

চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট প্রতিযোগিতা পাঠান  
প্রিয়জনের প্রয়োজনে...  
যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিয়াল গ্রহণ করলেই  
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রশংসন  
সাথে অন্যও আরও নিশ্চিত আত্মসমীক্ষ প্রস্তুত  
\* শর্ত প্রযোজন

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## 3 arrested after attack on couple in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the two persons, who were seen in the video carrying out an attack on a couple with sharp weapons in the capital's Uttara area on Monday night, was arrested from Dhaka's Abdullahpur area yesterday evening.

Alfaz Hossain Shimon, 22, one of the attackers, was arrested around 7:00pm, Hafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station.

"We are trying to arrest others," he said.

Alfaz is the nephew of Milion Mia, expelled convener of Uttara West Thana unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, an official of the police station told The Daily Star.

Dhaka city north unit of Jubo Dal expelled Milion on September 7 last year for "breaching organisational discipline".

Earlier on Monday night, police arrested Mobarak Hossain, 25, and Robi Ray, 22, in connection with the attack.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## 'DEVIL HUNT' 506 more arrested across the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 506 more people across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the "Operation Devil Hunt", according to the Police Headquarters.

With the latest arrests, the numbers of arrestees under the operation are now 5,825.

Additionally, 1,141 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested in the last 24 hours.

Law enforcers also recovered a firearm.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order.

## ROAD ACCIDENT Journalist Masuma succumbs to injuries

A CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi



Four days after suffering severe injuries in a road accident, journalist Masuma Akter, correspondent of Ekhon TV's Rajshahi bureau, died at a private hospital in Dhaka early yesterday.

She breathed her last around 4:15am. She was on life support since she sustained head injuries during the accident in Cumilla on last Friday.

Masuma's husband Rakibul Hasan Razib, a senior journalist of the same television channel, confirmed the death to The Daily Star.

Masuma, from Narayapur village in



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Accompanied by her son, Farida Yasmin heads home to Lalbagh after completing her dialysis at BSMU in Shahbagh. As teacher-candidates continued their protest for their 13th consecutive day, police erected these barricades opposite the National Museum. With no other way to go, her son was forced to move the barriers so that Farida could cross the spot in her wheelchair. The photo was taken yesterday.

## 'Moral policing a rising concern in universities'

University Teachers' Network says pluralism still missing in country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Teachers' Network has expressed concern that the absence of teacher association elections and the lack of reforms for fair student union polls have reinstated an autocratic system on campuses, threatening institutional democracy.

As a result, moral policing in universities has increased, creating an unsafe and discriminatory environment, especially for female students, they said.

Also, efforts to ban student politics are enabling the unchecked rise of extremist student organisations, they added.

They made the remarks at a press conference titled "The State of the Country and Educational Institutions in Six Months of the Interim Government" at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The network highlighted that despite the government's claims of being non-partisan, political influence remains dominant in the appointments of key administrative positions, including vice-chancellors, deans, hall provosts, and proctors, which they fear will extend to faculty recruitment.

If events are cancelled and speech is restricted, how will people express their freedom?  
Prof Anu Muhammad

Speaking at the programme, Prof Anu Muhammad said the expectation from the interim government was to remove barriers to freedom of expression, yet now attacks on freedom are coming from all directions.

"If such events are cancelled and speech is restricted, how will people express their freedom? These are issues we faced during Sheikh Hasina's era," he said.

"We cannot accept this under the current government," he added.

Prof Muhammad also highlighted recent incidents at Chittagong University and Khulna University, including student expulsions and arbitrary renaming of buildings after prominent figures.

He said, "We are deeply shocked and concerned about this. These names must be reinstated immediately. We also demand that major institutions be named after these eminent individuals."

Dhaka University Professor Kamrul Hassan Mamun stressed the need to modernise faculty recruitment policies, warning that political appointments will

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

AL, allies should be banned for aiding Hasina  
Says Sarjis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sarjis Alam, chief organiser of Jatiya Nagarik Committee, yesterday

said if Sheikh Hasina was the mastermind behind the July killings, then the Awami League and its associate bodies should also be banned for aiding her in committing the crimes.

"We cannot hold voters accountable for the crimes of the party. However, the registration of the Awami League must be completely revoked," he said while speaking to journalists after a dialogue at the BISS auditorium.

Sarjis said they expect to announce their new party within the next week.

Reforms and elections can proceed simultaneously.

Shah Alam  
CPB president

## Left parties for nat'l polls before local govt elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Left Democratic Alliance has expressed a preference for national elections to be held before local government elections.

During a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the Election Commission office yesterday, alliance leaders also demanded that parliamentary elections take place within this year.

Iqbal Kabir Zahid, coordinator of the alliance, told reporters that the downfall of a fascist government came through movements against undemocratic systems.

He said the primary objective following this change should be a return to a democratic system, urging that elections be organised promptly.

Shah Alam, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), said reforms and elections can proceed simultaneously.

He said a new debate is emerging regarding whether local or national elections should be conducted first. Alam accused the government of using this debate as a tactic to delay elections, which he deemed self-destructive for the nation.

CPB General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## 'Release Azharul, restore party registration'

Demands Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday warned that the interim government would be forced to accept their demands, including the release of former assistant secretary general ATM Azharul Islam, through an unstoppable mass movement.

Azharul has been sentenced to death by the International Crimes Tribunal. Shafiqur made the remarks at a protest rally organised by Jamaat's Dhaka north and south units at Paltan in the capital.

The rally was part of a centrally declared programme demanding the release of Azharul, reinstatement of the party's electoral symbol "scale", and restoration of the party's registration.

He said although the fall of the Awami fascists has occurred, Azharul remains imprisoned. He said their movement would not stop until Azharul is released.

Shafiqur said from 2009 to August 5, 2024, the Awami fascists ruled the country through misrule and tyranny, specifically targeting Jamaat by arresting and imprisoning its top leaders.

"During this crisis, Azharul was serving as the party's acting secretary general. However, the Awami League unjustly kept him in prison for 13 years under false, baseless, and politically motivated charges," Shafiqur claimed.

He questioned the interim government, asking, "Even though the country has been freed from fascism, why has Azharul Islam not been released?"



Huge traffic congestion brought the Kakrail area to a standstill yesterday. Weekday traffic continues to be a problem that plagues the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS