

**চুক্তি এ রিপোর্ট রেমিট্যাল পাঠান**  
প্রিয়জনের পয়েন্টে...

যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রেমিট্যাল গ্রহণ করলেই  
পাবেন সরকার নির্ধারিত ২.৫% প্রশংসন

**সাথে আরও আরও নিশ্চিত আত্মস্থীর্পণ প্রস্তুতি**  
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**ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্মী' পুবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়**

## PRY SCHOOL TEACHERS

### Cops use water cannons, batons on protesters

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday charged batons and used water cannons to disperse a procession of non-government primary school teachers demanding nationalisation of their institutions.

At least six people, including two women, were hurt in the incident near the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka. They took primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said hospital sources.

Police and witnesses said the incident took place around 1:30pm when the teachers started a procession towards the state guest house Jamuna, the residence of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, from the Jatiya Press Club to press their demand.

Shahinur Rahman, one of the injured, told reporters that they were marching towards Jamuna with a legitimate demand, but police used water cannons and charged batons on them.

Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge (OC) of Shabagh Police Station, said a protest procession of the teachers was marching towards Jamuna when police tried to stop them near the Kadam Foara.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



For the fifth year running, UNDP and The Daily Star gave five women the "Nirbhaya" award yesterday for championing the cause of women changemakers from grassroots communities. They received crests and certificates during a ceremony at IDB Auditorium in the capital's Agargaon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Govt to shift NID services to independent authority

### EC staff to stage demo today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the National Identity Card (NID) operations are currently under the Election Commission (EC), they will eventually be transferred to an independent data authority, said Faiz Ahmed Tayyab, special assistant to the chief adviser for the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology.

Speaking at a press conference titled "Ownership of NID" at the ICT Building yesterday, he said, "We are establishing a Data Authority, not shutting down the EC's IT cell. Everything will remain as it is for now but will be regulated through the new authority. When system upgrades are needed, we will centralise operations under this body."

He also said the move would not place NID operations under any ministry.

Meanwhile, EC officials and employees have announced a two-hour nationwide demonstration for today demanding that NID operations remain under the EC.

Monir Hossain, convener of the Bangladesh Election Commission Officers' Association, announced the protest at a press conference yesterday.

## Fearless champions of change

### Five grassroots women changemakers get 'Nirbhaya' award by UNDP Bangladesh, Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Born into poverty and forced into an abusive marriage at a young age, Rogina Begum from Pirojpur seemed destined for a life of hardship.

Despite enduring physical and emotional torment, she remained silent, believing that leaving her husband's home would only lead to more suffering.

However, her determination to build a better future for her children kept her going.

Working as a domestic helper and tutor, Rogina's life took a turn when she was selected for UNDP's SWAPNO Project. The programme provided stable employment and financial literacy training, ultimately transforming her life.

With her earnings, she invested in livestock and small-scale fish farming, creating a sustainable income.

As part of the celebration of International Women's Day 2025, Rogina was honoured with the "Nirbhaya" (Fearless) award by The Daily Star and UNDP Bangladesh, alongside four other women - Nazrul Islam Ritu, Tandra Mollik, Champa Chakma, and Kabita Banerjee.

This was the fifth edition of the "Nirbhaya"

initiative.

The women were recognised for championing female changemakers in grassroots communities at a ceremony at the IDB Auditorium of the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

At the event, Rogina shared how she became a force for change in her community. She collects school supplies from affluent individuals and distributes them to underprivileged children, finding joy in their smiles.

Through regular training, she has gained knowledge to support others, particularly women struggling due to a lack of education.

She ensures they receive medical care and provides warm clothes during winter to ease their hardships. "I wish to raise my children well and achieve greater success," she said.

Nazrul Islam Ritu, the first elected union parishad chairperson from Bangladesh's hijra community, shared how she transformed Trilochanpur Union Parishad in Jhenaidah through inclusive leadership.

She spoke about earning the trust of her community, which led her to run for the UP chair.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



We must remember the human stories behind these figures -- the individuals who are the true agents of change.  
STEFAN LILLER  
Resident representative of UNDP Bangladesh

Ensure justice in both hills and plains  
Demand indigenous communities regarding gender-based violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous students yesterday called for the formation of a speedy trial tribunal to ensure justice for victims of sexual violence in both the hills and plains.

The protest was held at the base of Raju Memorial Sculpture at Dhaka University, in response to the increasing incidents of rape and violence against women, including the recent rape of an indigenous woman in Ruma, Bandarban.

Ananta Tanchangya, president of the Bangladesh Adivasi Sangram Parishad, presided over the event, while Hlamangpru Marma, organising secretary of the Parbatya Chattogram Pahari Chhatria Parishad Dhaka Metropolitan Branch, conducted it.

