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SHAMMO MURDER

Call for justice gets louder

DU students demand fair probe, resignation of VC, proctor

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amid ongoing protests over the murder of Dhaka University student and JCD leader Shahrar Alam Shammo, the platform "Students Against Terrorism" has once again demanded the resignation of the university's vice-chancellor and proctor, citing their failure to ensure campus security.

The students brought out a torch procession yesterday and marched through the campus, demanding justice for Shammo.

Earlier at a press conference in front of the Central Library, they placed a four-point demand, including immediate justice for Shammo through a proper investigation, and a formal apology from the administration for what it termed "administrative failure" that led to death of two students within nine months since August 5 last year.

The platform formed following Shammo's murder, comprises activists from Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and major left-leaning student organisations, including Bangladesh Chhatra Union, SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Students of Dhaka University bring out a torch procession on the campus yesterday evening, demanding justice for DU student and JCD leader Shahrar Alam Shammo, who was stabbed to death near Suhrawardy Udyan on May 13. PHOTO: STAR

2 more cases filed against Hasina

STAR REPORT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, alongside 61 Awami League leaders and activists, has been sued over the death of Sajal Mia, 20, a shoe factory worker, during student protests in the Shimrail area of Narayanganj on July 20 last year.

The accused include former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, former lawmakers Shamim Osman and Nazrul Islam Babu, as well as Shamim's son Imtihan Osman Ayan and nephew Azmeri Osman.

The case was filed by the victim's mother, Runa Begum, at Siddhirganj Police Station in Narayanganj on Friday night, said Officer-in-Charge Shahinur Alam. SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

Over 700 bridges, culverts 'highly risky'

Shows RHD survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 700 bridges and culverts under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) have been found to be highly risky and in need of urgent repairs, according to an RHD survey.

The actual number may be higher, as inspections are yet to be completed in four out of 10 RHD zones. The findings were revealed at a discussion titled "Bangladesh Bridges: A Roadmap for Safety, Sustainability and Hazard Mitigation", held yesterday.

The event was organised under the SASEC Road Connectivity Project 2 in collaboration with the Buet-Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention and Urban Safety at Buet's Council Bhaban.

In a presentation, Shishir Kanti Routh, additional chief engineer (bridge management wing) of RHD, said there are 21,492 structures –



AT A GLANCE

Total 21,492 bridges, culverts under RHD; 15,437 inspected so far

Inspections still incomplete in 4 out of 10 zones

Years of overloading, climate impacts, low maintenance budget blamed

No structured bridge inspection existed before 2021

Country lacks national bridge code; work underway to develop one

7,741 bridges and 13,751 culverts – under the RHD network.

RHD began its first periodic inspection of these structures in December 2021. So far, 15,437 structures – 3,113 bridges and 12,324 culverts – across six zones have been inspected.

Inspections in Rangpur and Cumilla zones were completed between 2021 and 2022, while Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna, and Barishal zones were covered later.

Of the inspected structures, 13,406 (86.8%) were rated A category (in good condition), 1,277 (8.3%) B category (minor issues), 42 (0.3%) C category (some risk), and 712 (4.6%) D category (highly risky and in need of immediate repair).

When this correspondent asked Shishir Kanti about the reason behind the large number of D-category bridges, he explained that until 2021, SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

Will focus on resolving disagreements in 2nd phase

Says Ali Riaz; first round of consensus talks ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the National Consensus Commission, yesterday said the second phase of discussions will begin soon, focusing on resolving disagreements and advancing with the process of drafting a National Charter.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the National Parliament building.

With this meeting, the commission has completed its initial round of talks with political parties to build consensus on reforms.

Riaz said, "The first phase, which began two SEE PAGE 9 COL 6



COURT CORNER

Freeze BO accounts of ex-Rajuk chief
Court directs ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to freeze 13 Beneficiary Owner (BO) accounts and shares of former Rajuk chairman major general (ret'd) Md Siddiqur Rahman Sarker and his wife Gazi Rebeka Rawshan in connection with corruption allegations brought against them.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Director Md Abul Hasnat, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

In the application, the ACC official said the couple amassed huge amount of wealth in his name and the names of his family members through illegal means and corruption.

Form expert panel to tackle lightning deaths: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to form an expert committee with the persons having necessary technical knowledge to prevent loss of lives from lightning strikes and to submit a progress report on this issue before it in six months.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain why they should not be directed to take necessary steps to prevent loss of lives in lightning strikes.

The bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi issued the order and rule following a petition filed by rights organisation Law and Life Foundation Trust and a Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Mohammed Kawser on May 13.

Travel ban on ex-additional IGP

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban on former additional inspector general of police Mohammad Ali Mia in connection with corruption allegations.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Assistant Director Md Sajid-ur-Roman, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

In the application, the ACC official said Mohammad Ali Mia, also former chief of the Criminal Investigation Department, amassed a huge amount of wealth in his name and the names of his family members through illegal means and corruption.

No one has multiple NIDs anymore: DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission identified 586 citizens with two National Identity cards and resolved the issue by cancelling their second NIDs recently, said its NID Wing Director General ASM Humayun Kabir yesterday.

DG Humayun shared this information while briefing the reporters at the EC building in the capital's Agargaon.

He said, "Since they had two NIDs, those were locked, and so they could not access citizen services in any way. The first NID has been retained and the second one discarded; now their first NID cards have been unlocked. They will now be able to access citizen services."

"At this moment, to our knowledge, no one has two NIDs anymore. If any new cases are identified, we will take the same action according to this policy," he added. SEE PAGE 9 COL 5

VCS, PRO-VCS AT PUBLIC UNIVS
Search committee formed after posts already filled

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The government has decided to form a search committee to recommend vice chancellors, pro-VCs, and treasurers for public universities. But educationists are criticising the timing and intent of the move as most of these top positions in at least 47 universities have already been filled.

However, some experts have welcomed the move as "better late than never".

The education ministry's secondary and higher education division issued a notification on Sunday, stating that the committee will review applications and propose three names for each post. The president, who also serves as the chancellor of public universities, will make the final appointments.

The committee, headed by Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar, includes University Grants Commission (UGC) members Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan and Prof Md Saidur Rahman, Rajshahi University VC Prof Saleh Hasan Naqib, and BRAC University Prof Firdous Azim.

The University Wing of the education ministry's division will serve as its secretariat.

Former Jahangirnagar University Professor Anu Muhammad said forming a committee alone does not guarantee fair appointments or improved university governance.

"It depends entirely on who is appointed and SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



Makeshift fruit stalls have been set up over this rail crossing in the Uttara area of the capital. A train could arrive at any moment, leading to a disaster. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN