

Political consensus a must on aid corridor

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Akhter said that the country is at a critical juncture after the spontaneous participation of students and people ensured the success of the July uprising.

"Yet, some domestic quarters and foreign actors are struggling to accept the decisions taken by the interim government, including the banning of the Awami League's activities," he said.

Akhter called on the Indian government "to sever ties" with the Awami League, calling the party "autocratic, fascist, dictatorial, mass killer, and anti humanitarian criminal".

"India must build relationships with the people of this country," he added.

NCP Chief Coordinator Nasir Uddin Patwary also spoke at the event.

Supreme Court lawyer Tariqul Islam has been appointed as the convenor of the 131-member convening committee of Jatiya



Juboshokti.

Physician Zahedul Islam has been named member secretary. Engineer Farhad Sohel has been selected as the chief organiser.

Tuhin Mahmud has been made senior joint convenor, while Dyuti

Arannya Chowdhury and Nahida Bushra will serve as senior joint member secretaries.

Zahedul said the names of the remaining members of the convening committee would be announced through a press release soon.

A top company official sent to jail

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Multi Steel Company Limited are currently awaiting release at the Chattogram Port. The accused, Mohammad Foyez, along with two to three unidentified accomplices, attempted to fraudulently obtain a 60% waiver on port storage charges payable to the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA).

Foyez is accused of sending a forged ministry letter, bearing a forged signature of Nazrul Islam Azad, a senior official, using a mobile number belonging to Enamul Karim, Director (Transport), to mislead CPA officials. It was later confirmed by the Ministry of Shipping that no such letter had been issued.

Earlier on Thursday evening, plainclothes police detained Foyez while boarding a domestic flight, airport intelligence sources said.

Soon after his arrest, Chattogram Metropolitan Police Commissioner Hasib Aziz told The Daily Star, "Having forged the seal and signature [of the ministry official], he [the suspect] tried to release a consignment from the port yard. Following the incident, he was held from the Chattogram Airport."

Contacted, MM Jasim Uddin, chief operating officer, Brand and Marketing, Bashundhara Group, said "It is highly unlikely for a corporate entity to be involved in such forgery. However, I am not sure what has happened here."

He added that the company remained closed during the weekly holidays, so he could not communicate with the higher

authorities regarding the matter. "I expect to have more details within the next couple of days."

According to a press release issued by the Chattogram Port Authority after the arrest on Thursday night, "Bashundhara Multi Steel imported capital machinery in 204 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) between June 12, 2024, and January 2, 2025. But the company failed to take timely delivery of the containers."

The releases added, "As of May 15, the outstanding storage charges owed by Bashundhara Multi Steel stood at about Tk 72 crore. The forged letter sought to illegally waive nearly Tk 50 crore of that amount.

The company submitted a letter to the Chattogram Port Authority chairman on May 12, requesting a waiver of storage rent for imported goods. The letter, purportedly signed by the deputy secretary of the shipping ministry, Nazrul Islam Azad, claimed that 60% of the storage charges for the goods had been waived."

The release added that the port officials found inconsistencies in the letter and contacted the ministry to verify its authenticity.

"In a written response on May 14, Nazrul Islam Azad stated that no such letter had been issued by his office," the release said.

Upon review, discrepancies were found in the language of the forged letter, along with mismatches in the signature and contact information of the ministry official provided.

Shipping ministry Deputy Secretary Nazrul Islam Azad, whose

signature was allegedly forged, told The Daily Star on Thursday night, "When information about a fake office order was brought to our attention, the ministry issued a directive regarding the issue. The authorities are taking appropriate legal action against those involved in the issuance of the fake order."

When a consignment arrives, Chattogram Port Authority collects only storage rent of the imported goods while the Chattogram Custom House collects import duties upon examination and assessment reports.

The port authorities have yet to disclose the total value of the goods imported by Bashundhara Multi Steel between June 12, 2024, and January 2, 2025 that are still at the port yard.

Under the Chattogram Port Act 2022, partial or full waivers of storage charges may be granted, but must follow due procedures.

Chattogram Customs data show that at least 28,900 tonnes of goods imported by Bashundhara Multi Steel company are currently awaiting unloading. Of these, the company has so far submitted a bill of entry for only 240 tonnes of goods in eight containers.

According to the port rules, no storage rent is charged for the first four days after a container is unloaded from a vessel.

For a 20-foot loaded container, the port charges \$6 per day for the first seven days after the free period, \$12 per day from the 12th to the 20th day and \$24 per day from the 21st day onward.

For a 40-foot container, the charges double at each stage.

Australian soldier loses war crimes defamation appeal

AFP, Sydney

One of Australia's most decorated soldiers yesterday lost a legal bid to overturn bombshell court findings that implicated him in war crimes while serving in Afghanistan.

Former SAS commando Ben Roberts-Smith has been fighting to salvage his tattered reputation since 2018, when newspapers unearthed allegations he took part in the murder of unarmed Afghan prisoners.

Besides, BGB members detained five Rohingyas at Bhurungamari border in Kurigram on May 7 after they were pushed into Bangladesh from India. UNHCR cards, issued in India, were recovered from them.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has called on India to immediately stop the recent push in of people across the border, warning that such actions pose risks to security and undermine mutual understanding.

The 46-year-old suffered another setback yesterday, when Australia's Federal Court dismissed his appeal.

BGB, locals step up vigil

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No infiltration has occurred so far along the border, but the situation remains under close observation, he said.

According to BGB sources, a group of people gathered near Agartala airport in Tripura, close to the Bangladesh border, on Thursday night.

