

SHAHEEDI MARCH Unveil a roadmap for reforms

Students urge govt,
place 5-point demand
STAR REPORT

From a mammoth march to commemorate one month of the fall of Sheikh Hasina, the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday demanded an immediate announcement of the roadmap for state reforms by the interim government.

Abu Baker Majumder, a key organiser of the movement that spearheaded the mass uprising toppling Hasina, announced a five-point charter of demand at the Central Shaheed Minar where a brief rally was held following the march.

Their other demands included financial and legal assistance to the families of the victims of atrocities during the mass uprising.

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Marking one month since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, thousands of students and people of all walks of life marched different streets of the capital yesterday. Students against discrimination, a platform which led the mass uprising, organised the event. The photo was taken near Farmgate.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

People won't have peace until Hasina brought back, tried Says Yunus in interview

AGENCIES

Bangladesh's ousted premier Sheikh Hasina should "keep quiet" while exiled in India until she is brought home for trial, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus told Indian media.

In an interview with Press Trust of India, conducted last Sunday at the chief adviser's official residence in Dhaka and released yesterday, Yunus made a strong case for Sheikh Hasina's return from India to face trial for atrocities she committed in Bangladesh.

Hasina, 76, fled to India by helicopter one month ago as protesters marched on her palace in a dramatic end to her iron-fisted rule of 15 years.

An interim government led by Nobel laureate Yunus has been under public pressure to demand her extradition

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CHIEF ADVISER'S MESSAGE ON A MONTH OF UPRISING -- PAGE 9

Fascists won't be allowed to return before their trials

Says Adviser Asif; Gono
Bhaban to be turned
into museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government believes that there is no chance to rehabilitate the fascists in the country until they are tried, Sports and Youth Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain said yesterday.

"We have seen some programmes which were organised to rehabilitate the defeated fascist forces. This government has been formed through a student people uprising. We think that there is no scope for the rehabilitation of the fascists until their trial is complete," he told reporters at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

The briefing was organised to
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Restore caretaker govt system

Urges CEC Awal as he, all election
commissioners resign

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Minutes before resigning as chief election commissioner, Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday proposed national elections be held under the caretaker government system. He also recommended the introduction of staggered elections and a proportional representation system.

Speaking at a press briefing, the CEC said a fair and neutral election free from the use of black money, muscle power, and the influence of the administration and police cannot be ensured by merely restructuring the Election Commission.

"Fundamental reforms to the electoral system will be needed. Changes in the political culture and behaviour, particularly in the behaviour of the candidates will be required," he said.

All the four other election commissioners also resigned yesterday. Of them, Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan and Md Alamgir were present at the press meet at the Election Commission Secretariat.

The CEC said they were resigning due to the changed situation in the country. The commissioners did not take any questions from journalists.



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Cops working, not effectively

Suffering from a loss of
credibility, morale a month
after Hasina's fall

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police have been largely absent on the ground in the one month since the fall of the Hasina-led government amid a mass uprising, causing safety concerns for the public.

Members of the force, mainly responsible for maintaining law and order, are still suffering from a serious lack of morale because of a fear of getting withdrawn, transferred, sued, and even arrested.

In the last one and a half decades, police turned into unquestioning enforcers of an increasingly authoritarian regime, and many see the police as a symbol of oppression. Police members understand this and are afraid of public wrath. Many officers went into hiding after August 5, said top police officers.

Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, adviser to the home ministry, yesterday urged the superintendents of police in the districts to work sincerely with the force and logistics they have.

It is the responsibility of the police to earn the people's trust which was eroded by past irregularities and corruption.

Sources said 700-800 officers, including some cadre officers, were still absent without leave.

Before and immediately after the ouster of Hasina, police faced unprecedented public fury as mobs set their vehicles and properties on fire and ransacked police facilities in reprisal to the law enforcers' use of excessive force, including lethal weapons, on demonstrators.

According to police sources over 450 police stations out of 664 were attacked, and some of the establishments were set on fire by mobs.

As per Police Headquarters data, 5,829 firearms and 6,06,742 bullets were looted. Of those, 3,763 guns and 2,86,082 bullets were recovered while the rest are missing.

Amid this situation, the law enforcers hardly venture outside their stations when not escorted by army personnel, especially after dark. Their services have remained largely limited to registering complaints and cases. National 999 hotline resumed operations on a limited scale on August 9 and fully on August 12.

But people are not getting the police services after calling the number because the police stations do not have enough police personnel and logistic support. For a time, all the 999 calls asking for police were referred to the armed forces.

"Everything including case dockets, warrants and vehicles have been burnt at my police station. Arms and ammunition were looted. We have started patrolling on a limited scale but many of the usual activities are suspended.

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- ➔ 278 cases against police in Dhaka city
- ➔ 38 cases filed against ex-DB chief Harun
- ➔ 36 filed against ex-IGP Mamun
- ➔ 450 police stations attacked nationwide
- ➔ 300 police vehicles vandalised, torched

BUSINESS

Unrest continues to weigh on industrial belts

After four days of closure, apparel production resumed in the Ashulia and Gazipur industrial belts yesterday morning amid tight security.

However, production was halted again in the afternoon in Ashulia as violence and vandalism erupted, leaving at least 37 people injured, including workers, police and pedestrians.

According to workers, unidentified miscreants attacked production units in the area despite the overwhelming presence of security personnel, forcing thousands of workers to flee.

However, production in Gazipur remained unaffected.

STORY ON B1



Farmers collect jute they had grown in the wetlands in the Birgram area of Natore. Officials said jute was farmed on 23,430 acres in the district this year.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

S Alam took more than half of Islami Bank's loans

Says the lender's new chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram-based business giant S Alam Group has taken more than half of the total loans disbursed by Islami Bank, said the Shariah-based lender's newly-appointed chairman.

At the end of June, Islami Bank's total outstanding credit stood at Tk 174,000 crore, according to the bank's records.

Another week is needed to gather the exact amount taken by S Alam Group, said Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud, chairman of Islami Bank, after a meeting with Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur.

The group secured the loans by using overvalued assets; a reassessment of the group's assets is currently underway.

S Alam's collateral is insufficient to cover the amount borrowed, hence a letter has been sent to the law ministry to identify any assets outside the collateral, Masud said.

When the new board took charge, the bank faced a capital shortfall of Tk 2,300 crore.

The central bank reconstituted the Islami Bank board on August 22, with Masud, the former managing director of Rupali Bank, as its chairman. Four independent directors were also appointed.

"However, the shortfall is narrowing daily -- we expect the situation to improve by the end of this year."

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Why your grocery list needs a makeover with hill produce

RBR

Recently, taking a complete U-turn from the usual vegetable bazaars, I decided to check out the indigenous vegetable shops in town. I love to shop for leafy greens and fresh vegetables, and I can never resist the tag of an organic farmer's market and jhum cultivation produce from the hills.

There are a handful of grocery shops that offer spices and cooking ingredients from the hills of Rangamati and Khagrachhari. Suchala Khisa, a hard-working entrepreneur, has run Hill's Fresh Food Bazar in Uttara for the last five years or more. Her small store has earned quite a reputation among the indigenous community and city dwellers.

"Shifting cultivation or jhum chash, practised by our indigenous communities, by clearing and cultivating the hill forests in plots of different sizes, and allowing them to regenerate naturally, yields the best vegetables," says Tenzing Chakma, a designer by profession who loves to cook.

