



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.

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

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.

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.

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

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

STAR REPORT

Former state minister for ICT Zunaid 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 Dharmondi 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.

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A DAY IN COURT

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

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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