



US races to build migrant tent camps:WSJ

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Experiment over, Butler ready for title fight

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Businesses move to hire lobbyist to cushion US tariffs

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CA'S APPOINTMENT

Five-member search panel proposed

Parties can't agree on PM holding multiple posts

MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission has proposed a new method for appointing chief advisers to caretaker governments and asked political parties to submit their opinions by today.

A final decision on the caretaker framework is expected Tuesday.

On the 15th day of the second phase of talks at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday, parties also failed to agree on a separate proposal to bar one individual from simultaneously holding the posts of prime minister, Leader of the House, and party chief.

Speaking after the meeting, Prof Ali Riaz, vice president of the commission, said the latest caretaker proposal outlines a detailed procedure for selecting the chief adviser.

Under the proposed plan, a five-member search committee would recommend names for the role. The committee would include the prime minister, the Leader

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Bangladesh opener Parvez Hossain Emon (L) celebrates scoring his second T20I fifty as Jaker Ali looks on during the opening match of their three-match series against Pakistan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The left-handed batter remained unbeaten on 56 off 39 deliveries, helping the hosts to a seven-wicket win by chasing the 111-run target in 15.3 overs.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 21, 2024

2nd day of curfew, clashes continue

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

At least seven people were killed and dozens injured in sporadic clashes between law enforcers and protesters in Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Narsingdi on July 21, 2024 -- the second day of a nationwide curfew. Police and hospital sources

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Audits expose hidden bad loans at 6 Islamic banks

International auditors KPMG and Ernst & Young conduct asset quality reviews

- 1. Bad loans lead to capital, provisioning shortfalls**
- 2. Five banks currently undergoing merger process**
- 3. Merger move triggers fresh deposit withdrawals**
- 4. Merger slowed as central bank lacks prior experience**

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Asset quality reviews by international auditors KPMG and Ernst & Young have revealed that six Shariah-based banks in Bangladesh are in a dire financial state, with non-performing loans (NPLs) skyrocketing four times greater than previously reported.

The reviews, initiated in January with backing from the Asian Development Bank, expose deep-seated financial mismanagement at First Security Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank, Global Islami Bank, ICB

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STUDENT UNION ELECTION

DU, JU set for Sept polls, other univs lag behind

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The much-anticipated Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) election is likely to be held in the second week of September.

The official schedule will be announced on July 29, said DUCSU Chief Election Commissioner Prof Jasim Uddin yesterday after a final meeting with stakeholders at the university's Senate Bhaban.

"It typically takes 40 to 45 days after the schedule is announced. We are committed to holding the election within this timeframe," he said.

DU is the second public university, after Jahangirnagar, to announce a tentative timeline for student union polls. Rajshahi and Chittagong universities are yet to declare concrete plans, leaving students frustrated.

The demand for student union elections gained momentum after the July uprising, which reignited calls for democratic representation on campuses.

However, the process has been

delayed due to bureaucratic inertia and unresolved student grievances.

Though the student union election is supposed to take place every year, DU last held it in 2019 after a gap of 29 years since 1990; Jahangirnagar University in 1992; Rajshahi University in 1989 and Chittagong University in 1990.

Currently, seven public

DHAKA UNIVERSITY

In December last year, DU authorities initiated the process of holding the DUCSU polls.

They formed a 10-member Election Commission on June 16 and approved a revised constitution. As part of preparations, returning officials held discussions with student representatives from

DU last held election in 2019 after a gap of 29 years; JU in 1992; RU in 1989 and CU in 1990. BUET last held polls in 2001, BAU in 1998, and SUST in 1997.

universities -- DU, RU, JU, CU, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) -- have provisions in their ordinances that allow student union elections. BUET last held polls in 2001, BAU in 1998, and SUST in 1997.

various departments and institutes earlier this month.

DUCSU CEC Prof Jasim yesterday said that to ensure transparency and fairness, voting will be conducted at six centralised neutral centres. These centres will accommodate voters from all residential halls across the university.

Addressing concerns over voter

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE AFTERMATH

Murder cases filed against 5,400 people

Police raids continue in district; fearing arrest, many go into hiding

SUZIT KUMAR DAS, Faridpur

Police on Saturday night filed four more cases, bringing murder charges against 5,400 unnamed individuals in connection with the Gopalganj violence last week.

This takes the number of accused in the eight cases filed so far to over 8,400.

The fresh cases have been filed over the deaths of four people, Dipto Saha, Ramzan Kazi, Imon Talukdar, and Sohel Mollah, who died of gunshot wounds while undergoing treatment at Gopalganj Medical College Hospital on Wednesday -- the day of the incident.

All four victims were buried and cremated without post-mortem examinations or any police inquest report.

Earlier, family members of the victims expressed their reluctance to file cases, fearing they would not get justice.

Meanwhile, Gopalganj hospital authorities have denied the allegations of deliberately handing over the bodies without autopsies and claimed that agitated relatives misbehaved with hospital staff and forcibly took the bodies of the victims away before post-mortem examinations could be conducted, according to a press release issued yesterday signed by Dr Jibitesh Biswas, superintendent of Gopalganj General Hospital.

Another person, Ramzan Munshi, shot during the violence, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early Friday. His body was buried after an autopsy.

Till Friday, four cases were filed over attacks on law enforcement, vandalism and arson, and alleged anti-state activities.

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A unique approach to looking at the future

From today we launch the publication of a three-part series of articles on a "foresight analysis", written by **DR DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA, TOWFIQUL ISLAM KHAN AND NAJEEBA MOHAMMED ALTAF**, which methodologically tries to predict the possible outcomes for Bangladesh in the months ahead. The first part, published in today's editorial page, outlines the context and approach of this predictive exercise. We invite the readers to read these insightful pieces.

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Palestinians gather in Beit Lahia, in northern Gaza, as they seek aid supplies that entered through Israel amid a worsening hunger crisis yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Govt to import 7 lakh tonnes of US wheat yearly

Move aimed at lowering Trump tariffs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has decided to import 7 lakh tonnes of wheat annually from the US worth about \$200 million as part of the government efforts to secure a lower tariff from the Trump administration on its exports.

The wheat will be imported over the next five years, according to the memorandum of understanding signed yesterday between the food ministry and the US Wheat Associates at the ministry's office.

The deal comes as the government continues negotiations with the US administration to reduce the 35 percent tariff on Bangladeshi goods, which is set to take effect from August 1 this year.

Currently, the government imports about 6 to 7 lakh tonnes of wheat annually from various countries to support its social safety net programmes and ration systems.

The government has allocated budget for 6 lakh tonnes of wheat imports this fiscal year. Last fiscal year, the government imported around 4.6 lakh tonnes.

Beyond public procurement, the private sector also imports a significant amount of wheat.

Last fiscal year, private imports amounted to 57.7 lakh tonnes, meaning the government will likely need to involve the private sector to meet the increased import target.

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