So why do we love the cuisine and spices of the hills? Tenzing's answer to this query of mine was simple; the weather and soil up in the hill forests, and organic farming, brings in all the diversity. "Ginger from the hills has a definite kick in it, unlike the hybrid ones with pale taste grown elsewhere. Rangamati's turmeric is the most sought-after spice in our country. Our pumpkins have a distinct mushy texture, we use taro flowers, and turmeric flowers in our cuisine. We try to keep everything simple and only focus on bringing out the flavour of the vegetable or meat used in the dish," he



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

says. Khisa's small store is packed with fresh supplies from the hills and is re-stocked every Tuesday and Friday. "My stock of hill produce arrives early morning by bus and by mid-morning my stock is halved. Fuji or wild parsley, sabarang or lemon basil, taro and turmeric flowers, and seasonal roselle and roselle leaves, papaya, grapefruit, pumpkins, bamboo shoots, and many seasonal finds are available in my store," she explains.

The most expensive ingredients she

stocks, besides the chilli and turmeric powder, are her jhum rice grains. Local rice varieties such as chakhao, aromatic black rice, and the most flavoured rice grain binni, which is sticky and sweet, are available in both white and brown variants. But the nutty-flavoured kalijira grain, used mostly for pilaf dishes, stands out for its distinct flavours and textures in her store.

Her store carries a special ghee, or a traditional clarified butter, made in the hills. Nappi or sidol, which is the fermented dried fish paste, used

in most of their recipes, and pahari bon morog (red jungle fowl) are also available.

There is a distinct difference in jhum produce, which makes you want to go back again. While Hill's Fresh Food Bazar brings food produce from the green hills and rainforest areas of Chittagong Hill Tracts, there are many other stores in Dhaka, and online grocery pages too that carry specialised organic condiments and food ingredients from the hills. Community bazaars in Mohammadpur, Kamalapur, Mirpur, Kazipara, and Kalachandpur have been boasting such grocery stores for quite a while now. Besides fresh vegetables, such stores offer shaplapata (stingray), hangor (shark), narkeli (razorbelly minnow), kuchia (eel), and crabs by order only.

My favourite chef Arpon Chakma says that masala or spices are not the hero of Hill Tracts cuisine. "It is always the flavour of leafy herbs that are used at the last moment before finishing cooking that packs in the punch of our dishes. Shell fish and mud crabs cooked with fuji, Sabarang jhol with beef or chicken, fish paturi with wild basil, sabarang nappi side dish with gavi or rice flour; all these recipes use one flavour only. We do not mix too many herbs or spices in our cuisine, we just highlight the Indigenous produce," Arpon Chakma says.

The reason we love hill flavours and want to introduce the use of hilly herbs, spices, and ingredients in our cuisine is because of the characterised blend of flavours that are fresh and tangy giving our palate a distinct change of taste. So, this Friday check out one such store near you and try to make turmeric flower fritters. They are in season now.

Cops working, not effectively

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"Two vehicles have been provided by Rajarbagh Police Lines. We have yet to start going out and arresting suspects," said the officer-in-charge of a police station in the capital, wishing anonymity.

Md Mainul Islam, Inspector General of Police (IGP) admitted the shortcomings.

"We never stopped policing. In some places, police stations were damaged, vandalised... [We] did not have any transport: around 300 vehicles, meant for operations, were destroyed or burnt down. Those police stations need repairs, and its vehicles replaced," he told reporters at the Secretariat.

Officers have been transferred to the areas where there were no police activities, he said. "The new SPs, range DIGs, and commissioners joined their workplaces, and now the work will speed up."

Tabarak Ullah, chief of the 999 service, said the national helpline service officials are trying to assist people with limited workforce and logistics.

Since the fall of the Awami League government, 278 cases have been filed against 94 police members in the capital. The accused include three former inspectors general of police. From constables to high-ranking officials have been accused.

Eight additional inspectors general, seven deputy inspectors general, 12 superintendents of police, 14 additional SPs, six assistant SPs, 12 OCs, eight inspectors, 10 sub-inspectors, and an assistant sub-inspector were among the accused.

Most of the cases were for murder or filed under

the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, and the Arms Act, 1878.

Former DMP additional deputy commissioner Harunor Rashid, popularly known as DB Harun, is accused in the highest 38 cases, ex-IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun in 36 case, former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman in 33, and former DMP joint commissioner Biplab Kumar Sarkar in 27, according to police data.

Across the country, dozens of cases were filed against police officials. So far, 17 high-ranking police officers, including nine additional IGP's, two (supernumerary) additional IGP's, five DIGs, and an additional DIG were sent on forced retirement.

Former inspectors general of police AKM Shahidul Hoque and Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, and additional superintendent of police of Dhaka Abdullahil Kafi were arrested.

Immediately after the interim government took over, junior cops, including some cadre officials, went on work abstinence demanding, among others, their security and they be not used as political tools.

Quazi Zia Uddin, deputy inspector general of the PHQ, said, "Over 99 percent of policemen re-joined the work."

A high official in the PHQ also said that over 300 cadre officials between DIG and assistant superintendent of police ranks were transferred in the last two weeks.

More than 80 of them were of SP to DIG ranks. They were attached to different police units without assigning any specific job. The number of police is around 2.13 lakh.

People won't have peace until Hasina

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and trial over the hundreds of demonstrators killed during the weeks of unrest that ultimately toppled her.

"She has to be brought back, or the people of Bangladesh won't be at peace. The kind of atrocities she has committed must be addressed through a trial here," Yunus said.

He criticised Hasina's political remarks from India, calling them an "unfriendly gesture" that causes discomfort in both countries.

"If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," Yunus, 84, told the Press Trust of India news agency.

"No one is comfortable with her stance there in India because we want her back to try her. She is there in India and at times she is talking, which is problematic. Had she been quiet, we would have forgotten it; people would have also forgotten it as she would have been in her own world. But sitting in India, she is speaking and giving instructions. No one likes it," he said.

Hasina has remained

in India, her former government's biggest patron and benefactor, since her August 5 overthrow, inflaming tensions between the two South Asian neighbours.

She made a public statement the week after her arrival calling for Bangladeshis to gather in Dhaka to mark the 1975 assassination of her father, independence hero Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"It is not good for us or for India. There is discomfort regarding it," he said.

Hasina's comments were seen as a provocative effort to galvanise members of her Awami League party and undermine law and order in the fragile first days after Yunus took office.

Asked whether Bangladesh has communicated its stance to India, Yunus said it has been conveyed verbally and quite firmly that she should keep quiet.

"It is not that she has gone there on a normal course. She has fled following a people's uprising and public anger," he said.

Yunus said that while Bangladesh values strong ties with India, New Delhi must move "beyond the narrative that portrays every other

political party except Awami League as Islamist and that the country will turn into Afghanistan without Sheikh Hasina."

Referring to the recent incidents of attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh and India flagging concerns about it, Yunus said this is just an "excuse".

"The issue of trying to portray the conditions of minorities in such a big way is just an excuse," he said.

Asked about ways to improve the India-Bangla relations, Yunus said both the countries need to work together and it is on a downhill presently. "We need to work together to improve this relationship, which is now at a low," he said.

Speaking about the future of bilateral treaties with India, Yunus said there are demands for a relook at certain treaties such as transit and the Adani power deal.

"Everybody is saying that it is needed. We will see what is on paper and, second, what is actually happening on the ground. I can't answer it specifically. If there is any need to review, we will then raise questions about it," he said.

S Alam Group

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As of Thursday, the shortfall stood at Tk 2,000 crore.

Customers would no longer face difficulties in withdrawing funds, he said, adding that deposits last week exceeded withdrawals, resulting in a net positive balance.

Asked about actions against Islami Bank officials who assisted S Alam Group, Masud said: "We do not plan to take immediate action against junior officials right as it could destabilise the bank."

However, senior officials who were involved are already being removed, and all responsible parties will be dealt with according to the law.

"No one will escape accountability, and no wrongful removals will occur either."

At the meeting with Mansur, Masud presented a roadmap to address the bank's crisis in three phases.

The first phase, which will end on December 31, will focus on recovery.

The second phase, which will be between 2026 and 2027, will mark a "turnaround", while the third phase, from 2027 to 2029, will focus on moving the bank forward.

S Alam Group, a Chattogram-based business group blessed by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, occupied the bank, the largest private lender by deposits in 2017, by force.

Once a profitable bank, its financial health took a nosedive after S Alam Group gained control in 2017.

After taking control of the board, S Alam Group and its associated companies took Tk 74,900 crore loans from the bank, which is 47 percent of Islami Bank's total outstanding loans as of March this year, according to the bank's documents.

Restore caretaker govt system

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Election Commissioner Rashida Sultana did not attend the press conference due to illness and Anisur Rahman did not show up as he was against announcing the resignation at a press meet, said an election commissioner.

However, the two later confirmed The Daily Star that they stepped down.

A group of people demonstrated in front of the EC office demanding punishment of the commissioners for holding a lopsided general election on January 7. Some of them also threw shoes at the vehicles carrying Alamgir, Anisur and Rashida when they were leaving the office after resignation.

The CEC left the EC Secretariat in a friend's car.

In the afternoon, a Bangabhaban press statement said President Mohammed Shahabuddin accepted the resignations of the CEC and his four deputies.

The resignations came exactly a month after then prime minister Sheikh Hasina quit and fled to India on August 5 in the face of a student-led mass uprising. The president dissolved the 12th parliament the following day.

EC officials said the commissioners decided to quit as there is a constitutional obligation for the commission to hold general elections within 90 days after the dissolution of a parliament.

The Awal-led commission took office on February 27, 2022.

The EC had been at the centre of controversy during the Awami League rule. The Awal-led commission was criticised for holding the January 7 national polls in which the AL had to field dummy independent candidates, many of whom were from the party, to make the polls appear participatory.

WHAT THE CEC SAID

Reading out a written statement at the press meet, Awal yesterday said that there was controversy over the 1973 parliamentary polls, as well as over the 1979 and 1987 general elections held under military rulers. The Jatiya Sangsad elections in 1991 and 1996, held under caretaker governments, were acceptable despite some criticism of "major or minor irregularities".

He said the 2008 general election was not free from controversy.

The CEC said the 2014 election was not inclusive and no comment was needed for the 2018 national polls. The last parliamentary polls held on January 7 this year was not inclusive as the major opposition BNP and its like-minded parties boycotted the elections, he added.

According to Awal, holding an election is a very difficult job, and the blame for an unacceptable election has always been put solely on the EC.

He said an EC may be dishonest or biased, but all the commissions cannot be so. The EC may be unable to hold acceptable elections for various reasons.

"There were controversies over elections as those were not inclusive. This criticism is valid and reasonable."

The CEC put forward some proposals on holding elections. He said Bangladesh could be an ideal place for holding polls under a proportional representation system due to the homogeneity of its population.

It could be easier and more effective to organise a national election in four to eight phases, with a

break of three to five days between each phases, he observed.

Awal said that the use of technology in the election process, including the submission of nomination papers online, should continue.

"Moreover, achieving the objectives of an election can be further ensured through holding every general election under a non-party caretaker government."

In January 2007, then CEC MA Aziz and all other election commissioners resigned amid political turmoil after the announcement of the state of emergency on January 11.

Former CEC Justice AKM Sadek, who was mired in deep controversy over holding the lopsided parliamentary polls on February 15, 1996, also stepped down in April that year.

In the wake of a street agitation, ex-CEC Abu Hena resigned on May 8, 2000. Former CEC Justice Sultan Hossain Khan quit within 10 months of taking office on December 24, 1990. The development came a few days after the fall of military ruler HM Ershad.

Fascists won't be allowed

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disclose the decisions made by the advisory council at the Chief Adviser's Office in the afternoon.

Asked whether fascists would be rehabilitated in the country after the completion of the trial, Asif, hinting at the Awami League regime, said, "We have left the decision to the people whether the political party or alliance, which had established fascism in Bangladesh, will be able to do politics until their trial is complete."

He, however, said that the meeting did not discuss whether the fascists would be able to hold any public programme.

"But we will completely discourage it. The law ministry has started work on holding the trial for committing crimes against humanity."

Enquired whether the AL would be tried as a political party, the adviser said no decision was made in this regard. "A clear outline will be presented before everyone soon."

Asif said, "Since the Awami

League committed genocide in the country, the people will decide how they would return taking the responsibility for the genocide or if they will be allowed to return at all."

He said the advisory council decided to turn the Gono Bhaban, the former official residence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, into a museum to preserve the memories of the July mass uprising, its martyrs, and all the misdeeds of the fascist government.

The adviser said this work will start very soon.

The Gono Bhaban will be opened to the public, he added.

Asif, also the adviser for labour and employment, said a museum was built in South Korea to preserve the memories of a mass uprising there.

"There are such museums in other parts of the world too."

He said steps will be taken on how to make it a great museum and the ministries of public works and foreign affairs will jointly carry out

Unveil a roadmap for reforms

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identification and trial of the corrupt officials and collaborators of the Awami League government, arrest of the perpetrators of the mass killings, and declaring the Gono Bhaban as July Memorial Museum.

Meanwhile, Sports and Youth Adviser Asif Mahmud, who is also a leader of the student movement, declared the Gono Bhaban as the mass revolution memorial museum at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

Information Adviser Nahid Islam, another key

protest leader, also assured the families of the victims of government support. Speaking to the family of a victim at the Secretariat, he said it is the government's responsibility to ensure wellbeing of the families of those martyred during the mass uprising.

Several thousand students and general people carrying the national flag and placards participated in yesterday's 'Shaheedi March' from Dhaka University. They chanted slogans remembering slain students, including Abu Sayed and Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho.

They marched to the Central Shaheed Minar via Nilkhet, Science Lab, Kalabagan, Manik Miah Avenue, Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Karwan Bazar and Shahbagh. Many passersby were seen clapping, waving towards the crowd and filming the programme on their mobile phones.

Sarjis Alam, one of the coordinators of the platform, said at the Shaheed Minar that the students are ready to sacrifice their lives like the martyrs of the movement.

The participants of the march also shouted

anti-India slogans such as "Beware, the agents of Awami League" and "Delhi or Dhaka? Dhaka, Dhaka!"

Akhter Hossen, convener of Chhatra Shakti and former leader of Dhaka University Central Students' Union, said the country will resist if any other fascist force wants to grab the power.

"The participation of thousands of people today proves that the sacrifices of our martyrs cannot be allowed to go in vain."

Similar processions were brought out in other parts of the country, including Chattogram.

It's time to go back to study

Yunus tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called upon the students to return to their classrooms and campuses, as a well-educated and competent generation is required to reap benefits of the revolution.

"Now it's time to go back to study. Schools, colleges and universities have reopened," he said.

The chief adviser made the call in a statement delivered on the occasion of one month of the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime in the face of a student-led mass uprising.

"Today (Thursday), we mark the first month of Bangladesh's second independence. Hundreds of students and people from all sectors made the

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus pays tribute to the Armed Forces Division by placing a floral wreath at the Shikha Anirban inside the army headquarters yesterday. Prof Yunus, who visited the division as part of his official duties, laid the wreath to honour the sacrifices and dedication of the members of the Armed Forces.

