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## RAMPURA SHOOTINGS

### Formal charges against ex-DMP chief submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday submitted formal charges at the International Crimes Tribunal against five former police officials, including Habibur Rahman, ex-commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed in the capital's Rampura during the July uprising.

The other accused are then DMP's (Khilgaon zone) additional deputy commissioner Rashedul Islam; then Rampura Police Station officer-in-charge Mashur Rahman; then sub-inspector of the police station Tarikul Islam Bhuiyan; and then Rampura police outpost assistant sub-inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarkar.

Only Chanchal is in custody, while the remaining four are on the run.

The charges brought against the accused include murder, attempted



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Heavy overnight rain on Wednesday caused the collapse of a section of the bridge over the Shital Jharna Canal in the Starship area on Gate No-2 Oxygen Road in Chattogram city, halting all traffic on one side. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## ONE YEAR OF INTERIM GOVT

### Rights violations persist amid weak law and order

#### Says Ain o Salish Kendra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government, which assumed office this day last year following the July uprising, has failed to meet people's expectations, as Bangladesh continues to face human rights violations amid a deterioration of law and order, rights group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) said.

In a statement issued yesterday, it said that in August, the country witnessed a historic mass uprising, led by students opposing the quota system in government jobs and authoritarian repression.

"The uprising was rooted in demands for justice, human dignity and democratic rights. Opposing oppression, inequality and corruption, the students and citizens took to the streets, ultimately forcing a shift in the country's power structure," the statement read.

It further said this movement was not just a political transition, but marked the beginning of a new era defined by a renewed commitment to protecting human rights, freedom of expression and ensuring state accountability.

"Though upsetting, the truth is that the interim government that took office in the aftermath of the movement has failed to live up to the people's expectations. Arbitrary arrests continue along with custodial deaths and extrajudicial killings, which are reminiscent

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## Electric 'air taxis' set to debut in Japan



AFP, Tokyo

Airline ANA yesterday said that, together with a US start-up, it hopes to have electric "air taxis" whizzing over Japan from as early as 2027.

ANA and California-based Joby Aviation said they will establish a joint venture with a view to deploying more than 100 of the five-seater aircraft.

Flying taxis will "revolutionise our air mobility", Koji Shibata, president and CEO of ANA, said in a statement Tuesday.

An ANA spokesman told AFP that the aircraft, designed to carry a pilot and up to four passengers at speeds of up to 200 mph (320km/h), could be in service from as early as 2027.

The project primarily envisages trips between Narita and Haneda airports and Tokyo, although the routes can diversify in the future.

Currently, a car or train ride between central Tokyo and Narita typically takes an hour or longer, but Joby's five-seater can shorten this to around 15 minutes, ANA said.

There are no price details yet, but ANA wants to make the service as affordable as possible for the general public, a spokesman told AFP.

ANA and Joby will make a public flight demonstration of the vehicles at the Osaka Expo in October.

## 'SECRET AL MEETING' Major Sadikul's wife placed on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed the wife of an army major on a five-day remand in a case over a "secret meeting" allegedly involving members of the Awami League and its banned student wing Chhatra League.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sefatullah passed the order after Detective Branch Inspector Md Zehad Hossain, also the investigation officer, produced Sumaiya Zafrin before the court with a seven-day remand plea.

According to the remand petition, Sumaiya, wife of Major Sadikul Haque, was directly involved in a meeting held on July 8 at a convention centre near the capital's Bashundhara residential area.

The gathering, which reportedly lasted from 10:00am to 6:00pm, was attended by 300 to 400 people, including activists of Chhatra League and Awami League, as well as retired government employees.

Sumaiya and her husband were also present, it added.

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## Israel intends to take control of all of Gaza

Says Netanyahu as Israeli security cabinet set to meet

AGENCIES

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday said Israel intends to take military control of all of Gaza, despite intensifying criticism at home and abroad over the devastating almost two-year-old war in the Palestinian enclave.

"We intend to," Netanyahu said in an interview with Fox News when asked if Israel would take over the entire coastal territory. "We don't want to keep it. We want to have a security perimeter. We don't want to govern it. We don't want to be there as a governing body."

He said that Israel wanted to hand over the territory to Arab forces that would govern it.

Netanyahu made his comments to Fox News before the outcome of a meeting he was due to have yesterday with a small group of senior ministers to discuss plans for the military to take control of more territory in Gaza.

