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Dhaka in touch with Delhi over push-ins, port restrictions

Says foreign adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been in touch with New Delhi over reported border push-ins and recent restrictions on imports of Bangladeshi goods through Indian land ports, said Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday.

“They [India] have conveyed their position to some extent, and we have explained ours. We are trying to make them understand that this is not the right approach,” he told reporters while responding to a question at the foreign ministry.

The foreign adviser addressed reports of push-ins along the border and stressed the importance of adhering to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in place between the two countries.

He said India has shared a list of individuals alleged to be Bangladeshi nationals, which is currently being verified by the home ministry of Bangladesh.



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Leaders and activists of National Citizen Party (NCP) gather in front of the Election Commission office in Agargaon around 12:00pm yesterday, demanding the reconstitution of the commission and the holding of local government election before the national polls. They ended their demonstration around 2:00pm.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

From ‘TikTokers’ to murderers

Photographer lured to fake wedding, stabbed to death for his cameras

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

What began as a seemingly harmless obsession with TikTok turned into a chilling tale of murder in Dhaka’s Hazaribagh, where a photographer was killed on May 16.

The alleged killers – aged between 18 and 20 – often created and shared photos and videos on TikTok.

Striving for higher-quality and more attractive content, they decided they needed a DSLR camera. But instead of buying one, they plotted to snatch it from a photographer by luring him to a fake wedding.

The victim, Nurul Islam, had no idea he was walking into a trap. He was called to cover the fake event and was stabbed to death before the attackers fled with his two expensive cameras.

The police revealed the details of the incident yesterday, after Hazaribagh police arrested 10 suspects from different parts of Dhaka and Mymensingh.

“They wanted better videos and eye-catching photos for TikTok. Since their phones couldn’t deliver the quality they wanted, they became desperate to get a DSLR camera,” said Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police, at the DMP media centre yesterday. Police recovered the two stolen cameras, he said.

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Ivy denied bail in two cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nganj

A Narayan-ganj court yesterday rejected two bail petitions of former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Selina Hayat Ivy in two cases filed over murder and attempted murder charges.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Haidar Ali passed the order, said Inspector Kaium Khan, in charge of the court police outpost.

Ivy was arrested at her residence in the city’s Deobhog area on May 9 in a case filed over killing of RMG worker Minarul Islam during last year’s July uprising.

Court sources said, the bail pleas were filed in two cases lodged with Siddhirganj Police Station – one over the killing of rickshaw-puller Tuhin and the other for the attempted murder of hawker Nadim.



Skills, not certificates, needed to meet job market demands

Speakers stress technical education, change in mindset to reduce educated unemployment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The flaws in the conventional education system are contributing to rising unemployment among educated youth, and it is time to place greater emphasis on technical education, as hands-on skills are now more valuable than university degrees, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They shared these views at a conference titled “Youth Perspectives on Reform: Employment and Technology”, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center in the capital’s Agargaon.

“In our country, the least educated and least privileged are pushed into work or sent off as child labourers. They often end up in mechanical shops or similar jobs. We need to rethink our approach. Not everyone needs to go to a university,” said Labour and Employment Adviser Brig Gen

RECOMMENDATIONS	
○	Promote technical, skills-based education
○	Rethink the push for university degrees
○	Align education with labour market needs
○	Treat skilled migration as national priority
○	Formalise informal sectors like freelancing
○	Shift focus from government jobs
○	Involve universities in research, innovation

(ret’d) M Sakawat Hossain.

He said even those with a Master’s degree often lack the necessary skills. “But if you are technically skilled, that is what the world needs today,” he added.

Stating that the biggest

problem in the country is educated unemployment, the adviser said, “After graduation, everyone wants a job – ideally a government one – because of the many perks. No matter the salary, the benefits are attractive.”

He added, “This trend has developed over the years. If something costs Tk 100, another Tk 200 is added on top, which then gets shared among people. This has been my observation over the past 10–11 months.”

The adviser further said many Bangladeshis are willing to drive taxis or work in restaurants abroad, but not at home due to social taboos.

On the issue of research, he said, “You won’t get this kind of thinking from government employees because our mindset is 9-to-5. After 5 o’clock, we’re done. We move files all day but don’t do real research.”

He stressed the need for

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Reform commissions followed a top-down approach

Says Farhad Mazhar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet and writer Farhad Mazhar criticised the formation of the Women’s Affairs Reforms Commission, saying it was done without involving the general public.