PHOTO: PTD

UGC chair, five new VCs appointed

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

A new chairman was appointed at the University Grant Commission yesterday, while five public universities also got new vice chancellors.

The secondary and higher education division issued separate circulars regarding the appointments.

Prof SMA Faiz, former Dhaka University VC and Public Service Commission chairman, has been appointed as the new UGC chairman.

Rajshahi University's Physics Prof Saleh Hasan Naqib was appointed as the university's new vice chancellor, while Jahangirnagar University's Philosophy Prof Kamrul Ahsan was appointed VC of JU.

Meanwhile, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University's Entomology Prof Abdul Latif was appointed as the VC of the university.

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology's Mechanical Engineering Prof Mohammad Masud was made VC of KUET.

Dhaka University's Applied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Prof Muhammad Ismail was appointed as the VC of Noakhali Science and Technology University.

Sources in the respective universities said the new UGC chairman, along with the new VCs of JU and RU, are either current or former leaders of the

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Prepare, publish list of rivers within 2 months

Rizwana instructs BWDB, BIWTA, NRCC and DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the environment and water resources ministries, yesterday instructed the Bangladesh Water Development Board, BIWTA, National River Conservation Commission, and Divisional Commissioners to finalise the total number of rivers in the country within two months.

The jointly prepared list is to be published on a website for

determining the actual number of rivers in Bangladesh and ensuring the protection of endangered rivers from encroachment and pollution.

Representatives from the River Protection Commission, BWDB, BIWTA, River Research Institute, CEGIS, and eight Divisional Commissioners were present.

During the meeting, she said the environment department will prepare a list of the most polluted rivers and identify those

Waterway proposal, and relevant ministries would regularly review progress on implementing these directives.

In compliance with court orders, the amendment proposal for the National River Conservation Commission Act will be finalised within three months, with a committee formed for this purpose.

Opinions on the cost and impact of ongoing and completed river dredging projects must also be gathered.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Identify one river per district
- Create eviction plan for encroachments
- Focus on river protection
- Prepare 'Health Card' for each river
- Involve residents, youth, NGOs in monitoring
- Amend River Conservation Act in 3 months
- Joint campaign to stop polythene use



public opinion and objections, with hearings held to address any concerns, where applicable, she said.

Rizwana also directed the authorities to identify at least one river in each of the 64 districts and prepare a time-bound, cost-effective action plan within two months to evict illegal encroachments. Coordinated operations for river eviction would then follow.

The environment and water resources adviser shared these directives during a virtual inter-ministerial meeting on Wednesday night. The meeting focused on

responsible for the pollution, ensuring regular monitoring.

The department will also prepare a "Health Card" for each river, reflecting the river's condition, she added.

Rizwana said residents, the younger generation, social organisations, and NGOs must be involved and given monitoring responsibilities to prevent future encroachments and pollution.

The environment adviser also said BIWTA would hold discussions with experts regarding the status and feasibility of the Dhaka Circular

Government responsible for wellbeing of martyrs' families

Says Nahid, meets family of student killed in police firing on Aug 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the government's responsibility to ensure wellbeing of the families of those martyred during the mass uprising, Information Adviser Nahid Islam said yesterday.

Nahid said this at the Secretariat while talking to family members of Md Ramjan Ali, who was killed in a police shooting at Savar's Baipail on August 5, according to a media release.

Nahid, also the posts, telecommunications and ICT adviser, said a "new Bangladesh" was achieved because students and people took to the street and shed blood.

Nahid, one of the coordinators of the students' movement that culminated in the toppling of the Awami League government on August 5, pledged to provide monthly allowance and other benefits for the families of those killed during the movement.

Ramjan was a student in Nature's Singra. Besides, he worked at a fish depot in Baipail to meet family expenses as the sole breadwinner.



Dr Kamal proposes commission for NRB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain, president emeritus of Gonoforum, has proposed the interim government to establish a commission to address the challenges of the Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) community.



The commission will be given a mandate to address the challenges and explore new opportunities by engaging meaningfully with the diaspora community, Dr Kamal said in a letter dated September 4.

Addressing the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, he wrote, "I am very pleased and encouraged by the steps you are taking to address the urgent political and economic issues affecting the country..."

While proposing the establishment of the commission, he wrote that it could explore how non-resident men and women, particularly young people of Bangladeshi heritage worldwide, can participate and contribute more to the country's development.

"I sincerely hope you will consider this proposal sympathetically and act at your convenience," Dr Kamal wrote in the letter.

Banks asked to inquire about ex-Speaker's accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) yesterday instructed banks to seek information on all accounts of Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, former speaker of Jatiya Sangsad.

The anti-money laundering agency also directed banks to inquire about the accounts of four of her family members, including her spouse, son, and daughter, according to a letter by the BFIU.

Earlier, the BFIU had frozen the accounts of several influential politicians and professionals, including ministers from the recently ousted Awami League government, which was overthrown following a mass uprising on August 5.

BASHUNDHARA CHAIR, MD

CID to probe allegations of money laundering against them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Crime Investigation Department is going to investigate money laundering allegations against Bashundhara Group's Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Amvir, and others.

CID's Superintendent of Police (Media) Azad Rahman confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

Citing various sources, the CID, in a press release, yesterday said although some parts of the proposed land for the Bashundhara Residential Project received approval from Rajuk, the majority had not.

Allegedly, through their influence and financial power, Bashundhara Group has implemented the project by illegally filling in public and government properties, such as canals, wetlands, rivers, government land, fallow land, cemeteries, and memorial sites.

In the case of "Bashundhara Riverview", there are accusations of illegal land grabbing and filling without the Rajuk's approval, followed by selling plots to affluent members of society through advance payments or instalments, raising hundreds of crores of taka, it said.

"There have also been allegations of massive land grabbing in various blocks of the Bashundhara Residential Area by East-West Property Ltd, with an estimated value of over Tk 1.5 lakh crore."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Home adviser warns police against bribery and extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser to the interim government Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday vowed to take stern actions against police officials involved in bribery, extortion, and unethical practices related to recruitment and transfers.

Addressing a group of 26 newly appointed superintendents of police (SPs) at the Secretariat, he emphasised the need for immediate and decisive action to eliminate corruption within the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Stop violence against sex workers

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sex Workers Network of Bangladesh yesterday issued a 10-point demand, urging immediate government intervention to stop the widespread violence and abuse targeting female sex workers across the country, particularly in Dhaka.

The SWN's demands include bringing perpetrators of violence against sex workers under legal jurisdiction to ensure swift punishment, ensuring that relevant departments and individuals actively safeguard sex workers, and providing protection to sex workers through local administration.

They also demanded a halt to the eviction of brothels and the misuse of laws by the police against sex workers. Additionally, their demands included creating opportunities for the children of sex workers to grow up in a healthy, supportive environment within the mainstream community.

The demands were made at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Aleya Akter Lili, the network's president, emphasised the urgent need for swift legal action against those responsible for abusing sex workers.

Expressing concern over the safety of sex workers and the fear of eviction from the 11 brothels operating in the country, Lili called on the government to prioritise their protection.

Lili demanded equal treatment for sex workers in death and burial arrangements, without discrimination.



Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal walks out of the Election Commission office in the capital yesterday after submitting his resignation to the EC secretary. Besides him, all four election commissioners also resigned.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 6

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:35 12:30 4:30 6:20 7:45

JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

3 absconding death row convicts held

They fled from Kashimpur jail on August 6

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanjanj

Rapid Action Battalion on Wednesday arrested three death row prisoners, who had escaped from Kashimpur High Security Central Jail in Gazipur on August 6.

