

Shafik Rehman regains control of Jai Jai Din

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shafik Rehman, founding editor of the Daily Jai Jai Din, has regained control of the Bangla newspaper after 18 years.

Shafik received the official declaration from Dhaka District Administration Office yesterday.

He later visited the Jai Jai Din Mediaplex on Love Road in Tejgaon and met the jubilant journalists, officials, and employees.

Earlier, the government had revoked the newspaper's declaration following an application by Shafik Rehman, citing violations in publication process.

As per official order, the newspaper was not being printed at the designated press.

Shafik Rehman was forced to leave his post during the military-backed caretaker government in 2007.



Workers unload watermelons brought by boats from Bhola to Khulna. During Ramadan, the demand for watermelons remains high. So, traders bring large quantities through river routes and sell them at a wholesale rate of Tk 6,000-Tk 25,000 per 100 pieces, depending on the size. The photo was taken from the No-4 Rocket Ghat in Khulna's Boro Bazar area recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'Freeze accounts of Nayeemul, family' Court orders ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ADhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 163 bank accounts belonging to Nayeemul Islam Khan, a senior journalist and former press secretary to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and his four family members, over allegations of amassing wealth illegally.

The four others are Nayeemul's wife Nasima Khan Monti, and their three daughters - Labiba Nayeem Khan, Zulika Nayeem Khan, and Adiva Nayeem Khan.

They allegedly deposited Tk 6,25,49,944 in these accounts, said a court staffer.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Afroza Haque Khan submitted an application.

ACC public prosecutor Mahmud Hossain moved the application on behalf of the anti-graft body.

According to the application, ACC investigations found allegations of suspicious transactions involving deposits of around Tk 386 crore and withdrawals of around Tk 379 crore using the 163 bank accounts.

"ACC came to know from credible sources that the couple and their daughters were attempting to transfer the money elsewhere. So, an order is

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TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION It's in high demand in Bangladesh

Says British Council report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transnational education (TNE) is proving to be in high demand in Bangladesh, with law being a particularly popular subject, according to a report launched by the British Council yesterday.

The demand for TNE placements typically comes from students who lack the resources to study abroad but wish to pursue higher education at reputed international institutions.

TNE refers to higher education programmes - delivered through online learning, overseas branch campuses, or partnerships with academic institutions - where students study in a country different from the one where the awarding institution is based.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Sarah Cooke, said TNE plays a crucial role in expanding access to world-class education, allowing students to earn international qualifications while remaining in Bangladesh.

Stephen Forbes, country director for the British Council in Bangladesh, said TNE can play a significant role in shaping the future of higher education in the country.

"TNE can bridge the gap in higher education access and drive economic growth for the country. We look forward to working with our partners in Bangladesh to implement the recommendations from the report," he said.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof SMA Faiz praised the British Council's commitment to fostering collaboration between universities in Bangladesh and the UK. He noted that such efforts create opportunities for academic excellence and institutional capacity-building.

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Should DC offices stay? Experts debate local government reforms

Experts debate local government reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh moves towards strengthening local government, questions have emerged over the need to maintain separate offices for deputy commissioners if all tiers of local governance adopt a uniform structure.

This issue was a focal point at a press conference, titled "Democratic Decentralisation and Local Government Reforms in Light of Public Aspirations," held yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club.

Jointly organised by the Governance Advocacy Forum and UNDP, with support from the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, the event aimed to discuss reforms in local governance.

Mohsin Ali, coordinator of the Governance Advocacy Forum and executive director of WAVE Foundation, outlined six significant challenges facing Bangladesh's local governance - institutional weaknesses, excessive centralisation of power, financial limitations, lack of transparency and accountability, political interference, and inadequate gender and social inclusion.

To address these issues, he proposed several reforms, including the abolition of MPs' advisory roles in upazila parishads, the conversion of deputy commissioner offices into district council offices, the introduction of a local government cadre service, and direct elections for regional and district

councils.

The event also considered the feasibility of restructuring local government to mirror a parliamentary system. The proposed model includes an executive council, a chairperson similar to a speaker, and a shadow council leader akin to an opposition leader.

However, concerns were raised about the practicality of such a system. "Is this structure realistic in Bangladesh's

CHALLENGES IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- Institutional weaknesses
● Excessive centralisation of power
● Financial limitations
● Lack of transparency, accountability
● Political interference
● Inadequate gender and social inclusion

context? Will it lead to internal factions and a fragile council prone to vote-buying?" questioned Mohsin Ali.

Abdul Awal, executive director of NRDS, cautioned against electing council leaders following ward-based councillor elections, suggesting it could result in party-like divisions and hinder effective governance.

"If council members are elected in a SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Portrait of Kazi Golam Mahboob (1927-2006) with a testimonial from his family members praising his integrity, kindness, and patriotism.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পরিচালক (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয় কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা https://cph.police.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-কেঃ পুঃ হাঃ/দরপত্র/৩৭-২০২৪-২০২৫/১৬৮০ তারিখঃ ১৮/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রুলস্/০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী) মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকায় Digital Mammography Machine ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে স্মারক নং-কেঃ পুঃ হাঃ/দরপত্র/৩৭-২০২৪-২০২৫/১৩১৫, তারিখঃ ০৪/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ মূলের প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নরূপভাবে সংশোধন করা হল।

Table with 3 columns: বিবরণ, পূর্বের তারিখ, সংশোধিত তারিখ. Row 1: দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়, ১৮/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ, ২৩/০৩/২০২৫খ্রিঃ.

দরপত্র নোটিশ ও সিডিউলের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

Signature and name of the Commandant: ডায় মোঃ এমদাদুল হক বিপি-৭৭০৫১১৯৮১৯

GD- 699

Prevent illegal sand extraction from Padma

HC directs authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government to immediately stop illegal sand extraction from the Padma river between Rajbari's Goalanda and Pabna's Pakshi Channel.

The court also ordered the authorities to take legal action against those involved in illegal sand extraction.

The HC bench of Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lyton and Justice Md Riaz Uddin Khan passed the directive and the order following a writ petition filed as public interest litigation by five Supreme Court lawyers, including Farid Hasan Mehedi and Rasheduzzaman Rana, in 2022 seeking necessary directives to protect the Padma River and its environment.

The HC said the provisions of the relevant Sand Quarry and Soil Management Act, 2010 must be strictly followed in issuing the lease of any sand quarry.

The Padma river channel, its environment, and important structures on the river's banks must be protected through hydrographic survey for declaring any sand quarry within the river, the court observed.

Official document from the Bangladesh Police regarding procurement of a vehicle. It includes a table with columns for item number, description, quantity, and price. It also contains a signature and stamp of the District Officer.