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CHANKHARPUL SHOOTING

ICT-1 records witness testimony

ICT-2 to decide on Ashulia killings Aug 21

STAR REPORT

A prosecution witness told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday that he heard men in police uniforms speaking Hindi when thousands of protesters gathered at Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

Shahid Ahmed, uncle of victim Md Yakub, testified that as protesters reached the intersection, policemen were stationed opposite them, and he heard one say “Idhar aao [come here]”.

Yakub was among six killed when police allegedly opened fire on protesters marching towards Ganobhaban. Shahid said he and others took Yakub to Mitford Hospital, where he was declared dead, and accused top officials – including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina – of ordering the shooting. He named several police officers as the shooters.

Yakub’s mother, Rahima Akhter, described the fatal injuries, breaking down as a video of Yakub bleeding was played in court. She and another victim’s relative demanded punishment for the killers. The tribunal adjourned witness testimonies until August 1.

Eight police personnel, including former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman and others, are accused; four are in custody and present in court, while the rest are absconding.

Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 set August 21 to decide whether to frame charges or discharge

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A one-kilometre stretch of canal emerges during low tide at Laboni Beach in Cox’s Bazar. Beyond it, people stand on the sand, gazing out at the sea. However, once the high tide comes in, the entire area is submerged in chest-deep water, posing a serious risk to anyone who cannot swim. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

NATIONALISATION DEMAND

MPO teachers issue one-month ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of MPO-enlisted schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions have issued an ultimatum to the government to meet their demand for nationalisation by September 14.

If the demand is not met, they said they will observe a half-day work stoppage on September 14, followed by full-day strikes on September 15 and 16.

They have also warned of a continuous sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club from October 12.

The ultimatum came yesterday after a meeting with the education adviser at the Secretariat.

During the meeting, ministry officials said a DO letter had been sent to the finance ministry on August 7, proposing to increase teachers’ house rent allowance from Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,000, medical allowance from Tk 500 to Tk 1,000, and festival allowance from 50 to 75 percent, according to the teachers.

While welcoming the proposal, the MPO Teachers’ Nationalisation Alliance said house rent allowance should be paid as a percentage of basic salary, similar to government teachers.

“Even if it is increased by 20 percent for now, it must soon match the rate given to government employees.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DSCC misses revenue goals for 5th straight year

DIPAN NANDY

For five consecutive fiscal years, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has failed to meet its revenue collection targets, with the shortfall in 2024-25 being the largest in recent years.

In the latest fiscal year, DSCC set a revenue target of Tk 1,337 crore but collected only Tk 791 crore – a shortfall of Tk 546 crore – marking a decline of nearly Tk 270 crore compared to the previous year. The collection rate dropped to 59 percent, the lowest in five years, after never falling below 70 percent in the preceding four years.

The DSCC authorities attributed the sharp fall to the 42 day lockdown and protest movement surrounding BNP leader Ishraque Hossain’s mayoral oath-taking, which halted all citizen services and revenue collection at Nagar Bhaban and its 10 regional offices.

The movement began on May 14, when Ishraque’s supporters locked the main gates of Nagar Bhaban and regional offices, and ended on June 23.

A review of the past five years shows the pattern of missed targets. In 2020-21, DSCC targeted Tk 991.77 crore but collected Tk 703.31 crore, a shortfall of Tk 288.46 crore. In 2021-22, the target was Tk 1,242.46 crore, with Tk 879.65 crore collected – Tk 362.81 crore short.

– rising by Tk 176.34 crore, Tk 152.32 crore, and Tk 29.59 crore respectively – the trend reversed in 2024-25, with a steep drop.

A DSCC revenue department officer said no officials or employees could enter Nagar Bhaban during the protest period, with even the administrator and CEO’s offices locked.

“Because of this, DSCC could not fully collect revenue from the 52 revenue heads. Many citizens came to pay revenue but left empty-handed. Trade licence issuance and renewals were impossible during that period, reducing total revenue collection,” the official said.

On Wednesday, DSCC administrator Md Shahjahan Mia announced the budget for fiscal year 2025-26, setting a revenue collection target of Tk 1,399.98 crore against a total budget of Tk 3,841.38 crore.

Shahjahan Mia said June is normally the month of highest collection, but this year the offices were locked for over 40 days.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8



Despite broken headlights, a cracked windshield, and rust covering its body, this bus continues to operate in the capital. Public transport vehicles are required to pass a mandatory fitness test, and since July 21 the government has announced strict penalties for operating ramshackle buses and trucks with faulty machinery. Yet such dilapidated buses still ply the city’s streets. This photo was taken in Lalmatia yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

RABINDRA UNIVERSITY

Tk 519cr campus project set to be placed for Ecneec approval

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prioritising literature, music, fine arts, theatre, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and environmental sciences, the permanent campus project of Rabindra University in Sirajganj is set to be placed for approval at next week’s Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) meeting.

The Tk 519.15 crore project will feature 11 faculties and 40 departments, accommodating 7,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students for education and research.

The proposed campus will have three five-storey dormitories, which will be built at a cost of Tk 93.89 crore.

It will also feature four non-residential buildings: a five-storey academic building, a five-storey administrative building, a three-storey central library, and a two-storey TSC and cafeteria, costing around Tk 211 crore.



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Two more establishments will be built within the project at a cost of Tk 2 crore. In addition, around Tk 15 crore will be spent on furniture.

According to the project summary prepared for Ecneec, the academic masterplan focuses on teaching, specialised training, research, and knowledge dissemination, along with the physical and mental development of students to help build a humane society.

The campus will include open spaces, sports grounds, lakes, and designated areas for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries departments. At least 33 percent of the area will be reserved for tree plantation and greenery, in line with Forest Department guidelines.

If implemented, the university – located in Shahjadpur, Sirajganj, and established to honour the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore – will aim to expand quality higher education, promote Rabindra studies, and develop skilled, technology-savvy human resources.

On May 7, Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud said after the proposal was initially placed, the chief adviser directed that a comprehensive plan prioritising fine arts be prepared.

The project was then sent back for revision. At the time, Wahiduddin Mahmud also said the university would be built on 100 acres of land in

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Twenty collect nomination forms for Ducsu polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 20 candidates have collected nomination papers for the Dhaka University Central Students’ Union (Ducsu) election over the past two days.

Thirteen of them collected papers yesterday, while seven did so on Tuesday.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Dr Mohammad Zashim Uddin disclosed the information during a press briefing in front of the Chief Returning Officer’s office at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building yesterday.

Of the 20, five are vying for the post of vice president (VP) – three of them collected their papers yesterday and two on Tuesday – while the remaining are contesting for other positions.

Responding to journalists’ queries, the CRO said objections raised by student organisations regarding the posts of president and treasurer of Ducsu have been resolved as per the constitution, leaving no scope for the commission to intervene further.

It also said no complaints regarding violations of the electoral code of conduct have been received against any candidate so far.