Tipped-off, Rab arrested them in two separate drives in Narayanjanj's Arahazar upazila and Munshiganj's Sadar upazila, said Tanvir Mahmud Pasha, commanding officer of Rab-II, during a briefing yesterday.

The arrestees are -- Mosaddek alias Sadek Ali, 32, and Md Jakaria, 32, of Arahazar, and Julhas Dewan, 45, of Munshiganj.

Some 203 prisoners including these three managed to flee from Kashimpur jail when inmates revolted on August 6. At least six prisoners were shot dead by prison guards on that day.



PHOTO: STAR

FLOOD IN MOULVIBAZAR

512km of roads, 12 bridges damaged

MINTU DESHWARA

The recent spells of floods caused damages to at least 512 kilometres of road network and 12 bridges in Moulvibazar district.

The rural road network in the district has been left in a largely dilapidated state as the floodwaters receded recently, exacerbating people's sufferings.

The damages sustained to the infrastructures will likely require more than Tk 500 crore to repair, according to sources at the Local Government Engineering Department and Roads and Highways Department.

Visiting different areas in Kamalganj upazila of the district recently, this correspondent observed that the roads suffered significant damages.

Bitumen has been removed from most of the roads, exposing the ground underneath and causing formation of numerous small and large potholes.

The Kamalganj-Kurma and Islampur-Madhabpur roads, in

particular, sustained extensive damage along a total 8-km stretch.

The Ghoramara Bhanubel-Nayapattan road was also seen in a similar condition, while around 50-metre stretch of the Gol's Haor-Sripur road has been eroded away.

Other affected roads in the upazila include: Kamalganj-Adampur, Bhandarigaon-Kurma, Adampur UP Office-Bhanubel GC, Bhanubel-Adampur, Nainarpar-Haktiarkhola, Adhkani-Jalapur, North Bhanubel-Adampur, Chaikkut-Kalenga, Alinagar UP-Adampur, Shamsernagar-Doublechhara, Adampur-Adhkani-Kewalighat, Bhurbhuri Bazar-Brindabanpur, and Aturghar Patanushar.

"The bitumen surface of at least 14 roads in the area was extensively damaged in the flood," said Shadikur Rahman of Bhandarigaon village in the upazila.

Zidan Mia, a CNG-run autorickshaw driver, said, "Driving vehicles through the roads has become extremely difficult and

risky due to the large potholes formed following the flood."

Md Abdal Hossain, chairman of Kamalganj upazila, said, "The damaged roads are causing sufferings to thousands of locals, while movement of large vehicles is completely halted on most roads as those are left in a sorry state after the flood."

Contacted, Md Saiful Azam, upazila engineer of LGED in Kamalganj, said around 90km roads have sustained damages due to flood in the upazila. It will require at least Tk 55 crore for repair works.

Ahmed Abdullah, executive engineer of LGED in Moulvibazar district, said a total of 437km roads and 12 bridges of LGED have been damaged across the district. It will require around Tk 432 crore to repair the infrastructures.

Kaysar Hamid, executive engineer of RHD in Moulvibazar, said, "At least 75-km roads of RHD have been damaged by the floodwaters. Some roads are still submerged in different areas."

BCL man who died in 2022 sued in an arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Safiqul Islam, former joint secretary of BCL's Jamalpur Municipality unit, died nearly two years ago on September 20, 2022.

However, he was named among 243 accused in an arms case filed by one Haider Ali with Jamalpur Sadar Police Station on September 3.

Haider Ali's complaint claims that on August 5, as he was returning home, a group led by former mayor Mohammad Sanowar Hossain Sanu unleashed an attack with locally-made weapons, firing blanks and leaving several injured. The group allegedly set Haider's motorcycle on fire and made off with his gold chain. And somehow, in this melee, the deceased Safiqul Islam allegedly played a part.

"I don't know why his name was included in the case -- he died almost two years ago," said Rafiqul Islam, Safiqul's brother.

Haider Ali, when contacted for comment, offered none.

Meanwhile, Officer-in-Charge Mahabbat Kobir, said, "If any case is filed against a deceased person, action will be taken after investigation."

Three more die of dengue

UNB, Dhaka

Three more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 91 this year.

During the period, 358 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Of them, 165 dengue patients were admitted to Dhaka hospitals.

France offers support for interim govt's reform agenda

French envoy calls on foreign affairs adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

France has offered Bangladesh technical, legal and institutional assistances in implementing the reform agenda of the interim government, particularly in the areas of curbing corruption, reforming governance and financial system.

French Ambassador Marie Masdupuy made the offer during a courtesy call with Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday at the foreign ministry.

Hossain assured that the interim government is determined to bring visible and sustainable

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

TK 2,200CR LAUNDERING SC dismisses Destiny Group MD's bail plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed Destiny Group managing director Md Rafiqul Amin's bail petition in a case filed over laundering of around Tk 2,200 crore.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division passed the dismissal order citing that the court has zero tolerance against corruption and lacks sympathy to the accused petitioner (Rafiqul) as the case against him involves laundering of a huge sum of public money.

Rafiqul Amin should remain in jail for some more time in the greater interest of the nation, the SC bench also said.

ACC allowed to run forensic test on Kamal's computer

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the ACC to conduct a forensic test on the Central Processing Unit of a computer used by former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal in connection with corruption allegations brought against him.

Judge Mohammad Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order.

In an application, ACC said Kamal and others formed a syndicate and took crores as bribes for recruitment of manpower, their promotion, and transfers to different departments under the home ministry, which is under investigation. So, a forensic test is needed to find vital clues about the allegations.

UN provides \$4m to support flood response

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has allocated US \$4 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to support the flood response in Bangladesh.

Joyce Msuya, UN acting under-secretary-general for Humanitarian Affairs and also emergency relief coordinator, announced the allocation in a statement on Wednesday.

The floods in Bangladesh since late August affected nearly 6 million people and caused an estimated loss of US \$156 million in livestock and fisheries.

BAPEX
BANGLADESH PETROLEUM EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COMPANY LIMITED (BAPEX)
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Administration Division, Foreign Purchase Department
BAPEX Bhaban (Level-4), 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
web: www.bapex.com.bd

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)
3	Company Name	Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co. Ltd. (BAPEX)
4	Procuring Entity Name	General Manager (Administration Division)
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation Ref No	BAPEX/ADMIN/INT/TEN-1262/2024, Date: 04-09-2024
7	Invitation for	Procurement of Data Acquisition Equipment (3D seismic data planning, Line Design & QC system with software, hardware & related services)

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement Method	One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM), International Competitive Tender (ICT)
9	Budget and Source of Funds	BAPEX Own Fund

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10	Division/ Project Name	Geophysical Division / 3D Seismic Survey at Habiganj, Bakhrabad & Meghna field
11	Tender Last Selling Date	27-10-2024
12	Place of Tender Selling	i) Accounts & Finance Division, BAPEX Bhaban (Level-3), 4 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215 ii) Accounts Division, Petrobangla, Petrocenter, 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215 iii) Accounts Division, Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd (TGTDC), 105 Kazi Nazim Uddin Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
13	Date & Time of Selling Tender Document	Tender Document will be available from 12-09-2024 to 27-10-2024 between 9:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs. BST on all working days (except Government holidays)
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	28-10-2024 at 11:00 hrs (BST)
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	28-10-2024 at 11:30 hrs (BST)
16	Place of Tender Receiving & opening	Foreign Purchase Department, BAPEX Bhaban (Level-4), 4 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

