case.

— Like other allegations, this too is completely false and baseless. In reality, after an investigation, no truth was found in the murder allegations, and on October 3 of last year (after the fall of the fascist Awami League government), the investigating officer submitted the final report to the court. On October 24 last year, the honourable court accepted the final report and acquitted all the accused in the case. On the other hand, the share-related case is still ongoing.

The report states, "Prothom Alo and The Daily Star group have also made an alliance with the new government. Several of their associates have secured advisory positions in the new government."

— This comment is not only a false and defamatory statement but also a deliberate attempt to tarnish the country's image. Publishing such false news without any concrete evidence to damage the reputation of the current government is part of an anti-national conspiracy.

The Actual Facts

The founder, chairman, and managing director of Transcom Limited, Latifur Rahman, formalized his company's management and share distribution before his passing by executing a "Deed of Settlement" on June 12, 2020. In addition to Latifur Rahman, all members of his family—his wife Shahnaz Rahman, elder daughter Simeen Rahman, younger daughter Shahzreh Huq, and son Arshad Walir Rahman—signed the Deed of Settlement in full agreement.

Additionally, as witnesses to this Deed of Settlement, Latifur Rahman's elder grandson Zaraif Ayaat Hossain (son of Simeen Rahman), younger daughter Shahzreh Huq's two sons Zoheb Asrar Huq and Mikhail Imaan Huq, and two senior officials of Transcom Group also signed the document.

After executing the Deed of Settlement, Latifur Rahman signed Form-II7, a share transfer document under the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC). Through this, he transferred his 23,600 shares in Transcom Limited as follows:

14,160 shares to his elder daughter, Simeen Rahman, 4,720 shares to his younger daughter, Shahzreh Huq, 4,720 shares to his son, Arshad Walir Rahman. These Form-II7 documents were later submitted to the RJSC. The RJSC updated the company's shareholding records accordingly and issued a Schedule-X listing the updated shareholder structure.

Latifur Rahman passed away on July 1, 2020. Following his demise, the company had been operating smoothly. Subsequently, his two daughters, Simeen Rahman and Shahzreh Huq, along with his son, Arshad Walir Rahman, declared in their personal income tax returns for the fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 the shares transferred to them from a total of 23,600 shares.

After the fall of the fascist Awami League government, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star published reports exposing various anti-national activities of the previous government and its allies, including S. Alam Group. As a result, these groups and their associates have engaged in a conspiracy to destroy Transcom Group.

Transcom Group urges everyone not to be misled by these false, defamatory, baseless, and malicious reports. It also calls on all media outlets to refrain from publishing false news without proper verification.