



With only nine days remaining until the Ekushey Boi Mela concludes, book enthusiasts flock to the fair to satisfy their literary appetites. Booklovers were seen eagerly exploring the diverse range of books available at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, PALASH KHAN

‘July Uprising belongs to all’ Mahfuj advocates ‘balance’ to calm student factions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the interim government Mahfuj Alam has said the July-August mass uprising belongs to everyone, stressing that progress has to be achieved with everyone's participation.

In a post on his verified Facebook page yesterday, Mahfuj also said he had rejected the notion of “mastermind” in the very beginning, adding that it was a “hype created by media”.

He said the decision-makers had to talk to many stakeholders for almost all decisions. To finalise a decision, opinions were taken from at least five to six groups before those were also analysed.

He said during “July 19-33”, although people did not wait for anyone's decision, they took the students as “legitimate leaders”.

Mahfuj stressed the need for a “balanced position” among the student factions and called for moving on with all but the saboteurs.

In his post, he apologised for some previous remarks and vowed to correct himself in future if required.

He also said they are encountering innumerable powerful enemies but are blessed with only a handful of friends.

HSC exams to begin June 26

STAR REPORT

The Higher Secondary Certificate examinations will begin on June 26 and continue till August 10, said an education ministry statement yesterday.

The practical exams will be held from August 11 to 21, said a notification signed by SM Kamal Uddin, chief of the Inter-Education Board Examination Controllers' Committee.

ABRAR MURDER Uphold trial court verdict AG urges HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday prayed to the High Court to uphold the trial court verdict in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case.

A Dhaka court on December 8, 2021, sentenced 20 Buet students to death for their direct involvement in the murder and also sentenced five other students to life imprisonment.

LGRD MINISTRY

‘Its name, function do not match’

Says local govt reform commission chief, proposes renaming ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Local Government Reform Commission is going to propose a change in the name of the LGRD ministry, said the commission's chief Prof Tofayel Ahmed yesterday.

“There is no alignment between the ministry's name and its functions. Why is that? Because local government is not prioritised. The ministry includes entities like LGED and Wasa, with a budget of around Tk 30-40 thousand crore,” he said.

“However, only Tk 1,200 crore is allocated specifically for local government, covering city corporations,

Why should the NGO Affairs Bureau be under the PMO? It should be overseen by those working at the grassroots level. This restructuring will integrate cooperatives and NGOs into the local government framework, allowing for better planning.

Prof Tofayel Ahmed

district administrations, and upazilas. There is no need to call it a local government ministry,” he added.

The local government expert made the remarks at a programme titled “CSOs for Empowering the Marginalised Communities in Bangladesh,” held at Dhaka University.

The event was organised by the Centre for Budget and Policy of DU.

Prof Tofayel said there is another wing under the Cooperative Ministry for Rural Development.

“However, there is neither rural development nor cooperatives

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Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaks at a discussion marking the launch of the third edition of “Ashimer Bhela: Bangla Shahitter Shera Kobitar Shongroho”, a poetry anthology edited by him, at Batighar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



A DAY IN COURT

Of Palak's prison insights and Faruk's viral controversy

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former state minister for ICT Zunaïd Ahmed Palak remained relatively quiet as he was brought to Dhaka's Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court yesterday.

Palak was escorted from Kashimpur jail under heavy security, wearing a helmet, handcuffs, and a bulletproof vest. He was produced in court as part of an application to show him arrested in a murder case filed with Dhanmondi Police Station.

However, his silence broke upon arriving at the courtroom at 11:00am, where the hearing was scheduled. He spoke with his lawyers until Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate MA Azharul Islam took his seat.

“Prison life comes with intense life lessons. Everyone should spend at least seven days in jail to understand this. Even if I ever get out, I will still say this,” Palak remarked from the dock.

He also claimed he was enduring inhumane conditions in prison due to financial struggles. Addressing lawyers and journalists, he said, “I don't even have money to buy flattened rice or puffed rice. In prison, I share bread and bananas with Suman bhai [Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman].”

Palak suggested that speaking in court often leads to an extension of remand. “If we speak, the remand is extended,” he said, advising his lawyers to remain

cautious during the hearing.

When police asked him to stop talking, he responded, “I am not saying anything illegal.”

Later, he attempted to catch the attention of Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi, greeting him with “Salam”. Initially, the prosecutor did not respond, but eventually, he acknowledged the greeting.

Palak then remarked, “At last, the prosecutor's heart has softened.”

Before being taken back to the lockup, he addressed journalists, saying, “Please be kind while writing about us.”

Following the hearing, Magistrate Azharul ordered Palak to be shown as arrested in the case.

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A journey thru Bangla poetry

Discussion on Abdullah Abu Sayeed's anthology held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shortly after the evening fell, the event began, and the courtyard of Batighar became quite crowded. People of various ages had gathered there to listen to a discussion on a poetry book.

It was not an original collection of poems, yet the presence of its editor -- Abdullah Abu Sayeed -- was the reason behind the packed audience.

Yesterday, a reading session was held to mark the third edition of “Ashimer Bhela: Bangla Shahitter Shera Kobitar Shongroho”, a poetry anthology edited by Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, “In this anthology, I have included poems that I consider to be aesthetically significant. However, there are two exceptions -- one from Charyapada and another by Ishwar Chandra Gupta. I included these two poems for their historical significance.”

He said, “One of the speakers mentioned that my book does not include any poems by female poets. I did not follow any specific policy while selecting poems. Just as I did not consider political affiliations, I also did not differentiate between male and female poets. However, in the next edition, I will include poems by Begum

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Today Is The 8th Death Anniversary of

The Founding Chairman of Alliance Properties Limited

SYED ALI ASGHAR RIZVI
(22 April 1944 – 20 February 2017)

For the eternal peace of his soul, the Alliance Family, his sons Zaki and Razi Rizvi and his grandchildren Afraz, Ariana, and Alazne ask all family members, friends, and well-wishers to keep him in their prayers.