

ক্রতৃ এ নিয়োগ রেমিট্যাঙ্গ পাঠান
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...

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Π

Scuffle, sit-in and strike

Another day of protests in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka witnessed three different protests in different parts of the city yesterday, with different demands.

At the Central Shaheed Minar, sacked BDR personnel staged a sit-in demanding their reinstatement.

The dismissed Bangladesh Rifles (now Border Guard Bangladesh) members, accused and imprisoned in cases related to the 2009 Pillkhana massacre, and their family members demonstrated under the banner of "Justice for BDR".

After the sit-in, they attempted to march towards the Secretariat but were dispersed by police near Shikha Bhaban around 1:10pm. Police used a water cannon on the protesters to disperse them.

Failing to move towards the Secretariat, the protesters then blocked the road in front of the Directorate General of Food.

Around 2:00pm, Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, arrived at the protest site and assured them a meeting with Law Adviser Asif Nazrul this week.

Later, six of the sacked BDR personnel, alongside two coordinators, went to meet the home adviser but couldn't meet him.

"We'll try to place our demands to the home adviser again on Monday," said Moniruzzaman, one of the sacked personnel.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, COLLECTED



Sacked BDR personnel remove police barricades on the capital's Abdul Goni Road and start moving towards the Secretariat yesterday, demanding reinstatement. Later, they gathered near the Shikha Bhaban to realise their demand. Meanwhile, candidates facing the cancellation of their appointments as assistant teachers in government primary schools continued their sit-in at Shahbagh.



Prof Yunus in Dubai to attend World Govts Summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus reached Dubai early today to attend the World Governments Summit 2025.

Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, the UAE minister of sports, received Yunus as he landed in Dubai.

Falasi thanked the chief adviser for his participation in the summit and briefed him about the event being held in Dubai annually over the past decade.

They also discussed issues of mutual interests including possible cooperation in areas of sports and culture between the two countries.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Tareq Ahmed were present during the meeting.

999 services now in English too

New initiative aims to assist foreigners, English-speaking individuals

MUNTAKIM SAAD

The National Emergency Helpline 999 has introduced English-language services for the first time, aiming to assist English-speaking people, particularly foreigners working in or visiting the country.

The initiative took effect yesterday.

The helpline, operated by the Bangladesh Police, has been a crucial resource for citizens in distress since its launch in 2017. It provides round-the-clock emergency assistance, including police, fire, and medical services.

However, until now, the service was exclusively available in Bangla.

Mohammad Tabarak Ullah, additional deputy inspector general of police and chief of the national emergency helpline, told The Daily Star



At present, the 999 helpline has 100 workstations and can handle 120 calls simultaneously.

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REFORMATION OF JUDICIARY

Commission for law to protect victim, witness

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Judiciary Reform Commission has proposed a law to protect victims and witnesses, including their families and properties.

It recommended covering travel and meal expenses for witnesses attending court.

In its 351-page final report, submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on February 5, the commission emphasised the need for a witness protection cell under the police, citing the lack of safeguards in the judicial system.

While existing laws, such as the Evidence Act, 1972, and the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Act, 2012, provide limited protection, no dedicated legislation exists. The Law Commission has recommended a Witness Protection Act, but it has yet to be enacted.

The commission noted that witness payments, previously provided through district magistrates, have stopped since the judiciary's separation. It also highlighted the absence of victim protection, compensation, and



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Cover travel, food expenses for witnesses
- Witness protection cell under police
- Funding for witness arrival, departure costs
- Amendment to Article 116 for judicial independence
- Permanent HC benches in divisional cities
- Curbing presidential power to pardon convicts
- Mobile courts to impose only financial penalties
- Code of conduct to prevent judicial corruption
- Uploading judges' property details every 3 years

financial support, urging reforms similar to those in the US, UK, Germany, and Australia.

The report reiterated key judicial reform proposals, including amending Article 116 of the constitution to transfer control of lower court judges from the president to the Supreme Court and establishing SC secretariat.

It also suggested decentralising the judiciary by setting up permanent High Court benches in divisional cities and courts at the upazila level. The commission proposed curbing the president's power to pardon convicts, limiting mobile courts to imposing only financial penalties, and forming an independent criminal investigation agency.

The commission recommended the formulation of a code of conduct to prevent corruption among judges. Other significant proposals include appointing the most senior Appellate Division judge as the chief justice, fixing the number of SC judges at seven, raising the retirement age of judges to 70, and requiring judges to disclose their property details online every three years to ensure transparency.

'Coffin procession' demands ban on AL



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The leaders of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and Jatiya Nagorik Committee last night demanded that the interim government impose a ban on Awami League.

They made the call while attending the namaz-e-janaza of Abul Kashem at Central Shaheed Minar.

Kashem died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 3:00pm yesterday, following an attack on students and protesters in Gazipur on February 7.

"Even six months after the July uprising, revolutionaries of the movement are being killed at the hands of Awami League. It's a collective failure of anti-fascist political parties and forces," said Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the movement.

"With Kashem's body before us, we take an oath to ban Awami League," he added.

Addressing the interim government, he said, "How much more time will you take to ban Awami League? Ban Awami League through legal procedures within the shortest possible time."

Akther Hossain, member secretary of Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said a UN report explicitly

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'Secret note' sparks controversy in court Security tightened as AL leaders face trial for July uprising cases

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

When former state minister for disaster management and relief Dr Enamur Rahman was being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday, he handed over a "secret note" to a man.

State lawyers said the accused cannot hand over written messages to anyone without the court's permission.

Previously, former social welfare minister Dipu Moni and former state minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak had also given such notes to their lawyers on the court premises, according to media reports.

Since then, police have been maintaining tight security while producing former Awami League ministers, lawmakers, and their associates before the court in connection with the cases related to the July uprising.

A video clip obtained by The Daily Star shows Enamur taking out a paper from his pocket and handing it to an individual while being presented

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A RIVER RUNS BLACK. A vessel plying through the black waters of the Buriganga yesterday. The trail of foam it leaves behind is a sign of pollutants that slowly poisoned the river for decades. Due to continuous dumping of waste materials from factories and households, Buriganga, once the lifeline of Dhaka, has now become one of the most polluted rivers. The photo was taken from the Postogola Bridge.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'DEVIL HUNT'

Another 591 held across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 591 more people were arrested across the country in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the ongoing "Operation Devil Hunt".

Besides, 1,095 others, accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested during the same period, according to the Police Headquarters.

During the drive, four firearms including a Chinese rifle (looted from police), one magazine, three rounds of bullets, 17 cartridges, 20 crude bombs, six knives and other sharp weapons were also recovered on the operation's fourth day.

Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday reiterated that the nationwide operation carried out by joint forces will continue as long as "devils" exist.

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A video clip shows Enamur Rahman taking out a paper from his pocket and handing it to an individual while being presented

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