

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 watermelon is usually very high. So, traders bring large quantities through river routes and sell them at a wholesale rate of Tk 6,000-Tk 25,000 for 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 where students study in a country different from the one where the awarding institution is based. These programmes are delivered internationally through online learning, overseas branch campuses, or partnerships with academic institutions in other countries.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Sarah Cooke, said Bangladesh is prioritising higher education reform to enhance quality and global competitiveness.

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

"TNE supports human capital development by equipping graduates with the skills needed for an evolving global workforce," she added.

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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Should DC offices stay?

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 eulogy text: 'Our father was a man of integrity, kindness, and grace. His warmth and generosity touched the lives of everyone who knew him...' and details of his family members.

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

Table with 3 columns: বিবরণ (Details), পূর্বের তারিখ (Previous Date), সংশোধিত তারিখ (Revised Date). It lists the deadline for tender submission as 11:00 AM on 02/03/2025.

দরপত্র নোটিশ ও সিডিউলের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। ডায় মোঃ এমদাদুল হক বিপি-৭৭০৫১১৯৮১৯ অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) পক্ষে-পরিচালক (ডিআইজি) বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা ফোনঃ ৪৮৩২২৪০০/ফ্যাক্সঃ ৯৩৪২২৯৭

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়. ১৪ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার. উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০১ (OTM). ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছরে ১৪ এপিআই, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার ফোর্সের চাহিদা অনুযায়ী নিম্নলিখিত 'সি' বিভাগের কাজের টিকাকার নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত The Public Procurement Act-2006 & The Public Procurement Rules-2008 এর তথ্যী সংশোধনী মোতাবেক শর্ত সাপেক্ষে অধিকৃত সম্পন্ন ব্যবসায়ী/টিকাকার প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারীদের নিম্নলিখিত হতে লীসমোহরকৃত খামে কাজের নামসহ পূর্ণ প্যাকেজ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

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.