17	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maximum 2 (two) number of arbitrations against the Tenderer over a period of the last five (5) years The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 7 (Seven) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 (two) contract(s) successfully completed within the last 5 (five) years, each with a value of at least USD 300,000 (Three Lac) The minimum supply of license for 3D Seismic Data Planning, Design & QC is 2 licenses with necessary Hardware per year. The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital or credit facility is USD 4,00,000 (Four Lac) Tenderers from the countries which do not have diplomatic relationship with Bangladesh are not eligible.
18	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Purchase of 3D Seismic Data Acquisition Equipment to acquire of 1450 Sq km 3D Seismic Data 3D Seismic Data Planning, Design, QC System with Software, Hardware & Related Services.
19	Brief Description of Related Services	1. Commissioning & Installation: The bidder should provide service on Commissioning & Installation of the Software & Hardware at BAPEX Dhaka Office. 2. Work association: i. One (15 Working days+15 Working days) man-month and Five Working days for transferring knowledge to familiar interactive applications, tools, Planning, Line Design & QC procedure for 3D Seismic data.
20	Price of Tender Document	BDT 5,000.00 or USD 45.00 (Non-refundable)
21	Procuring Entity Details	General Manager (Administration), BAPEX
22	Address of the Official Inviting Tender	Administration Division, BAPEX, BAPEX Bhaban, Level-5, 4 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215
23	Special Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tender must remain valid for 120 (One hundred twenty) days from the date closing of the Tender. b) Time for completion of delivery: 90 (Ninety) days c) Mode of Shipment: By Air d) Amount of Tender security BDT 11,00,000.00 or USD 10000.00 or any equivalent amount of freely convertible currency in the form of Bank Guarantee or Pay Order issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly endorsed by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh located in Dhaka with full obligations and liabilities e) Tender Security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty eight) days from the date of closing of the Tender f) If tender opening day happens to fall on any holiday or any unavoidable Circumstance such as strike, Govt. holiday etc. tenders shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day. g) This Tender Notice will also be available at website of Petrobangla (www.petrobangla.org.bd), BAPEX (www.bapex.com.bd) and CPTU (www.cptu.gov.bd)
24	The Tender will be conducted as per the PPA-2006 & PPR-2008	
25	The Procurement entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or full of any or all tenders at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever	

General Manager (Admin)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Dinajpur
www.eed.dinajpur.gov.bd
Email: ee_din@eedmoe.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No.03/Repair/Renovation of Non. Govt. Educational Institutions/SHED (LTM)/2024-25 Dated: 05/09/2024

Memo No. 37.07.2700.003.00.000.24.932 Dated: 05/09/2024

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. This fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to **22-Sep/2024 at Time: 16:00**.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents	Tender security Tk.
1	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-19	Repair & Renovation Works of Bolaya B/L High School under Kaharol Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006833	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
2	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-20	Repair & Renovation Works of Nambari Girls High School under Birol Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006834	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
3	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-21	Repair & Renovation Works of Moklashpur High School under Birol Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006835	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
4	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-22	Repair & Renovation Works of Chowdhury Dangi High School under Birol Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006836	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
5	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-24	Repair & Renovation Works of Bijora School & College under Birol Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006837	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
6	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23-Sep/Rep-24	Repair & Renovation Works of Uttar Ramchandrapur Girls High School under Birampur Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006838	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
7	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-25	Repair & Renovation Works of Ganga Dashpur High School under Birampur Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006839	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
8	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-26	Repair & Renovation Works of Deshma High School under Birampur Upazila	1006840	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	40,000/-
9	EE/EED/Dinaj/SHED-5974/22-23/Rep-43	Repair & Renovation Works of Dhormapur High School under Birol Upazila Dist Dinajpur	1006841	22-Sep/2024 Time: 16:00	23-Sep/2024 Time: 13:15	20,000/-

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (licpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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I was 'banned' for seven years KANAK CHAPA

ZAHID AKBAR

Kanak Chapa, a renowned singer of Bangladesh, is a three-time National Award winner. Despite her accolades, she faced years of exclusion from state-run media and events, including Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar. She was even barred from performing in stage shows across the country.

You were blocked from various platforms for many years due to your political involvement. How do you reflect on this now?

I was banned for a full seven years due to my political identity. Although it may seem irrelevant, the Covid pandemic taught me a lot. I realised that one can survive with fewer possessions. Excessive food and luxuries are unnecessary, and true peace comes from standing closely with people in need.

Similarly, the restrictions on my artistic expression have actually benefited me. Since birth, I've been immersed in music, barely having time for self-reflection. I never had the chance to consider which songs I should or shouldn't have sung. During this period, I found time to think and listen, especially during flights. I would read letters from my family, listen to Quran recitations, and watch good movies. In real life, I never had any personal time. During this ban, I read many valuable books.

As I have already sung the songs I could afford to, what was the point of restricting me? It doesn't matter whether they play on TV channels or not, my songs have reached the audience and remained. I've never participated in the rat race of life. Instead, I focused on caring for my mother and spending time with my husband and children.

As an artist beloved by millions, how do you feel about the treatment you've received?

My country has always neglected me. I've rarely been invited to major stage programmes and have never been part of government delegations. I'm used to this. The National Award jury knows how many times I've been deprived of the award. Although I've

won it three times, the audience knows how many songs I should have been recognised for but wasn't. I have no regrets. Recently, the value of this award has diminished so much that I'm actually glad I didn't receive it. The love from the people has always been my strength.

An interim government has been formed following the ousting of the former AL-led regime. What's your opinion on this victory?



PHOTOS: STAR

After Almighty, I've always had faith in the youth. They are the strength and power. Fearless and extraordinary, they've shown that they aren't ignorant. While middle-aged people remained silent for years even when pushed to the wall, the youth demonstrated that tolerating injustice is also a crime. I often said on social media that the darker the night, the closer the dawn. They truly brought a new dawn, sacrificing their lives! May Allah reward them abundantly.

Can you share your thoughts on becoming active in politics?

I will continue to serve humanity as I have

done throughout my life. I can't say more than that. The political landscape is vast. I have the honesty and love required to work there, perhaps even more, but I'm just a politically minded person, not a political figure. I've realised how much knowledge a seasoned political personality possesses. I don't want to act ignorantly. Being active in politics requires in-depth study.

However, if ordinary people want to see me as their representative, I'll try to fulfil that role with my honesty and dedication.

As a singer, what are your expectations from the interim government?

My only demand from the country and the newly formed interim government is a Bangladesh free from deceit. I hope the new government will keep commodity prices tolerable, automatically deduct appropriate taxes at the source of income, eliminate bribery, and end street extortion. I also dream of a special lounge for our remittance-sending expatriates, similar to the VIP lounges. The allocated allowance for the elderly should reach them directly. People of all faiths should be able to live in this country with their full rights secured. I also want words like "underprivileged children" and "minority groups" to disappear from our dictionary and practical language use. Every school and college should have comfortable, usable bathrooms with soap and sanitary towels. I hope these hopes of mine get fulfilled.

What are your thoughts on the current music scene? When do you think the golden days of music will return?

Music is still being created. Artists are releasing their own songs, posting about them on social media, and others are reposting them. Artists are satisfied with this. Meanwhile, songs are getting millions and billions of views on YouTube as well! The entire music world (I don't call it the music industry) seems extremely content with this. I believe this contentment is one of the main reasons music has lost its way. When our celebrity stars (we're not producing artists anymore, everyone's either a king or queen!) move beyond this race for billions of views and start quenching the real thirst for music, only then will music return to its rightful place. Not a day sooner.