The security cabinet session follows a meeting this week with the head of the military, which Israeli officials have described as tense, saying the military chief had pushed back on expanding the campaign.

Opinion polls show that most Israelis want the war to end in a deal that would see the release of the remaining hostages held by Hamas-led Palestinian militants.

Netanyahu's government has insisted on total victory over Hamas.

The idea, pushed especially by far-right ministers in Netanyahu's coalition, of Israeli forces thrusting into areas they do not already hold in the enclave has generated alarm in Israel.

The mother of one hostage urged people yesterday to take to the streets to voice their opposition to expanding the campaign.

The Hostages Families Forum, which represents captives held in Gaza, urged military Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir to oppose widening the war and the government to accept a deal that would bring the war to an end and free the remaining hostages.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday that the military would carry out the government's decisions until all war objectives were achieved.

Israeli leaders have long insisted that Hamas be disarmed and have no future role in a demilitarised Gaza and that the hostages be freed.

The UN has called reports about a possible expansion of Israel's military operations in Gaza "deeply alarming" if true.

There are 50 hostages still held in Gaza, of whom Israeli officials believe 20 are alive. Most of those freed so far emerged as a result of diplomatic negotiations. Talks toward a ceasefire that could have seen some more hostages released collapsed in July.

- » Military chief has pushed back against expanding Gaza ops
- » Most Israelis want deal to release hostages
- » FAO says only 1.5% of Gaza's farmland now usable

## 'Went to the sea to contemplate, reflect on future'

### Says Nasiruddin Patwary on Cox's Bazar trip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two senior leaders of the National Citizen Party have defended their August 5 visit to Cox's Bazar after receiving show-cause notices for skipping the July Uprising Day celebrations in Dhaka.

Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary described the trip as personal and within party norms, while Chief Organiser (South) Hasnat Abdullah called it a "silent protest" against the "incomplete" July Declaration.

Both posted their written responses on Facebook yesterday afternoon.

The party issued show-cause notices on Wednesday to five senior leaders, including Nasiruddin and Hasnat, asking them to explain within 24 hours why they had travelled during a key political observance.

According to NCP Joint Member Secretary Saleh Uddin Sifat, the replies were submitted on time to Convener Nahid Islam and Member Secretary Akhter Hossen. "They [Nahid and Akhter] will decide on the matter, and the media will be informed if necessary," he said.

In his reply, Nasiruddin said he had no official duties assigned for August 5 and was not instructed to attend any event. "I went on a trip, but the purpose of this trip was to think

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## DHAKA AIRPORTS

### 525 high-rises illegally built on approach paths of planes

#### Says CAAB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 525 unauthorised high-rise buildings have been constructed in the approach paths of the runways of two airports in Dhaka over the past 10 years.

Air Vice Marshal Md Mostafa Mahmood Siddiq, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), revealed the information at a media briefing at the CAAB headquarters in the city's Kurmitola yesterday.

The CAAB boss said they do not have the jurisdiction or power to demolish the unapproved portion of those buildings.

"CAAB has been repeatedly writing to the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) over the past 10 years regarding the issue, as it is their responsibility to take action against the unapproved structures," Mostafa

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An oriental bay owl stares wide-eyed right into the camera as it was spotted in Chattogram's Hazirikhil Wildlife Sanctuary. Cloaked in rich chestnut and creamy hues, this petite owl can be found in South and Southeast Asia. It lives in dense evergreen and montane forests, plantations, and mangrove fringes up to higher elevations. A nocturnal bird, it feasts on small rodents, bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small insects at night. As a secretive predator, it helps keep forest ecosystems balanced by regulating prey populations. Though it is currently listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, this owl still faces threats from habitat loss and deforestation.

PHOTO: MD NAHIDUL ISLAM

## Former BRUR VC Kalimullah sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, former vice-chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, was sent to jail in a corruption case yesterday.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after the Anti-Corruption Commission produced him before the court, seeking his confinement in jail, said an ACC official.

Earlier on June 18, the ACC filed a case against five people, including Kalimullah, on charges of embezzling Tk 4 crore from a development project.

Around 4:00pm yesterday, Kalimullah was escorted to the courtroom amid tight security. Around 12 minutes later, he was taken to the dock and the hearing began at 4:22pm.

It ended in 16 minutes.

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GUARDIANS OF THE NIGHT