



"Our reporting provides credible information on atrocities... when truth is being eroded by disinformation and censorship."

UN human rights chief
Volker Turk

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Lord of the WINGS

Simultaneously serving as the civil aviation adviser and chairman of Biman's board while pursuing a commercial helicopter licence, Sk Bashir Uddin has become a figure representing a conflict of interest and unabashed cronyism under the interim government

RASHIDUL HASAN

It takes a special kind of self-centred mindset to be the player, the referee, and the rule-maker all at once. In March 2025, a video conference was convened by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh to vet an applicant for a new aviation licence.

four months later, he would assume the chairmanship of the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines, a serious conflict of interest.

The timeline of events, pieced together by The Daily Star from CAAB records and trade documents, paints a picture of a government functionary seemingly

"The interim government has shown either a sheer lack of understanding that such actions or decisions in reality represent abuse of power, or they took it for granted."

Itekhazuzaman
Executive Director of TIB



The face on the screen, however, was not that of just another wealthy entrepreneur, but of Sk Bashir Uddin – a tycoon, yes, but more bizarrely, the interim government's commerce adviser. It was an awkward prelude to an even stranger reality. Within weeks, the applicant would be appointed the civil aviation adviser. Just

unaware of where his private interests end and his public obligations begin.

Bashir Uddin was appointed to the advisory council in November 2024. By March 2025, while serving as the commerce adviser, his conglomerate, the AkijBashir Group, submitted a letter of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Operations resume at Ctg port after 6-day stalemate

Strike to resume if workers' demands not met in two days

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHAN

Operational activities at Chattogram port finally resumed yesterday afternoon after a six-day impasse, as protesting employees postponed their ongoing work abstention until Saturday following assurances from Shipping Adviser M Sakawat Hussain that steps would be taken to meet their demands.

In a meeting with the adviser at the port, leaders of the Chattogram Bandar Rokkha Sangram Parishad placed four demands: suspending the deal signing with DP World for New Mooring Container Terminal, withdrawing punitive actions against agitating employees and removing port chairman SM Moniruzzaman from the post.

At a press conference, Parishad Coordinator Md. Humayun Kabir said the adviser assured them he would discuss the deal-signing issue with senior government officials and inform them within a day

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Six to hang for Ashulia killings during July uprising

ICT-2 hands life terms to seven others

SHARIFUL ISLAM and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday sentenced six people, including a former lawmaker, to death for the killing of seven people during the July 2024 uprising in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital, where the victims were loaded into a vehicle and set on fire, with at least one still alive.

The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2 also sentenced seven accused to life imprisonment, handed down seven years' rigorous imprisonment to two others, and acquitted one accused who turned a state witness in the crimes against humanity case.

Reading out the concluding part of the judgment, the tribunal detailed how seven young protesters were killed, their bodies placed inside a vehicle and burned. At least one victim was alive at the time of the fire, an act the court said "shocks the conscience of humanity".

The tribunal found that the victims were unarmed students and civilians exercising their democratic rights

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

A 36-PAGE DREAM Jamaat promises prosperity, but the math doesn't add up

TANIM AHMED

Jamaat e-Islami may be accused of many things but low ambition cannot be among them, at least not according to its election manifesto. The party's list of pledges feels less like a governing document and more like an exhaustive list of promises gesturing towards a happily-ever-after nation, while leaving questions of plausibility and execution largely unexplored.

A large portion of the voluminous manifesto coincides with provisions and recommendations of the July charter that the party had signed. There are, however, several sections that warrant attention. The 36-page document with just over 14,000 words covers almost every facet of public life worth mentioning—from a promise

NEWS ANALYSIS

to allow freight trucks in Dhaka only between 11:00pm and 6:00am to the lofty dream of growing Bangladesh's economy by almost four times to become a \$2-trillion-dollar economy by 2040.

This economic prosperity will presumably come on the back of a 7% GDP growth, which by the way would only take us up to about \$1.3 trillion and simple projection models show that the benchmark of \$2 trillion dollars would require a nearly double-digit annual growth for 15 years.

Be that as it may, whether it is growth, education stipends or health benefits, Jamaat does not quite outline how it would achieve this in the five years they would have, to govern.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BNP MANIFESTO Likely to focus on justice, welfare, women's safety

- Media freedom thru' proposed national media commission
- One lakh workers for doorstep healthcare
- Unemployment allowance for jobless youth

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Giving priority to justice, the rule of law, human rights, women's safety and religious freedom – among 11 fundamental issues – the BNP will announce its election manifesto today, outlining its vision for what it calls a new phase of democratic governance.