Acting on intelligence, BGB enforced a threefold increase in security measures and conducted overnight patrols.

Several residents of Noabadi said panic spread in the village as BGB activities intensified. Local mosques then used loudspeakers to advise people to stay cautious.

Following recent incidents of push-ins through various borders, BGB has stepped up surveillance and patrols in other parts of the country as well.

On Thursday, BSF pushed 14 people into Bangladesh through the Muraichhara border in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar. A patrol team

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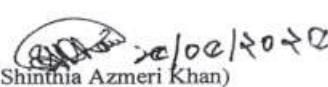
e-Tender Notice- Corrigendum

This is to notify for all concern that e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following Package.

Tender ID No.	Name of works/Package description	Tender Method	Last Selling & Closing date
1105573	Topography Survey of Madhupur (Kakrail)-Garobazar-Sagardighi- Sakhipur (Z-4014) Road under Tangail Road Division during the year 2024-2025.	OTM	14-May-2025 17:00 & 20-May-2025 12:15

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01715-777778, 017625528-31)


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JnU protests called off

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"Our only aim was to ensure that our students are not left out on the streets," he said. "I can assure you that the UGC and university authorities will move forward as a family."

Expressing optimism, he added, "If we stay united, inshallah, we will be able to resolve all the ongoing issues. If we cannot solve the crisis ourselves, no one from outside will be able to do it."

He also said they worked in coordination with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Education Adviser CR Abrar, Finance Adviser

Salehuddin Ahmed and others to find a solution.

On Wednesday afternoon, violence broke out when police intercepted the students' "Long March to Jamuna" from the university's Shahe Minar. Around 12:40pm, police charged baton and lobbed tear gas shells near Kakrail as protesters attempted to breach barricades.

Over 50 people, including teachers, students, and journalists, were injured. At least 38 individuals were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Following the incident, protesters

staged a sit in in Kakrail, blocking nearby roads. JnU VC Prof Rezaul and other teachers later joined the demonstration.

The four demands of the students are the introduction of a housing allowance for 70 percent of students from the 2025-26 fiscal year until residential facilities are ensured, approval of JnU's proposed FY26 budget without cuts, approval of the construction of a second campus at the next ECNEC meeting as a priority project, and the punishment of police personnel who attacked students and teachers on Wednesday.

Biman flight lands

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airline's engineering department will investigate the cause of the wheel detachment.

They have also formed a four-member probe committee in this regard.

Headed by Capt Enamul Haque Talukder, chief of flight safety at Biman, the committee was asked to submit a report within 15 working days, Rawshan said.

According to a senior pilot at Biman, a Dash 8-400 aircraft has

six wheels, two at the front and two each on the right and left sides, which are called the main landing gear.

"After the Air Traffic Control of Cox's Bazar informed Capt Jamil Billah, pilot in command of the flight, about the loss of a wheel, the captain took the proper decision of landing at the Dhaka airport, where the emergency and safety facilities are the best compared to Chattogram or other airports," he said, wishing not to be named.

According to a senior pilot at Biman, a Dash 8-400 aircraft has

If the other wheel on the left side was damaged, it could cause more trouble for the pilot to land the aircraft safely, he added.

The senior pilot said such incidents are not rare in aviation, and the pilot in command of the flight was able to properly assess the situation and land the aircraft safely.

Biman authorities said the aircraft has been taken to a hanger and the airline's engineering department started investigating the cause of the wheel.

'Case was filed to harass us'

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He also alleged that the accused hurled a crude bomb at him with the intention to kill, injuring his eye. The accused then tried to abduct him by forcing him into a microbus. However, they fled when pedestrians came to his aid upon hearing his screams for help and the sound of the explosion, the lawyer said in the case statement.

Police later took him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Rezaul also identified himself in the case statement as a member of the BNP's Legal Committee for Chattogram Uttar, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and United Lawyers' Front.

Chattogram Union of Journalists (CUJ) protested against the case and demanded a fair investigation.

In a statement, CUJ President Reaz Hayder and General Secretary Sabur Shuvo said that Rezaul, in a Facebook post on April 30, threatened to foil a picnic event organised under the banner of "Karmoroto Sangbadik" on May 1. Both Reaz and Shuvo are among the journalists accused in the case.

Jai Jai Din reporter Khorshed Alam Shamim, another accused, told this newspaper that a group of eight to nine people, including Rezaul, approached the picnic bus near Premier University and took away the keys from the driver as some of the picnic participants were waiting for the bus.

Abdullah Al Mamun, a Samakal reporter and one of the accused, said, "I wasn't even at the scene that day, yet my name appears in the complaint. The lawyer deliberately implicated me."

Several journalists said they were nowhere near the scene that day and described the case as a move to harass them.

When asked about the allegation that a crude bomb was hurled at Rezaul and Kotwali Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Abdul Karim said, "No such incident was reported in the area under my jurisdiction. We heard about a scuffle where some people snatched keys from a bus driver and one journalist lodged a written complaint detailing the incident on May 1 night."

Kotwali Police Station OC Aftab Hossain said police took Rezaul and another person to the police station, where Rezaul introduced himself as a lawyer and claimed he was beaten up by a mob.

"But he did not mention who beat him at that time and why. Later, we released him for treatment at the hospital," OC Aftab said.

Contacted via phone on Wednesday, Rezaul hung up after saying, "I'm with the doctor and not feeling well. I will talk to you later."

He did not respond to calls later. Multiple attempts to contact Imtiaz Reza Chowdhury, the lawyer for Rezaul, were unsuccessful.

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