Several indigenous leaders, including Dipayan Khisa, central member of the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti, and Rumen Chakma, general secretary of PCP's central committee, expressed solidarity.

Dipayan Khisa condemned the ongoing violence, saying, "Is this the country we fought for? The same Rupaiya Shrestha who led the uprising

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Shomi Kaiser gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to actress Shomi Kaiser, also former president of the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB), in an attempted murder case.

The bail was granted to Shomi until police submit their report in connection with the case, Assistant Attorney General ABM Ibrahim Khalil told The Daily Star.

The HC delivered the verdict after hearing a rule issued earlier asking the state why Shomi will not be granted permanent bail.

The state will move an appeal before the Supreme Court challenging the bail, AAG Ibrahim added.

One Ishtiaq Mahmud filed the case with Uttara East Police Station against Shomi and several others on the charge of attempting to kill him during the July uprising.

## WE DEEPLY MOURN



Syed Manzur Elahi

(26 September 1942 - 12 March 2025)

ICC Bangladesh is deeply shocked and grieved at the sad demise of ICC Bangladesh Founding Member and Chairman of Apex Group of Industries Syed Manzur Elahi in Singapore at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 12 March 2025. Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un. Mr. Elahi was the current and founding Chairman of Mutual Trust Bank PLC and sponsor Director of International Publications Limited (The Financial Express).

We remember with gratitude his unqualified support, contribution, guidance and active participation since ICC Bangladesh started its journey in the 90s. He has served as ICC Bangladesh Executive Board Member for a number of years.

He was appointed Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh, twice (1996 & 2001) for his integrity, leadership, professionalism and non-partisanship. He was President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka; Bangladesh Employers Association (BEA); Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) and Honorary Consul for Belgium in Bangladesh.

Mr. Elahi has served as Chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd. (CDBL), Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB), Manusher Jonno Foundation, MTB Foundation and Sunbeams School Ltd.; Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies (BAPLC), Director on the Boards of Bangladesh Bank, Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

Mr. Elahi was awarded "Business Executive of the Year 2000" by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Bangladesh and "Business Person of the Year 2002" by the Daily Star and DHL Worldwide Express & "Lifetime Achievement Award" of the UK-Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UKBCCI).

He was also the Chairman of Apex Pharma Ltd., Blue Ocean Footwear Ltd. (Joint Venture with Taiwan), Apex Enterprises Ltd. (Holding Company), Apex Investments Ltd. (Licensed stock brokerage), Grey Advertising (Bangladesh) Ltd. (Joint Venture with USA) and Quantum Consumer Solutions Ltd. (Joint venture with India).

May Allah rest his soul in peace in heaven.



International Chamber of Commerce - Bangladesh

## CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Syed Manzur Elahi

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) is deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi, a distinguished industrialist and business leader. He passed away on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore at 9:30 AM Singapore time (7:30 AM Bangladesh time). Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un. His loss will be profoundly felt both personally and nationally, especially within the business community and by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A quiet mentor to many, his business acumen, integrity, and kindness remain an enduring example adding immense value to strengthening corporate governance and empowering various social organisations.

Mr. Elahi served as MCCI President in 1990 and 1991 and as President of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Under his leadership, MCCI played a pivotal role in shaping Bangladesh's trade and commerce landscape, particularly in advancing the revenue generation system.

As the visionary leader of Apex Group, one of the country's prominent conglomerates, Mr. Elahi's illustrious career spanned multiple industries. He was recognized with accolades such as "Business Executive of the Year 2000" and "Business Person of the Year 2002." He also served as an Adviser to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh in 1996 and 2001.

MCCI extends its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and requests prayers for his departed soul. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdous and bless his family with patience and strength.

Ameen



Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka

## A DAY IN COURT

### Handcuffed behind their backs Palak, Salman, Atiquil produced before court

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former state minister for posts, telecommunications and information technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak was brought to a courtroom of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka from its lockup yesterday.

Wearing a police helmet and bulletproof vest, Palak was escorted from the lockup at 9:30am, flanked by police officers. His hands were cuffed behind his back.

Just two days back, on the premises of the Metropolitan Sessions Court of Dhaka, he had complained about how he was handcuffed from behind while being brought to the courtroom.

Salman F Rahman, former private industry affairs adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, also walked towards the courtroom just before Palak yesterday. His hands were also cuffed behind his back.

Former lawmaker Mohammad Solaiman Salim and former Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Atiquil Islam followed, both had their hands cuffed behind their backs.

Further back, former senior secretary Mohibul Haque also walked with his hands cuffed behind his back.

Their handcuffs were unlocked after they were placed inside the courtroom dock.

Minutes later, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate SEE PAGE 4 COL 3