Party Chairman Tarique Rahman will unveil the manifesto at 3:30pm at the hotel Sonargaon ballroom. Leaders said the document has been prepared in line with late chairperson Khaleda Zia's Vision 2030 and Tarique's 31-Point Outline for Structural Reforms.

According to party sources, the manifesto will focus on agriculture, health, education, environment, information technology, women, employment and sports.

It will emphasise initiatives such as the Family Card, Farmer Card, health reforms, IT development, a corruption-free Bangladesh, and freedom of expression, along with pledges on the July charter, independence of the judiciary, decentralisation of administration, strengthening the anti-corruption framework, increasing employment

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্লাস্টিকের স্ট্র উৎপাদন, আমদানি, ব্যবহার, মজুদ, বিক্রয়, পরিবহন ও প্রদর্শন নিষিদ্ধ

- সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, প্লাস্টিক স্ট্র (Plastic Straw) পুনঃব্যবহার (Reuse) করা হয় না বিধায় একবার ব্যবহার করে ফেলে দেয়া হয় এবং পুনঃচক্রায়ন (Recycle) লাভজনক না হওয়ায় পরিবেশসম্মত উপায়ে সংগ্রহ কিংবা ডিসপোজাল করা যায় না।
- প্লাস্টিক স্ট্র (Plastic Straw) প্রাকৃতিক পরিবেশে ক্ষয়প্রাপ্ত হয়ে মাইক্রোপ্লাস্টিকে পরিণত হয়, যা পরিবেশে প্রায় ২০০ বছর টিকে থাকে। ফলশ্রুতিতে ক্রমাগত পরিবেশ দূষিত হচ্ছে। পরিবেশ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণে এবং জনস্বাস্থ্য রক্ষায় সরকার বিগত ০১ জুন ২০২৫ তারিখ হতে একবার ব্যবহারযোগ্য প্লাস্টিক স্ট্র (Single-use Plastic Straw) এর উৎপাদন, আমদানি, বাজারজাতকরণ, বিক্রয়, ব্যবহার, মজুদ, প্রদর্শন এবং বাণিজ্যিক উদ্দেশ্যে পরিবহন সম্পূর্ণ নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করেছে।
- এই প্রেক্ষাপটে, প্লাস্টিক স্ট্র-এর ব্যবহার পুরোপুরি বন্ধ করে এর পরিবর্তে পরিবেশবান্ধব ও টেকসই বিকল্প হিসেবে জনসাধারণ এবং ব্যবসায়ীদের নিম্নলিখিত সামগ্রীগুলো ব্যবহার ও বিপণনের জন্য উৎসাহিত করা হচ্ছে:
 - ক) কাগজের স্ট্র (Paper Straw): এটি ব্যবহার শেষে দ্রুত মাটিতে মিশে যায় এবং পরিবেশের ক্ষতি করে না;
 - খ) কাচের স্ট্র (Glass Straw): এটি স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত, পরিষ্কার করা সহজ এবং বারবার ব্যবহারযোগ্য;
 - গ) স্টেইনলেস স্টিলের স্ট্র (Stainless Steel Straw): এটি স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত, অত্যন্ত টেকসই এবং দীর্ঘমেয়াদে সাশ্রয়ী।

প্লাস্টিক স্ট্র → পরিবেশবান্ধব বিকল্প

প্লাস্টিক স্ট্র কাগজের স্ট্র কাচের স্ট্র স্টিলের স্ট্র

প্লাস্টিক দূষণ রোধ করি, বর্তমান ও আগামী প্রজন্মের জন্য টেকসই পরিবেশ গড়ি

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর
পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়

Thousands arbitrarily detained, denied bail

Says HRW report on 2025

STAR REPORT

The interim government has struggled to maintain law and order and deliver promised human rights reforms, with thousands of people arbitrarily detained and routinely denied bail, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its 2026 annual report released yesterday.

While some of the fear and repression that characterised Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule appeared to have ended, HRW said the interim administration has continued practices, including mass detentions of perceived political opponents and sweeping restrictions on political activity.

The New York-based rights watchdog noted that enforced disappearances and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Trade bodies seek urgent fix to port deadlock

B1



Iran's Khamenei 'should be very worried': Trump

P5



Not playing, but Bangladesh still in discussion

P11

ABUL KHAIR GROUP

23rd Death Anniversary

Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)
Death: 6th February, 2003

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your premature departure has made us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishers to pray for him from the core of heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved members of the family