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

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The essence of democracy is that I may not agree with you, but I will still defend your freedom to express your opinion, even at the cost of my life. That is democracy. Unfortunately, we do not want to tolerate others' views here – we want to silence them. We must move away from this mindset.

MIRZA FAKHRUL  
ISLAM ALAMGIR  
BNP Secretary General

Students cover their nose and mouth as they walk past a heap of burning trash on their way home from school around noon yesterday. Locals said when city corporation cleaners fail to collect garbage on time, some people set the waste on fire. The photo was taken in Lalmatia yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## SC order on caretaker govt today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is set to deliver its verdict today on the appeals and review petitions against its 2011 judgment that scrapped the non-party caretaker government system.

The appeals and petitions have been listed as item numbers 1 and 2 in today's cause list for announcement of judgment, according to the SC website uploaded yesterday afternoon.

On November 11, a seven-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed concluded the hearing and fixed today for delivering the verdict on the appeals and review petitions.

During the hearing, the lawyers for the appellants, petitioners and the state prayed to the top court to overturn its 2011 judgment and restore the non-party caretaker government system to the constitution for holding free and fair elections and to establish democracy in the country.

BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, five citizens, freedom fighter Mofazzal Islam of Naogaon and two rights organisations lodged the review petitions last year challenging the 2011 verdict.

A seven-judge full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by the then chief justice ABM Khairul Haque, had declared by majority view on May 10, 2011 that the 13th amendment to the constitution (related to the caretaker government) was null and void.

## The birth registration conundrum at DSCC

Around 79,000 certificates issued through its 'own server' now invalid; residents face extra hassle, costs

DIPAN NANDY

The long-running complications over birth registration have reached a breaking point in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

Although the Office of the Registrar General holds legal jurisdiction, former mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh introduced an "own server" of the city corporation during his tenure, claiming it would boost revenue.

Nearly 79,000 birth and 1,500 death registrations were recorded through this system. But after August 5 last year, DSCC's registration process was reinstated under the Registrar General's central server, rendering those certificates invalid.

As a result, residents are now being forced to reapply and pay the fees again. Every

day, affected individuals crowd DSCC's regional offices seeking valid certificates.

On Tuesday morning, Jahidul Islam waited outside the Zone-1 office at Nagar Bhaban, trying to collect a birth certificate for his four-year-old son, Ayman, ahead of school admission.

"When I went for admission, I found out the certificate issued during Taposh's tenure was invalid," he said. "I had to reapply. They charged Tk 50 before, and again this time. When I asked about the earlier payment, no one had an answer."

In the same office, Dhanmondi resident Erfanul Rahman sought clarification about his daughter Abiba's "fake birth certificate".

He said, "When applying for a passport, they told me the certificate had no link to the national server. DSCC is supposed to provide services,



**When I went for my son's school admission, I found out the birth certificate issued during Taposh's tenure was invalid. I had to reapply. They charged Tk 50 before, and again this time. When I asked about the earlier payment, no one had an answer.**

JAHIDUL ISLAM  
A resident of DSCC Zone-1

but they are harassing us. Now they're asking me to apply again."

Victims say they must pay the government-prescribed fee again, with no refund for the money previously deposited into DSCC's server. Death certificates issued through the server have also become invalid.

DSCC Zone-1's Zonal Executive Officer Kazi Saleh Mustanzir said, "After August 5, we attempted to integrate South City's birth and death registration data into the central system. Due to technical errors, not all data could be integrated. Therefore, people were asked to reapply." Similar complaints came from Zone-3 in Nawabganj.

Monowar Hossain, dealing with his daughter Raida's registration, said, "I already took the service from DSCC and paid the fee. Now I have to take it again."

Zone-3's Zonal Executive Officer Md Sujaudoula acknowledged the frustration. "Their anger is natural, as they are facing both extra expenses and suffering. The application fee is embedded in the online system, making submission impossible without payment."

DSCC sources said Taposh demanded a share of the Registrar General's revenue from birth certificates after taking office.

This dispute halted registration activities in the DSCC from June to September 2023. As public suffering grew, DSCC began issuing certificates directly from its own server on October 4, 2023, and collected fees accordingly.

However, as the server was not connected to the Registrar General's database, problems surfaced immediately.

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## Finn, Cory and Sam to retire

The K-9 trio will be up for auction on Nov 25



Cory

Finn

Sam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finn, Cory, and Sam – three dogs of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's K-9 Team – sniffed out danger, guarded crime scenes, and stood loyally beside their handlers for years.

Now, after a long stretch of service, the three are preparing for a quieter life – not in kennels or behind barbed wire, but hopefully in warm homes with new families.

The DMP has announced that the three will be released from duty and offered to the public through an open auction on November 25 at its canine facilities in Mirpur-14 Police Lines.

All three dogs were born and trained in the United Kingdom before being inducted into the force's operational lineup in Dhaka. They worked for the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit's specialised K-9 unit.

Among them, Finn is a male Labrador, Cory a female Labrador, and Sam a male German Shepherd. All of them are eight years of age and have grown too old for the demanding tasks of explosive detection, search operations, or patrol duties. However, officials say they remain in

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## Ex-OC ordered killings, set bodies on fire in Ashulia

Testifies former SI at ICT-2 on July uprising killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former OC of Ashulia Police Station AFM Sayed and assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Biswajit Saha poured petrol on the bodies of six protesters and set them on fire on August 5 last year, an approver testified before the International Crimes Tribunal 2 yesterday.

Former sub-inspector (SI) of Ashulia Police Station Sheikh Abzalul Haque also said that police, earlier that day, opened fire on a victory procession – minutes after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country – on the direct orders of the OC, leaving several demonstrators collapsing to the ground.

"Some people died instantly," said the accused-turned-approver in a crimes against humanity case filed over the killing of seven youths and the subsequent burning of six of their bodies in Ashulia.

He appeared as the 23rd prosecution witness in the case.

The former SI, however, added that he was not present at the scene during the burning. He learned about it only after returning to the police station on August 15, 2024, to deposit the firearm issued in his name.

**A group of protesters approached Ashulia Police Station in a victory procession shortly after Hasina's departure. When the protesters reached near the station, OC Sir ordered the force to fire directly. ASI Bishwajit and several others opened fire on his command.**

SHEIKH ABZALUL HAQUE  
Former SI

Abzalul is the second accused to turn approver, after former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who was convicted by ICT-1 on Monday and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in a separate crimes against humanity case linked to the July uprising.

Describing the events of the day, Abzalul said a group of protesters approached Ashulia Police Station in a victory procession shortly after Hasina's departure.

"When the protesters reached near the station, OC Sir ordered the force to

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Commuters from Kamalapur, Gopibagh, Tikatuli, and surrounding areas use a boat to cross Motijheel's only remaining jheel (pond). The waterbody, a popular transportation route, serves as a time-saving shortcut, with passengers paying Tk 5 for the journey.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON