

Judge halts

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The lawsuit called for a judge to "stop the government's arbitrary, capricious, unlawful, and unconstitutional action."

The loss of foreign nationals -- more than a quarter of its student body -- could prove costly to Harvard, which charges tens of thousands of dollars a year in tuition.

'UNLAWFUL AND UNWARRANTED' Harvard President Alan Garber said in a statement yesterday ahead of the temporary restraining order that "we condemn this unlawful and unwarranted action."

"It imperils the futures of thousands of students and scholars across Harvard and serves as a warning to countless others at colleges and universities throughout the country who have come to America to pursue their education and fulfil their dreams," he said.

Noem had said Thursday that "this administration is holding Harvard accountable for fostering violence, antisemitism, and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party on its campus."

Chinese students make up more than a fifth of Harvard's international enrolment, according to university figures, and Beijing said the decision will "only harm the image and international standing of the United States."

"The Chinese side has consistently opposed the politicisation of educational cooperation," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

Six parties back

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unanimously agreed to fully support the interim government led by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. They emphasised the need for urgent reforms that would pave the way for a free and fair national election under his leadership.

The party leaders also called for unity among all anti-fascist forces and said there were conspiracies against the country's sovereignty, independence, and stability, added the release.

They stressed the importance of collective and strategic efforts to restore peace and stability and to contribute to nation-building in the days ahead.

Those who attended the meeting include: Nurul Haque Nur of the Gono Odhikar Parishad; Yunus Ahmed, Prof Ashraf Ali Akon and Gazi Ataur Rahman of Islami Andolan; Asaduzzaman Fuad of AB Party; Maulana Jalal Uddin Ahmad of Khelafat Majlis; and Ariful Islam Adeeb and Sarwar Tushar of NCP.

'Major' Ukraine

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Ukraine has intensified drone attacks on Russia in the past several days, forcing temporary shutdowns of Russian airports. On Thursday Russia said it had fired an Iskander-M missile at part of the city of Pokrov in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

Kyiv and Moscow have both accused each other of violating the Geneva Convention on the treatment of POWs, with the UN saying prisoners on both sides have been "subjected to torture and ill-treatment."

Russia regularly violates international norms by putting POWs on trial -- with allegations of torture widespread and several Ukrainian captives confirmed to have died in custody.

Moscow's forces are also believed to have taken an unknown number of Ukrainian civilians into Russia in three years of seizing Ukrainian towns and cities.

There have been several high-profile cases of Ukrainian civilian captives.



People and civil defence members gather near the site of an Israeli strike that occurred after Israel issued an evacuation warning in Toul, Nabatieh district, southern Lebanon, on Thursday night.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Boost national capacity

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Criticising the government's policy on Chattogram Port, he said, "The chief adviser has announced that Chattogram Port must be handed over to foreign entities at any cost."

He suggested that instead of bringing in foreign companies, the government should address the existing weaknesses and institutional inefficiencies of the port.

He emphasised that professionals could be sent abroad for training if necessary since sustainable development can only be achieved by enhancing national expertise.

On energy issues, the economist highlighted that the government should have prioritised increasing national capacity for gas extraction.

"However, in the past nine months, no initiatives have been undertaken.

The upcoming budget must include efforts to utilise national resources domestically, which would lead to cheaper gas and electricity while

reducing import costs."

Prof Anu Muhammad further criticised energy sector subsidies, saying that they primarily benefit domestic and foreign companies through capacity charges.

"The government is providing subsidies by purchasing electricity at higher production costs, but budget allocations for capacity-building efforts in exploration and extraction remain significantly low. Increasing the budget in this area would automatically reduce subsidies, as lower production costs would make electricity cheaper."

Speaking on taxation, he urged the government to ensure that those with significant wealth pay taxes proportionately, rather than burdening low-income citizens.

He also pointed out inconsistencies in taxation policies, saying, "Machinery for coal-fired power plants is imported duty-free, while equipment for renewable

energy is taxed. The flawed policies of the previous government remain unchanged. This must be corrected in the upcoming budget."

Refuting claims of financial constraints, Anu Muhammad said, "There is no lack of wealth in the country. GDP is growing, and people are generating wealth. However, this wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few who are laundering money abroad. This issue has been exacerbated by excessive spending on public administration, subsidies, capacity charges, and banking sector mismanagement."

Among others, Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee members Harun Or Rashid, DU teacher Moshahida Sultana, Maha Mirza, Kallol Mustafa, Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, activist Marzia Prova, and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Salman Siddiqui spoke at the event was organised by a civic rights platform, Gonotantrik Odhikar Committee.