Speaking at a discussion titled “Equity for Women and Women’s Affairs Reforms Commission”, organised by Gonoshakti Sobha at the Jatiya Press Club, he said, “Even if the Women’s Commission has positive goals, people cannot connect with them. That itself creates complications.”

Mazhar said not only the women’s commission but



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Rab must move beyond past controversies

Home adviser tells the force’s anniversary event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret’d) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday called upon Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members to move beyond past controversies and dedicate themselves to their duties with renewed commitment.

“Rab must operate by the law while upholding human rights,” he said while addressing the 21st founding anniversary of Rab at its headquarters in the capital’s Uttara as the chief guest.

Jahangir said the interim government is committed to establishing good governance, human rights, and justice.

“To ensure the rule of law, the government is working to reassess, reform, and restructure Rab. I hope the people will soon begin to reap the benefits of these efforts,” he said.

The adviser acknowledged that the force has long faced allegations of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and other rights violations,



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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

PBI wants to quiz accused Tanvir

Court extends probe deadline for 119th time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) yesterday submitted an application before a Dhaka court for interrogating Tanvir Rahman, an accused in the case filed over murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi in 2012.

Tanvir, a family friend of the couple, was arrested on October 10, 2012 in connection with the murders and later released on bail.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shaheen Reza set July 8 to hear the application in presence of Investigation Officer Md Azizul Haque, also an additional superintendent of police at the PBI, said a court police.

The magistrate also extended the deadline for submitting the probe report on the case to the same date. This marks the 119th extension of the deadline, according to case records.

A day before the death of the victims, Runi met Tanvir in front of Square Hospital at Panthapath around 5:15pm on February 10, 2012 and travelled in Tanvir’s car to different places in the capital. Later, Tanvir drove Runi to her residence around 7:00pm.



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CCC razes part of hill without approval

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A portion of a hill in Chattogram’s Bayezid Bostami area has been razed by the Chattogram City Corporation without obtaining permission from the relevant authorities.

Around 5,000 cubic feet of soil have already been cleared from the hill to make way for a road, as part of the development of a new dumping zone.

According to CCC data, the state agency is developing a waste dumping zone on a piece of government land located behind the hills. To facilitate access to the site, the CCC began cutting through the hill to construct a road.

As part of the plan, the city authorities are reportedly set to cut through two privately-owned hills and another hill under government ownership.

Under the Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995 (amended in 2000), cutting

a hill without the approval of the Department of Environment (DoE) is deemed illegal. First-time violators may face penalties of up to two years’ imprisonment, or a fine of Tk 2 lakh, or both. Subsequent offences may lead to punishments of up to ten years’ imprisonment, or a fine of Tk 10 lakh, or both.

A team from the DoE intervened and halted the environmental destruction after finding evidence of hill cutting.

“A team from the Department of Environment visited the site on Tuesday (May 20) and found that a section of the hill had already been razed. The team promptly intervened to stop the hill-cutting activities,” said Muktadir Hasan, assistant director of the DoE’s Chattogram Metropolitan unit.

When asked whether any legal action would be taken over the illegal hill cutting, Muktadir Hasan said, “According to the law, no hill can be cut without

permission. Since the hill has been cut, we will file a case against those involved in the offence.”

“We have already issued a notice to the owner of the hill and also summoned the city corporation authorities to hear their explanation,” he added.

When asked why the hill was being cut without prior permission, Sheikh Muhammad Touhidul Islam, chief executive officer of the CCC, said, “We need to develop a new dumping zone to manage the waste generated by city residents. For that, we are constructing an access road.”

“As the road is being constructed for public-related activities, we sought permission from the owner of the hill to use a portion of it for the project. He has given us written consent,” the CEO added.

He said the CCC has already applied to the DoE for approval to build the road through the hill, citing public necessity as the reason.



Hold student union polls before nat’l election

Demands Bangladesh Democratic Student Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No national election will be held without holding student union elections first, said Abu Baker Mojumder, convener of the Bangladesh Democratic Student Council, yesterday.

He also warned of taking to the streets if a clear roadmap for student union elections is not announced, according to a statement of the student organisation.

Abu Baker, former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, demanded that VCs, proctors, and admin officials of academic institutions – who he claimed were nominated and influenced by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir through his friend Wahiduddin Mahmud – resign before Eid-ul-Azha.