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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 23, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 124

JAISHTHA 9, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILQAD 24, 1446 HURI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



'Frustrated, Yunus hints at quitting'

Say Nahid, other sources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Frustrated over recent developments, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is considering stepping down, said sources familiar with what went down at the Chief Adviser's Office and Jamuna yesterday.

During unofficial discussions at an advisory council meeting, he voiced his desire to resign and address the nation through a televised speech. He talked about his worries over aspersions on his government's performance and duties, added the sources.

Meanwhile, as speculations ran rife on social media, Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam, Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan and National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam -- all frontline leaders of the July uprising -- met Yunus around 6:30pm at his official residence, state guest house Jamuna.

Nahid, talking to BBC Bangla afterwards, said the chief adviser was weighing resignation.

He said he went to Jamuna as they had been hearing about Yunus's possible resignation since morning.

According to him, the chief adviser expressed concerns about whether



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Gridlock on both sides of Manik Mia Avenue, which rarely sees prolonged traffic jams. Yesterday's usual heavy traffic was worsened by a downpour and demonstrations that blocked key streets.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

City chokes as protests wreak havoc

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and RAHUL ISLAM

Ninety-six-year-old Nurjahan Begum left her home in Old Dhaka's Mogholtuli for her daughter's house in Banasree around 2:00pm yesterday.

Accompanied by her son, Mizanur Rahman, she could reach near Gulistan's Golap Shah Mazar by rickshaw after an hour.

"It took us an hour just to reach Gulistan. Then we waited another one and a half hours, but there wasn't a single empty autorickshaw. I don't know how long it will take to get to Banasree," said a frustrated, Mizanur.

Meanwhile, Nurjahan, struggling to cope with the heat and exhaustion, was seen scolding her son for failing to find transportation.

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BNP escalates its push for polls by December

Wants 2 advisers, Khalilur removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday asked the government to downsize the advisory council, confine itself to routine works, and unveil a plan for elections by December.

The party demands immediate removal of advisers Mahfuj Alam and Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan and National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman in order to protect what the party says is the government's impartiality and image.

As these advisers are known to all as directly or indirectly involved with a new political party, their presence in the advisory council calls into question the nonpartisan identity of the interim government.

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain
BNP standing committee member



The BNP also calls for a smaller advisory council because the interim government's "responsibility is to organise a national election" and handle the routine administrative tasks, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, BNP Standing Committee member, said yesterday.

A top-heavy government is not needed, he told a press conference at the BNP chairperson's office in the capital's Gulshan.

Referring to Asif and Mahfuj without mentioning their names,

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AUG 5 AFTERMATH ISPR releases list of 626 the army sheltered Urges all to avoid misleading narratives over settled issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army provided temporary shelter to 626 individuals who sought protection amid the poor law and order situation following the July uprising, said an ISPR statement last night.

Among them were political figures, civil servants, police personnel, and their families who feared for their lives amid escalating violence, said the Inter Services Public Relations.

This humanitarian intervention was undertaken solely to protect lives, it said, adding that protecting lives were prioritised over verification of their identities.

After the fall of the previous government, the security situation rapidly deteriorated as certain conspiratorial groups incited attacks on government offices, police stations, and homes. Incidents of mob justice, arson, looting, and politically motivated assaults created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty across the country, it said.

Against this backdrop, individuals from various backgrounds sought refuge in cantonments, including in Dhaka, said the ISPR release.

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Public servants won't be forced to retire

Advisory Council also decides to further review proposed public service ordinance

BAHARAM KHAN

The Advisory Council has decided to abolish a provision of the Public Service Act, 2018, which allows the government to send public servants into forced retirement after 25 years of service.

Additionally, a four-member panel of advisers has been assigned to further review several aspects of the proposed Public Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, including a possible relaxation of some newly introduced disciplinary provisions.

Under the existing Public Service Act, 2018, the government retains the authority to retire any government employee without justification, as long as the individual has completed 25 years of service.

These decisions were made yesterday at the 29th meeting of the Advisory Council, held at the office of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Two highly placed sources in the government confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

"There are four types of major penalties under the Public Service Act-2018. Among them, forced retirement is widely criticised," a highly placed source in the government told this correspondent last night.

Earlier, the Public Administration Reform Commission also recommended repealing this provision, and the Advisory Council has now directed that it be abolished.