Farhan Akhtar marks acting return with war drama

Farhan Akhtar, who last starred in the 2021 film *Toofaan*, shared the first poster of the upcoming war epic *120 Bahadur* featuring himself in the titular role.

In an Instagram post, he wrote, "It's an honour to share the story of Maj Shaitan Singh PVC and the soldiers of Charlie Company, 13 Kumaon Regiment. Their legacy showcases their remarkable courage and heroism against all odds."

Directed by Rameez "Razy" Ghai, known for *Dhaakad* (2022), *120 Bahadur* has begun filming in Ladakh.

Sabnam Faria calls out bias in award recognition



Actress Sabnam Faria, who was led to believe she would certainly win the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actress in the 2018 film *Debi*, was ultimately let down.

Directed by Anam Biswas, the film features Jaya Ahsan, Chanchal Chowdhury and Sabnam Faria in pivotal roles.

Yesterday, Sabnam Faria has finally addressed the issue on her social media, stating, "Everyone talks about power and influence. How far does it really go, how big is its reach?"

"When the gazette listed someone else as the winner, I didn't lose sleep over it, but it's interesting how nature reveals injustices happening right before our eyes."

She concluded by expressing hope that all forms of recognition, including the National Award, be based on merit and skill rather than insincere flattery.

COUNTRYWIDE

BAGERHAT TOWN

Rain exposes poor drainage system

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY

The recent rainfall has once again exposed Bagerhat municipality's woefully inadequate drainage system and the sufferings it can cause to town dwellers.

Residents living in the municipality town always remain in constant fear as even a brief shower of one or two hours could once again submerge the town.

The drainage system of the municipality is so inadequate that even normal rainfall exceeds its capacity, local residents said.

They also urged the authorities concerned to take immediate step to prevent future flooding.

Last week, several hours of continuous rainfall flooded the entire town brought the daily life to a standstill.

Several important roads, including Khan Jahan Ali Road, Rail Road and PTI Intersection, and many residential areas of the town were completely submerged, making it difficult for local residents to manage their daily life.

People living in the town's low-lying areas were the worst sufferers as most

of the roads in those areas were either impassable or waterlogged.

Meanwhile, townspeople are getting extremely frustrated by the frequent waterlogging issue.

Sabiha Khanam of Puratan Bazar area said, "Water enters our houses even after a little rain. All the families here have been experiencing the same problem for a long time."

People won't get relief from such a situation until the drainage system is improved, she added.

While talking, Manik Howlader, a pedestrian, also blamed the long-neglected poor drainage system for the flooding and waterlogging.

Despite repeated attempts this correspondent could not reach any high officials of the municipality for their comments in this regard.

Earlier, Assistant Engineer Rezaul Karim Rizvi said repair work of five kilometres of drains in already underway. The municipality also have a plan to excavate the five canals, flowing through the town, to fix the waterlogging problem, he said.

197 global leaders

FROM PAGE 12

pointing to the role of Yunus and student leaders in ushering in a new era of democracy.

The call for change began after a violent crackdown by forces loyal to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in response to student-led protests. The students, demanding her resignation, ultimately succeeded when Hasina fled the country on August 5. Yunus was then chosen by student leaders to head the government.

"Just as the nation's young people have inspired [Muhammad Yunus], we know that he will inspire them to play a leadership role in bringing a bright new future to Bangladesh," the letter reads.

The global leaders expressed strong support for the interim government's commitment to restoring democracy through free and fair elections.

"We stand ready to help in any way we can to support the efforts of Bangladesh and

the interim government to lead the world in creating a new and better civilisation," they continued, echoing Yunus's longstanding vision of societal transformation.

Earlier, sitting heads of state, international institutions, and leaders like UN Secretary-General António Guterres voiced their backing for Yunus. Guterres emphasised the UN's full support for an inclusive and prosperous democracy in Bangladesh, pledging to collaborate closely with the interim government.

Former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, also a signatory to the letter, expressed his hopes for a brighter future. "I sincerely hope that, under Yunus's leadership, the people of Bangladesh will be able to enjoy freedom and that he will help Bangladesh become a free and democratic country."

Sam Daley-Harris, founder of Civic Courage, had urged global citizens to join the movement in support of Bangladesh's democratic aspirations.

Probe each

FROM PAGE 12

and condemned such ruthless acts and expressed deep concern over the incidents," according to a statement of the foreign ministry.

The government of Bangladesh reminded the

Indian government that such incidents of border killing are undesirable and unwarranted and such actions are in violation of the provisions of the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, 1975.

Single-use plastics

FROM PAGE 12

The letter also discouraged the use of plastic in flower bouquets.

The cabinet division has requested all senior secretaries, secretaries, divisional commissioners and district commissioners to instruct their respective ministries/divisions and affiliated offices/agencies to take appropriate actions on these matters.

Additionally, as part

of awareness building and taking effective steps against plastic pollution, the cabinet division has asked all secretaries of ministries/divisions to implement measures to declare the secretariat free from single-use plastics, as per a letter on August 15.

A date will be set for making the secretariat free of single-use plastics following further discussions, Hasan told The Daily Star.

Three more ICT cases filed

FROM PAGE 12

Families of victims started filing complaints against Hasina and others with the ICT after Law Adviser Asif Nazrul on August 15 said the interim government decided to try them at the tribunal for the killings during the mass uprising.

Meanwhile, a case was filed in Rajshahi against Hasina and 177 others over the 2015 murder of a BNP leader.

Hasina is now facing at least 129 cases — mostly on murder charges. Such a spree of filing cases against Hasina and others has prompted experts and the interim government to issue warnings.

In a press release on Wednesday, the National Human Rights Commission said putting people's names as accused in an uncontrolled manner weakens the cases.

"Inconsistent and deliberate cases aimed at harassment are not acceptable in any way," the commission said, calling for filing cases on specific charges. It also urged the law enforcement agencies to refrain from making arrests just because of these cases.

Of the three latest ICT cases, Supreme Court lawyer Abdus Sattar Palwan filed a complaint on behalf of

Sayed Akhter, sister of Anhaf Abir Ashrafullah of Delduar Upazila of Tangail, against Hasina and 35 others.

Ahraf, a third-year student of Manarath International University, was shot dead at Baipail in Ashulia on August 5. The other accused include former ministers Obaidul Quader, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Mohammad Ali Arafat, top former police officers, and leaders of the AL and its front organisations from Savar upazila.

Khairul Islam, brother of Saiful Islam Sekul of Durgapur upazila in Netrokona, filed another complaint with the ICT against Hasina and 22 others.

Saiful, an expatriate from Malaysia, was shot dead in Uttara on August 5.

Apart from Hasina, former ministers Quader, Asaduzzaman, Anisul Huq, Hasan Mahmud, Hasanul Haq Inu, Matia Chowdhury, Abdur Razaque, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, Mohammad Ali Arafat, former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, former DB chief Harunor Rashid, former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman, former director general of RAB

Harun Or-Rashid, the then officer in charge of Uttara East Police Station, Chhtra League President Saddam Hossain and General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Inan, former Netrokona AL MPs Ahamed Hossain, Ashim Kumar Ukil, Mostak Ahmed Ruhi and Sajjadul Hassan, and former Awami Jubo Mohila League general secretary Apu Ukil were made accused in the complaint.

The third ICT case against Hasina and the 22 others was filed by Bachchu Sarker, the father of Mehedi Hasan of Netrokona's Kalmakanda upazila who was shot dead by law enforcement agencies in the Savar Bazar Road area on July 20.

The same people were accused in the cases filed by Khairul and Bachchu.

