



PHOTO: PID
Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister and Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League (JBPFL) President Taro Aso at Imperial Hotel in Tokyo yesterday.

Bangladesh to observe Peacekeepers Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is set to observe International Day for UN Peacekeepers today with a series of events honouring its peacekeepers' contributions to global peace and security. The day's programmes will begin with a "Peacekeepers' Rally 2025" in the morning to commemorate fallen and serving peacekeepers. Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury will inaugurate the rally as chief guest, said a statement of ISPR. At 11:00am, a special reception will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed will attend the reception as the chief guest. "Over the course

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DOCTORS AWAITING PROMOTIONS
Govt creates 5,089 supernumerary posts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government has created 5,089 supernumerary posts to accommodate government doctors and medical college teachers awaiting promotion. The health ministry has already issued two circulars creating these posts for a one-year tenure, officials said. After completing necessary procedures, the ministry will issue promotion letters to the selected individuals, they added. In addition, the process of creating 1,853 more supernumerary posts for doctors is underway and expected to be completed soon. Supernumerary posts are temporary positions created outside the regular structure to facilitate promotions or workforce adjustments. This practice is common in the administration, police, and foreign service cadres and has recently been introduced in some other sectors. The move follows years of pending promotions for over 7,000 doctors,



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which led a group of doctors to stage a work abstention in early March. Doctors under the banner of the "BCS Health Cadre Specialists Doctors Forum" had postponed their

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GABTOLI MARKET
Cattle plentiful, buyers scarce

Customers cite high prices, traders blame feed costs

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite a sufficient number of sacrificial animals available in the country, cattle prices remain high compared to the same period last year. However, customer turnout at cattle markets has been significantly low, with little impact so far on stabilising prices. Traders and farmers attribute the high prices to the rising cost of cattle feed. According to estimates by the Department of Livestock Services and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, a total of 1,24,47,337 sacrificial animals are available this year. This includes 56,02,905 cattle and buffaloes, 68,38,920 goats and sheep, and 5,512 animals of other species. An official from the Department of Livestock said there is an expected surplus of approximately 20,68,135 animals this year. During a visit to the Gabtoli cattle market yesterday, only a small number of buyers were seen. Those who did make purchases paid Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 more than last year for similarly sized bulls.



PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Adnan Rahman, a resident of Adabar who came to buy a bull, said they purchased one for Tk 1,45,000 whereas a similar bull would have cost Tk 1,20,000 to Tk 1,25,000 last year. He said unlike last year when they bought their animal just three days before Eid, this year they opted to buy early, fearing further price hikes. Saad Ali, a cattle trader from Manikganj with 25 years of experience, said he has never encountered such a situation before. "I brought 12 bulls to the market on May 20 but have only sold two so far. This is highly unusual," he said. His business partner, Taju, noted that last year they sold at least 100 bulls during the month leading up to Eid. Mohammad Nusrat Ali, another trader at Gabtoli who sources cattle from Sirajganj, pointed out that both the

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PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH
Patients and relatives gather at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital gates following the authorities' announcement of an abrupt service shutdown yesterday.

Subrata Bain placed on 8-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Subrata Bain, one of Bangladesh's most wanted criminals, on an 8-day remand in an arms case. Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Jakir Hossain passed the order, according to a sub-inspector present in court. The court also granted six-day remands for Molla Masud, another top-listed criminal, and their two associates -- Arafat Ibne Nasir alias Shooter Arafat, and MAS Sharif -- in the same case filed with Hatirjheel Police Station. The four were brought to court amid tight security around 3:45pm, with investigators seeking a 10-day remand for each of them. Subrata Bain, alias

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INST OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND HOSPITAL

Patients suffer as clashes halt services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All sorts of medical services at the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital remained suspended for over eight hours yesterday due to "tripartite clashes", causing immense suffering to patients. "I asked all staffers, including doctors and nurses, to return to work, but as far as I know, none have joined, citing security concerns," Prof Khair Ahmed Choudhury, director of the hospital, told The Daily Star around 7:00pm. Following two untoward incidents at the hospital over the last two days, hospital staffers, including doctors and nurses, began a work abstention yesterday morning, citing security concerns. However, emergency services continued until 11:00am. Around 11:00am, a group of injured July protesters, who have been receiving treatment at the hospital, attacked staff members, leading to

a tripartite clash involving other patients and their attendants, the director said. "Some doctors and nurses were injured, and their residences also came under attack," he added. Police and army personnel later arrived and brought the situation under control. "But there is no safe environment to resume services," the director said during the afternoon. On Monday, four victims injured in the July uprising attempted suicide by consuming poison during a meeting at the hospital. They were later treated at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital. On Tuesday, the hospital director was confined to his office for about an hour and a half due to infighting between two groups of the July protesters. However, Akhter Hossain, a July protester, denied attacking hospital staff and claimed they were protesting

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ISHRAQUE'S OATH ROW
People bear the brunt of strike
Services remain halted as Nagar Bhaban padlocked

DIPAN NANDY

Rajib Hasan of Tantibazar returned home empty-handed yesterday for the third time in 10 days. Each visit to Nagar Bhaban, in search of his daughter's birth certificate, ended in frustration. Azizul Islam from Narinda faced a similar ordeal. Unable to pay his holding tax, he now fears incurring a fine. Lutfa Jahan, preparing to go abroad for higher studies, is desperately waiting for her citizenship certificate -- a mandatory document for her visa. "But I have no idea when I'll be able to get it." These are just a few examples of how civic life in Dhaka South has been thrown into disarray, as Nagar Bhaban remained padlocked for the 14th consecutive day yesterday. The closure has halted all major administrative functions, leaving city dwellers in distress. Only limited services such as waste management and mosquito control are continuing.



The crisis began on May 14 when supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain began protesting to demand the announcement of his swearing in as mayor. They locked the gates of Nagar Bhaban on May 15, shutting down operations. The situation intensified on May 21 when several DSCC employee unions joined the strike. "No work has been possible in the past 14 days," said DSCC Administrator Md Shahjahan Mia. "If we reopen, Eid preparations will be our top priority. Work for the National Eidgah and temporary cattle markets is still incomplete." Protesting employee Jahidur Rahman said, "Just as Dhaka residents want Ishraque as mayor, so do we. Once he takes office, we'll resume work." With Eid-ul-Azha only 11 days away, DSCC officials have warned of a looming crisis. "We haven't finalised tenders or arranged logistics," said a Waste Management official. Officials also said the strike has halted peak-season revenue collection, compounding the city's troubles.