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Education, work, dignity shape Rohingya hopes

Duchess of Edinburgh meets refugees to learn their dreams, struggles

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, *from Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar*

Mohammad Obaid, a sixth-grade Rohingya student, dreams of becoming an engineer and helping his community, but limited opportunities for higher education stand in his way.

He raised the issue with Duchess of Edinburgh Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones during her visit to a Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar yesterday.

"Please give me and students like me an opportunity. If I get an opportunity, I will become an engineer and help my community," he told her.

Obaid was among children who shared their ambitions and struggles with the member of the British royal family at the Unicef-supported CODEC Learning Centre in Camp 18, her first stop at the camps.

"Tell me about some of the challenges that

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Rohingya children share their hopes, ambitions and struggles with Duchess of Edinburgh Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones during her visit to the Unicef-supported CODEC Learning Centre in a camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, yesterday. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

FROM JS GALLERY

Benazir can't leave UAE amid extradition process

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed will not be allowed to leave the United Arab Emirates until the ongoing extradition proceedings are completed, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed told the parliament yesterday.

The minister said the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Abu Dhabi informed NCB-Dhaka in a letter dated September 9 that Benazir had been released on bail by the UAE public prosecutor but was placed under a travel ban by the country's authorities.

"The competent authorities of the UAE have imposed a travel ban on the individual," Salahuddin quoted the letter as saying.

Benazir was arrested in the UAE on June 12, 2026, following an Interpol Red Notice, the minister said.

He explained that extradition is a judicial and state process and does not automatically follow an arrest or the issuance of a Red Notice. The requested country's authorities and courts must examine the charges, arrest warrant, evidence and other legal requirements before making a decision.

Noor Hossain Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various political parties and organisations yesterday paid tribute to Shaheed Noor Hossain, marking Noor Hossain Day, which commemorates his sacrifice in the movement against the autocratic regime of HM Ershad in 1987.



The Workers Party of Bangladesh paid homage at Shaheed Noor Hossain Chattar in Gulistan, while Bangladesh Rastro Songskar Andolan held a discussion at its central office on Topkhana Road.

On November 10, 1987, Noor Hossain joined an anti-Ershad procession with the slogans "Shairachar nipat jak, gonotontro mukti pak" painted on his chest and back. He was shot dead by police when the procession reached the city's Zero Point.

The day is regarded as a significant milestone in Bangladesh's struggle for democracy.

The Workers Party delegation was led by its Acting President Mahmudul Hasan

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Two markets built for a town yet to come alive

Tk 25cr investment in Purbachal New Town lies idle; planners question strategy to attract residents

DIPAN NANDY

Two new markets built at a cost of around Tk 25 crore under the Purbachal New Town project have remained idle for six months since construction ended, as the leasing process stalled after the highest bidders failed to deposit the required security money.

The markets have 156 shops, but none has opened despite a competitive bidding which drew dozens of bids for each market.

Built by Rajuk in Sectors 1 and 5, the markets were intended to serve residents of the planned township. However, with much of Purbachal still uninhabited, the investment has raised questions about its timing and rationale.



PHOTO: **STAR**



Urban planners say Rajuk should have prioritised making the area liveable by ensuring essential civic amenities before investing in commercial infrastructure.

A visit to the Sector 5 market, opposite the International Trade Fair building, found little activity in the surrounding area. Apart from a handful of buildings, there is hardly any development nearby. Sections of the approach road are muddy, with stagnant water and overgrown bushes adding to the desolate surroundings.

The Sector 1 market, south of the 300 Feet Road, faces a similar situation, with few residents nearby. An informal market, however, operates near the entrance to Mazar Road.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

24,013 'politically motivated' cases withdrawn

Law minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has so far withdrawn 24,013 cases filed for political reasons or to harass individuals, Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman told parliament yesterday.

Responding to a question from MP Keramat Ali, he said the process began under the interim government and was continued by the current administration.

He said district-level four-member committees, headed by district magistrates, were formed on March 5 to scrutinise applications and assess whether cases were politically motivated and their withdrawal served the public interest. A six-member central committee, headed by the law minister, was formed on March 8 to review their recommendations.

Replying to a supplementary question from BNP lawmaker Zainul Abdin Farroque, Asaduzzaman said all types of cases, including murder, could be withdrawn if found politically motivated, except rape cases.

The minister also said 1,883 cases had been filed over killings, enforced disappearances and torture allegedly committed under the previous Awami League government since the July 2024 uprising. Of these, 805 were murder cases.

Investigations have been completed in 293 cases, with charge sheets submitted. Final reports have been filed in 91 cases, while investigations into the rest are ongoing.

RMG workers continue protests for higher wages

Two hurt in Ashulia clash, 11 Gazipur factories declare holiday

STAR REPORT

At least two garment workers were injured in clashes with police in Ashulia yesterday as workers demanding higher wages blocked a road, while 11 factories in Gazipur declared a general holiday amid unrest.

Workers blocked the Baipail-Abdullahpur road in Jamgora around 10:30am. Police fired teargas shells and sound grenades after protesters hurled brickbats.

The injured, Alamgir Hossain and Rafia Begum, work at Sterling Style Limited.

Harun-or-Rashid, operations manager of Ashulia Women and Children Hospital, said the two arrived around 12:15pm with injuries to their heads and bodies. Both appeared to have been hit by rubber bullets, he said.

Rafia was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a head injury, while Alamgir received primary treatment.

Mominul Islam Bhuiyan, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police-1, denied police had fired rubber bullets, saying, "These are propaganda spread by the Awami League. Our industrial police do not have such weapons."

Rafia was injured by a brickbat, he claimed.

Police later dispersed the protesters and brought the situation under control, SI Bhuiyan said.

Several attempts to contact Ashulia Police Station OC

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) held its 27th convocation on November 9 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal. President and IUB Chancellor Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir presided over the ceremony, while Bangladesh University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Mamun Ahmed attended as the special guest. Prof Ainun Nishat was the convocation speaker. IUB Board of Trustees Chairman Didar A Husain, Vice Chancellor Prof M Tamim and Pro-VC Prof Daniel W Lund also attended the ceremony, which was conducted by Registrar Asif Parvez. PHOTO: **COURTESY**

DoA forms team to inspect Dhirendranath Dutta's house

ASK slams vandalising signboard

STAR REPORT

The Department of Archaeology (DoA) has formed a six-member team to inspect the house of Dhirendranath Dutta, a Language Movement veteran and a martyred intellectual, in Cumilla and assess its potential for preservation.

Afroz Khan Mita, DoA regional director for the Chattogram and Sylhet divisions, signed an office order in this regard on Monday, reports our Cumilla correspondent.

The committee is scheduled to assess the property's current condition and prepare a report for its conservation. The report will later be sent to the department's head office for further decisions.

Dhirendranath Dutta's granddaughter Aroma

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