Govt firm on carrying out

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expressed his desire to resign and address the nation in a televised speech. He voiced worries over growing aspersions on his government's performance and duties.

He discussed matters related to frequent road blockades over myriad demands, reforms, and other issues.

Sources present at the meeting said that at one stage, the chief adviser suggested forming another interim government, as he wished to step down.

Yunus reiterated his government's commitment to holding what he described as the most credible election in the nation's history. However, he was concerned about the feasibility of ensuring a free and fair vote under the prevailing circumstances.

He also voiced concern that if the election were not conducted properly, the public would ultimately blame him for that.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the environment, forest, and climate change ministry, yesterday confirmed that they had a lengthy discussion after the formal meeting of the advisory council.

Speaking to reporters after a programme at Dhaka University, she said that from the beginning, the chief adviser set a timeline -- elections will take place between December and June.

"There is no scope for any deviation from that schedule on our part.

Therefore, there should be no scope for having any kind of discussion on the matter. It has been repeatedly emphasised that a clear timeframe has already been given," she said.

Besides holding the election, she said, the government has the responsibility to carry out reforms and try AL leaders.

"We want to complete all these tasks through the correct process, and we seek everyone's cooperation," she said.

About the current situation, Rizwana said many groups have been blocking the streets of Dhaka for their demands every now and then since the interim government took charge.

"Part of our discussions was if we were able to address these deadlocks. This is our national duty. We have been saying for a long time that we just took charge, not the power.

It'll be possible for us to carry out these duties when we get everyone's cooperation," she said.

"We're thinking about whether we can tackle the challenges in performing the three key duties, and how; what'll happen if we can't?" the adviser said.

Asked whether they were under any pressure, Rizwana said, "For us, the only pressure is whether we are able to perform [these duties].

"If the chief adviser has anything to say regarding these matters -- whether about the elections or other responsibilities -- you will hear it directly from him."

"If we can fulfil our responsibilities, then being in charge will remain relevant," she added.

About trials of AL leaders, Rizwana said the government has expedited the process and set up a second International Crimes Tribunal. And formal trial proceedings will begin today.

The current situation started to develop as political tensions have been escalating, driven by protests, harsh rhetoric at rallies, and social media exchanges.

The BNP has long demanded elections by December. On Thursday, it also called for a downsized advisory council with advisers Mahfuj Alam, Asif Mahmud, and Yunus's National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman removed.

Leaders of the National Citizen Party (NCP), protesting on Wednesday, said they would not join any election under the current Election Commission, which they said was biased towards the BNP. They demanded its reconstitution, along with the resignation of Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul, and Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud.

The NCP and Jamaat-e-Islami want the election only after reforms are completed and trials of AL leaders are held.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said the election should take place by December. "Bangladesh needs political stability. This is only possible through an elected government, not by unelected decision-makers," he said, according to a source present at the Officers' Address.

Polls by Dec, not CA's resignation'

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now instead of announcing a specific electoral roadmap, "that is his personal matter."

Salahuddin, however, said they want the resignation of the national security adviser.

"We also demanded the resignation

of two student representatives on the advisory council. Since their various activities are undermining the government's neutrality, we have called for their resignation," he added.

The BNP leader said the chief adviser once assured party leaders that the government was working to hold elections by December this year.

"But later, we observed various statements from his different advisers ... they either want to delay the elections or they don't [want to hold elections]. Some of their advisers have stated that they have already been elected by the people through a mass uprising, and they supposedly have authority over everything."

"The BNP does not think like that," he said, adding that the duty

of advisers in an interim government is to conduct a fair, orderly, and impartial election.

Meanwhile, BNP leader Zainul Abedin Farroque yesterday also urged the chief adviser to immediately ask three members of his advisory council to resign.

The BNP demands the removal of Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam, Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, and National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, arguing that this step is necessary to uphold the government's impartiality and image.

"Request them to step down on their own. You must drop the three," Farroque said while speaking at a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Farroque said it would be unfortunate if Yunus had to leave without holding an election.

"Let your [Yunus's] name be carved in golden letters in history by conducting a credible election and ensuring our right to vote."

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e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in The National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj for the procurement of

SL No	Tender ID # & Package No	e-Tender Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	1117265, 86/e-GP/Mundiv/2024-2025	Works, Various type of Repair work at Keraniganj Sub Division office building under Munshiganj Road division during the year 2024-2025	01/06/2025 16:00	02/06/2025 10:00	02/06/2025 10:00

1. The above tender is online Tender. Where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

2. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National E-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branch.

3. Further information and guidelines are available in the National E-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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