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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে ‘ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার’ পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

**GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE**  
**High Court seeks**  
**probe report on**  
**detained children**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought a probe report on the overall conditions of the children detained in connection with the violence in Gopalganj centring NCP's road march on July 16.

In response to a writ petition, the court ordered the government to form a committee to enquire whether the provisions of the Children Act, 2013 are being properly applied on the detained children and to place the report to it by November 5.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why their inaction to consider the Children Act and the UN convention on child rights in handling the arrested children should not be directed illegal.

Secretaries at the ministries of home; women and children; and law; inspector general of police; superintendents of police of Gopalganj and Jashore and superintendent of Jashore Pulerhat Shishu Unnyan Kendra have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque and Justice Aynun Nahar Siddiqua came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed as a public interest litigation on July 21 by Supreme

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus presented the newly appointed Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Zafer bin Abiyah with a collection of graffiti from July uprising as a gift when the latter paid a courtesy call on the chief adviser at the state guest house Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

**DU set for major**  
**overhaul with**  
**Tk 2,840cr project**

MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Dhaka University is set to get new student dormitories and academic buildings after the interim government approved a project aimed at the holistic development of the university's infrastructure.

The Tk 2,840.39 crore project was approved yesterday at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Enec), held at the Planning Commission.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus chaired the meeting, according to a press release.

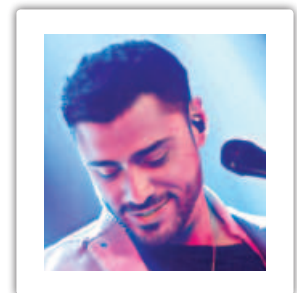
As part of a three-phase masterplan project, the first phase will see the construction of six academic buildings and nine residential halls. Of these, four halls will accommodate 2,600 female students while the remaining five will house 5,100 male students.

The project also includes the development of a playing field and the construction of five additional buildings, including a new administrative facility.

Several existing structures will be demolished to make way for the new facilities.

"A new administration took the initiative to create a comprehensive master plan for Dhaka University to resolve long-standing issues, including student and teacher accommodation, academic infrastructure, and recreational facilities," said Wahiduddin Mahmud,

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**AK Ratul,**  
**vocalist of**  
**Owned,**  
**no more**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AK Ratul, vocalist and frontman of the renowned Bangladeshi rock band Owned, passed away yesterday. He was 34.

According to his bandmate Pritom Arefin, Ratul suffered a cardiac arrest while he was at the gym around 3:30pm.

He was rushed to a private hospital in the capital, where he was pronounced dead.

Ratul, along with his band Owned – formed in

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**Dhaka lost 60% waterbodies,**  
**half its trees in 44 years**

Finds study by Change Initiative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Between 1980 and 2024, Dhaka's built-up area expanded sevenfold, land surface temperature increased by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius, and the city lost 60 percent of its waterbodies.

These alarming findings were revealed in a new study by Change Initiative, based on 44 years of satellite imagery and urban heat mapping. The research highlights Dhaka's severe environmental degradation, driven by unplanned urban expansion.

The study was conducted by M Zakir Hossain Khan, chief executive of Change Initiative, with support from Sabrin Sultana and Md Fuad Hassan.

It was unveiled yesterday at a press conference held at a hotel in Dhaka.

According to the report, Dhaka's crisis is not merely a failure in urban planning but a violation of ecological justice and fundamental rights.

**WHAT DHAKA LOST**

- Built-up area expanded 7 times since 1980
- Land surface temp rose by 3–5°C
- Over 37 zones exceed safe population density

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Criminalise wetland and forest encroachment
- Reform DAP to include ecological buffers
- Plant 56.5 sqkm of trees in deprived areas

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**Cancel the**  
**current DAP**  
**Institute of Architects**  
**urges govt**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) yesterday urged the government to cancel the currently gazetted Detailed Area Plan (DAP) 2022–2035.

At a press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, IAB leaders pointed out 12 legal and informational flaws in the DAP.

They called for a digital and easily accessible land use master plan to ensure proper and effective implementation of the laws under Rajuk and the Gazipur Development Authority (GDA).

They also demanded a participatory and updated mouza-based DAP that is resilient to both natural and man-made disasters, and subject to review every five years.

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**BNP ready to work**  
**with govt on US**  
**tariff, security**  
**issues: Khosru**

UNB, Dhaka

Senior BNP leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said his party will offer coordinated cooperation to the government on US tariff and security issues, aiming to help address the tariff's imposed by the United States.

He made the remarks during a briefing to journalists at a hotel in Banani, following an exchange of views with business leaders concerning the US tariffs.

The BNP standing committee member emphasised that the livelihoods of 15 to 16 lakh people are linked to exports to the US market, and therefore, the tariff issue is a serious matter for Bangladesh.

Khosru said business leaders fear that the recent US tariff impositions will severely impact Bangladesh's trade and commerce.

He said the BNP is prepared to cooperate with the government in the ongoing discussions with the US, with the goal of achieving a pragmatic

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**WORLD HEPATITIS DAY**  
**One in five adult**  
**Rohingyas infected**  
**with hepatitis C**

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Hasina, a Rohingya woman from Myanmar, fled to Bangladesh 10 months ago with her husband and four children. Diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 2020 during childbirth, she could not afford treatment back home.

Now living in Camp 8W in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Hasina and two of her sons – Rashidullah and Rahimullah – recently tested positive during a large-scale screening by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

PCR tests confirmed active infections in Hasina and Rahimullah, while Rashidullah showed previous exposure. Hasina suspects the virus spread through unsafe medical practices in Myanmar, including untested blood transfusions and reused syringes.

Dr Sarwar Jahan, assistant medical coordinator at the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office, called the

**SUGGESTIONS**

- Raise awareness about transmission
- Ensure safe blood transfusion
- Use disposable, single-use syringes
- Promote safe shaving practices

infection rate "alarming". "One in every five adult Rohingyas is Hepatitis C positive. Around 100,000 adults are currently infected," he said.

Over 70 percent of the 5.5 lakh adult Rohingyas have been screened so far. Preliminary data

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**CARRYING THE SEASON FORWARD.** In the vibrant greenery of Rakudia village in Barishal, farmers take bundles of Aman paddy seedlings from seedbeds to nearby fields for transplantation -- a seasonal ritual of Shrabon and Bhadra. The crop will be harvested during Agrahayan and Poush. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

**Arrest warrant**  
**issued against**  
**Naem Nizam**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday issued arrest warrants against former Bangladesh Pratidin editor Naem Nizam, its publisher Moynal Hossain Chowdhury and news portal Bangla Insider's Chief Editor Syed Borhan Kabir in a Digital Security Act case over publishing and circulating false, defamatory and offensive information.

Judge Md Nur A Alam of the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka passed the order as the trio yesterday failed to appear before the tribunal as per its directions, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, public prosecutor of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

On June 2 this year, the tribunal issued summons asking Naem, Moynal and Borhan to appear before it yesterday.

On November 20 last year, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police submitted

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