



Depositors pull funds from Islami Bank amid protests

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Continued protests by a section of Islami Bank customers have triggered a surge in deposit withdrawals, placing the country's largest Shariah-based lender under mounting pressure.

The bank lost Tk 4,240 crore in deposits within seven days following protests that began on June 1 against the appointment of Md Khurshid Alam as new chairman by Bangladesh Bank. The demonstrations under the banner of 'Conscious Customers' Forum have disrupted operations at several branches.

According to internal data, Islami Bank's total deposits fell from Tk 1,84,382 crore on May 31 to Tk 1,80,141 crore on June 7.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Md Altaf Hossain, acting managing director of Islami Bank, acknowledged that the lender is facing significant withdrawal pressure. "Many customers are withdrawing their deposits due to the ongoing instability."

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PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Workers are busy stitching flags of nations competing in the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 at a workshop in the capital's Kadamtali yesterday. Factory officials said Argentina and Brazil flags are in the highest demand, followed by Portugal, Spain and France.

Bangladesh seeks Russia's support to join BRICS, SCO

Khalilur meets Lavrov

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought Russia's support for joining BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), as the two countries discussed strengthening cooperation among Global South nations in international forums, including the United Nations.

The requests were made during a bilateral meeting between Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow yesterday.

"Russian Foreign Minister replied positively," the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement,

With annual bilateral trade exceeding \$2 billion, Bangladesh also sought duty-free, quota-free access for its products in the Russian market and requested a faster registration process for Bangladeshi goods.

referring to the membership requests.

BRICS -- originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- is an intergovernmental grouping serving as a political, economic and diplomatic platform aimed at increasing the influence of the Global South in international governance.

The bloc expanded in 2023 with the admission of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia. Bangladesh also applied for membership that year but could not secure sufficient support.

The 10-member SCO is a major Eurasian political, economic and security alliance. It was founded in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and

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Govt moves to amend Cyber Security Act

Salahuddin tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday told parliament that the government has started the process to amend the Cyber Security Act to curb the spread of rumors, misinformation, defamatory content, and AI-generated deceptive images, videos, and audio on social media.

He said the revised law will also include provisions to compel international technology platforms, including Meta (Facebook's parent company), to remove harmful content within a specified timeframe.

Responding to a notice raised under rule 71 by reserved seat MP Helen Jerin Khan, the home minister acknowledged concerns about fake IDs, bot networks, AI-generated content, online harassment of women and children, and targeted smear campaigns against political figures.

He said that organised networks are manipulating public opinion and disseminating malicious propaganda through AI-fabricated media.

The minister added that

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100 DAYS OF BNP GOVT: ECONOMY

A tough journey starts, mired in controversies

Finance minister inherited a ruptured economy. Now comes the harder part -- fixing it

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The new government's finance minister got off to a controversial beginning almost immediately after taking office, with the abrupt departure of

news ticker despite having met with the finance minister just the day before, when he was given no hint whatsoever of what was coming. People close to him say that even a small signal would have been enough for him to resign

completely ignored the autonomy of the Bangladesh Bank. There is a specific process for removal, and for an appointment, there should be a search committee, a shortlist, and interviews. Instead, someone

Addressing the issues will be a major challenge because he [finance minister] has inherited an economy characterised by high inflation, muted investment, and a subdued private sector response.

Mustafizur Rahman, CPD distinguished fellow

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur setting an uncomfortable tone.

During the interim government's tenure, the then-governor had initiated several significant reforms to rescue Bangladesh's badly damaged banking sector. But he was removed in such a way that shocked economists and observers. Mansur reportedly learned he was no longer governor from a television

gracefully and leave on his own terms.

No one disputes that a government returning to power after two decades with a strong mandate has every right to decide who occupies the most important post in the financial sector. But the process of the governor's removal was a bad signal that severely undermined institutional governance.

"The way it was handled

was appointed within two hours without following any rules or regulations," said Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office.

A second controversy followed shortly after. A clause inserted into the Bank Resolution Act drew sharp criticism both inside and outside parliament. Originally introduced during

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TONU MURDER CASE

Seek Interpol's help to arrest two suspects

Cumilla court issues order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Cumilla court yesterday ordered authorities to take necessary legal steps, including seeking Interpol assistance, to trace and arrest two absconding suspects in the murder case of Sohagi Jahan Tonu.