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ICT investigation agency granted power to arrest suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal has granted its investigation agency the authority to arrest the accused and suspects in cases related to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The ICT-1 published its amended rules of procedure in a gazette last night, also allowing the investigation agency to carry out necessary operations.

Besides, the prosecutors will be able to execute any arrest warrant issued by the tribunal. The suspect has to be produced before the tribunal or any magistrate within 24 hours of the arrest.

"If the investigation officer has reason to believe that any offence has been committed, he/she shall proceed in person to the spot, investigate the facts and circumstances of the case and may arrest the accused(s)/suspected persons and make necessary discovery. The investigation officer may also seek assistance from the law enforcement agency in causing arrest, discovery and seizure," reads amended rule 6.

"The law enforcement agency or the investigation officer or the prosecutor performing the investigation under section 8(2) of the act shall execute the warrant of arrest issued by the tribunal," according to amended rules.

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Supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain cheer on Hare Road after the High Court yesterday cleared the way for him to be sworn in as mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Ishraque suspends demos after HC order in his favour

Says they'll observe govt actions over next 48hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Ishraque Hossain yesterday suspended the demonstrations for his immediate swearing-in as Dhaka south mayor and said they would observe the government's actions over the next two days before deciding on the

next course of action.

He made the announcement while speaking to his supporters near the Kakrail Mosque at 4:15pm.

Just a few hours back, he had urged his supporters to remain on the streets despite a High Court order that rejected a writ petition challenging the Election

Commission's decision to declare him DSCC mayor.

Ishraque also apologised for the public inconvenience and disruptions to civic services due to the eight-day long protests by his supporters.

Following his announcement,

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গণসচেতনতামূলক গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড একটি সংবিধিবদ্ধ সেবামূলক প্রতিষ্ঠান। বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড ও এর আওতাধীন ৮০টি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির প্রায় ৪৫ হাজার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী দেশের প্রায় ৩ কোটি ৭০ লক্ষ বিভিন্ন শ্রেণির গ্রাহককে বিদ্যুৎ সেবা প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে নিরলসভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। কিন্তু লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, জুলাই অভ্যুত্থানের পরপরই উদ্দেশ্য প্রণোদিতভাবে পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির কতিপয় বিশৃঙ্খলা সৃষ্টিকারী কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী গভীর ষড়যন্ত্রের মাধ্যমে দেশকে অস্থিতিশীল করার লক্ষ্যে ১৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ সারা দেশে ব্ল্যাক আউট করে অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকারকে বেকায়দায় ফেলে দেশকে অকার্যকর করার উদ্দেশ্যে বিভিন্ন জেলায় বিদ্যুৎ বিপর্যয় ঘটিয়ে জনজীবন বিপর্যস্ত করে, যা রাষ্ট্রদ্রোহিতার সামিল। এ পরিস্থিতিতে পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির কতিপয় দুষ্কৃতিকারী কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীকে চাকরিচ্যুত করা হয় এবং তাদের এই দেশদ্রোহী কর্মকান্ডের জন্য সরকার কর্তৃক রাষ্ট্রদ্রোহ মামলায় তাদেরকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়। এরপরেও তারা জামিনে মুক্তি পেয়ে বিভিন্ন বিশৃঙ্খলামূলক কার্যক্রম চালিয়ে যাচ্ছে এবং সম্প্রতি তারা অনৈতিকভাবে নৈরাজ্য সৃষ্টির লক্ষ্যে ২১ মে ২০২৫ 'মার্চ টু ঢাকা' কর্মসূচি করে, যার মাধ্যমে জনমনে পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন কার্যক্রম সম্পর্কে বিভ্রান্তি সৃষ্টি করা হচ্ছে।

প্রকৃতপক্ষে ৮০টি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির প্রায় ৪৫ হাজার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের এই নৈরাজ্য সৃষ্টিকারীদের সাথে কোনরূপ সম্পৃক্ততা নেই। এ বিষয়ে বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ডের সম্মানিত সকল গ্রাহকসহ দেশের সর্বস্তরের জনগণকে তাদের এই বিশৃঙ্খল কার্যকলাপ সম্পর্কে সচেতন থাকা ও বিভ্রান্ত না হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

৮০টি পল্লী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতির পক্ষে

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড (বিআরইবি)

বাপবিদ্য/জন (২৫০৫-২২৩) ২০২৪-২৫

প্রচারে - জনসংযোগ পরিদপ্তর।