The court also issued arrest warrants against the two suspects and directed investigators to collect the investigation and inquiry report prepared by the Bangladesh Army, along with records and documents relevant to the case.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Mominul Haque of the Cumilla Sadar Court passed the order.

The development was confirmed by PBI Dhaka Inspector Tarikul Islam, the investigating officer in the case.

According to court sources, the IO had earlier filed a petition seeking Interpol cooperation, including the issuance of Red Notices, against former sergeant Md Zahiduzzaman, 48, and former soldier Md Shahin Alam, 37, both of whom were stationed at Cumilla Cantonment at the time of the killing.

Zahid, from the Garghata area of Morelganj in Bagerhat, was serving with

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Biker tries to save child 'he hit'; both die

Mother also hurt as truck runs over all 3 during rescue bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

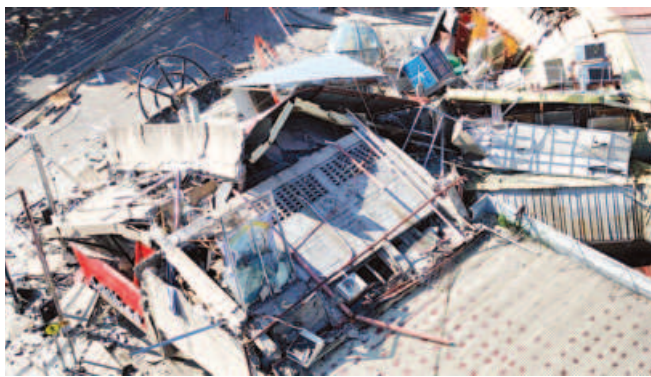
Akhi Khatun and her eight-year-old son Alif Hossain were on their way home from Pabna's Pakshi upazila on Sunday. What was supposed to be just a journey back home ended in tragedy when a motorcycle hit their three-wheeler on the Pabna-Kushtia highway in Ishwardi upazila.

On impact, the child slipped from his mother's lap and fell onto the road. His mother, Akhi, and Baki Billah, 35, the motorcyclist whose bike struck the three-wheeler, rushed to rescue him. Just then, a speeding truck ran over all three. Alif and Baki died on the spot. Akhi survived with injuries.

Contacted by The Daily Star yesterday, Pakshi Highway Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Md Nannu Khan narrated the incident, citing eyewitnesses. "The accident occurred in Koloikandi Bottola area around 9:00pm.... Upon receiving the information, police and firefighters rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies, rescued the injured mother, and sent her to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex."

He added that the truck driver fled the scene with the vehicle and that police are conducting drives to seize the truck and arrest the driver. "The child's father, Jahid Hossain, is preparing to file a case in this regard."

Meanwhile, Akhi is expected to return home today, according to the OC.



Children react as the roof of a structure at Deped Mahayahay Elementary School collapses during an earthquake in Digos, Mindanao Island, Philippines, yesterday. Inset, a drone view shows collapsed buildings after the magnitude 7.8 quake in General Santos, Mindanao Island. The disaster came eight months after the Philippines suffered its deadliest tremor in 12 years, when a shallow 6.9 magnitude quake hit off the central island of Cebu, killing 79 people.

PHOTO: REUTERS

32 killed in major quake off Philippines

Dozens hurt; military, rescue units deployed; 200 aftershocks recorded across Mindanao

REUTERS, Manila

The death toll in a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake off the southern Philippine island of Mindanao yesterday has risen to at least 32 with dozens of people injured, disaster officials said, as Manila stepped up search and rescue operations.

The quake, which triggered tsunami warnings across several countries, hit early in the morning about 20 km (12.4 miles) off Sarangani province, with the tremors felt strongly across Mindanao and 420 km (261 miles) away in the city of Manado on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

The Philippines mobilised military and disaster response teams and authorities were verifying preliminary reports of 32 people killed and 134 injured across Mindanao, mostly from falling debris and landslides, according to civil defence officials.

Tsunami warnings were cancelled after more than six hours in the southern Philippines, northern Indonesia and the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island, where residents in coastal areas had been told to evacuate immediately to higher ground.

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