In Rajshahi, the murder case was filed by Most Masufa, wife of slain ward unit BNP leader Majir Uddin, at Puthia Police Station on Wednesday night. Besides Hasina and the 177 others, including former ministers Quader, Asaduzzaman and former state minister for foreign affairs Shahriar Alam, Masufa accused 260 unnamed people of killing her husband, said Kabir Hossain, OC of the police station.

Man beaten up

FROM PAGE 12

happened around 12:15am in the Sonadanga residential area.

Locals and some police officials wishing anonymity said that the man posted "offensive" content on his social media page, prompting some students to confront him around 8:30am. They took him to the KMP DC's office at Sonadanga.

As news of the post spread, hundreds of locals gathered outside the office, demanding the man be handed over to them.

To prevent the situation

from escalating, teams from the army and the navy went there to assist the police control the crowd. However, when police brought him out to take him to the police station, the mob beat him up severely.

KMP DC Tajul Islam said he had assured locals that legal action would be taken against the man, but the mob did not listen.

The ISPR press release said when members of the armed forces reached the spot, some unruly people attacked the man who was in

police custody. Members of the armed forces put in a tremendous effort to rescue the person alive, it said.

The press release noted that a case against the accused over hurting religious sentiment was under process of being filed, and subject to his recovery, the army will hand him over to law enforcement agencies following due process.

ISPR requested people to not be misled by rumours on social media about the death of the person in question.



This road in front of Bagerhat Municipality Office often remains filled with rainwater even after a brief shower, exposing inadequate drainage system of the municipality.

PHOTO: STAR

14-year-old boy kills four in US school shooting

AFP, Windsor
A 14-year-old boy killed four people, including two students, and wounded nine more when he opened fire at a high school in the US state of Georgia yesterday, law enforcement said.

The suspected shooter – also a student at the school – had been brought to the FBI's attention more than a year ago for threats to commit a school shooting, the agency said.

He was taken into custody after Wednesday's shooting and will be tried as an adult on murder charges, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said.

Two teachers were also among the dead.

Smith said police did not yet know if the shooter singled out specific people as targets, adding later that the nine wounded were expected to recover.

The two students killed were also 14 years old, authorities said.



Aerial view of an illegal fire in the Amazon rainforest on the banks of the BR-230 (Transamazon Highway), near the city of Labrea, Amazonas state, northern Brazil, taken on Tuesday. Forest fires have been raging for several weeks in Brazil, particularly in the Amazon rainforest in the north and the immense Pantanal wetland in the center-west of the country. PHOTO: AFP

Air pollution decline in China, Europe: UN

AFP, Geneva
Fine particle air pollution declined in Europe and China last year as emissions linked to human activity dropped, the United Nations said in a report published on Thursday.

Nanoparticles known as PM2.5 pose a severe health risk if inhaled over long periods of time as they are tiny enough to get into the bloodstream.

The particles come from human activity like the combustion of fossil fuels, transportation and industry, as well as wildfires and wind-blown desert dust.

"The 2023 data shows a negative anomaly, which means a drop in PM2.5 compared to the reference period of 2003-2023 over China and Europe," said Lorenzo Labrador, a scientist at the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The UN agency, in an annual bulletin published ahead of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies on September 7, stressed that air quality and climate change were closely linked.

"Climate change and air quality cannot be treated separately. They go hand-in-hand and must be tackled together," WMO Secretary General Ko Barrett said in a press release.

The chemicals responsible for atmospheric pollution, WMO stressed, are usually emitted at the same time as greenhouse gases.

Nine out of 10 people breathe highly polluted air, according to the World Health Organisation.

Putin backs Harris for US president

AFP, Moscow
Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said he supported Kamala Harris in November's US presidential election, an apparent wry remark that led to a renewed call from Washington for the Kremlin to "stop interfering".

Putin was speaking a day after the United States issued indictments accusing Moscow of vote interference.

The Kremlin leader frequently comments on political and social issues in the United States, often in a mocking way.

He said last year that the US political system was "rotten" and that Washington could not lecture other countries about democracy.

US officials have repeatedly warned of efforts by foreign powers to meddle in the upcoming US election, accusing Moscow of seeking to influence US ballots dating back to the 2016 contest between Trump and Hillary Clinton.

"Firstly, Biden recommended all his supporters support Mrs Harris," Putin said during a press meet at Russia's Eastern Economic Forum.

Biden withdrew from the race in July amid concerns about his age and health, endorsing Vice President Harris to top the Democratic Party's ticket.

"Here, we are going to do that too, we're going to support her," Putin told the audience, with a wry smile.

'Main' goal is to capture Ukraine's Donbas

Says Putin, claims Kyiv's Kursk counter-offensive made his goal easier; Ukraine appoints new PM

AFP, Moscow
Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday said his main aim in Ukraine after 30 months of fighting was to capture the eastern Donbas area – and claimed that Ukraine's Kursk counter-offensive had made that easier.

Putin was speaking a day after Russia attacked Ukraine's western Lviv region with deadly strikes, and after recent advances by Moscow's forces in the Donbas.

Since the start of its offensive in February 2022 when it failed to capture the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, Russia has adapted its aims, concentrating instead on trying to conquer eastern Ukraine.

While Ukraine's surprise push into Russia's Kursk region last month caught Russian forces off-guard, Putin stressed that the move had failed to slow Moscow's advance in occupied Ukraine.

"The aim of the enemy (in Kursk) was to force us to worry, hustle, divert troops and to stop our offensive in key areas, especially in the Donbas, the liberation of which is our main primary objective," Putin said at a forum in Vladivostok, in Russia's far east.

Russia claims the eastern Donetsk region and three other Ukrainian regions, as its own.

Moscow has this summer advanced strongly and its troops are now around a dozen kilometres from the city of Pokrovsk – a key logistics hub in east Ukraine from where thousands have now fled.

Putin said Ukraine had sent "quite well-prepared units" into Kursk and so had made Moscow's

advance in Donbas quicker. "The enemy weakened itself in key areas, our army has accelerated its offensive operations," he argued.

Putin also claimed that Moscow's army has begun to push out Ukrainian forces from the Kursk region, where Kyiv's forces have held on to towns and villages for almost a month.

The Kremlin has claimed Russia

Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

"Are we ready to negotiate with them? We have never refused to do so," Putin said yesterday.

"But not on the basis of some ephemeral demands, but on the basis of those documents that were agreed and actually initialled in Istanbul," he added.

The Kremlin has claimed Russia



Earlier this week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told US TV channel NBC that Ukraine would hold on to the territory captured in the Kursk region.

While Russian officials have rushed in recent weeks to say that the Kursk incursion makes any talks with Ukraine impossible, Putin appeared to roll back those statements.

But Putin has repeatedly said that Moscow can only negotiate with Ukraine if Kyiv surrenders four of its regions – Donetsk,

and Ukraine were on the verge of a deal in the spring of 2022, shortly after Moscow launched its offensive in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's parliament yesterday approved the nomination of Andriy Sybiga as foreign minister, part of the biggest government reshuffle since the full-scale Russian invasion.

He replaces Dmytro Kuleba who pressed the West to come to Ukraine's aid after Russia's invasion and to provide it with weapons to fend it off.

Xi promises \$50b for Africa

AFP, Beijing
Chinese leader Xi Jinping yesterday pledged more than \$50 billion in financing for Africa over the next three years, promising to deepen cooperation in infrastructure and trade with the continent as he addressed Beijing's biggest summit since the Covid pandemic.

More than 50 African leaders and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres are attending the China-Africa forum, according to state media.

African leaders already secured a plethora of deals this week for greater cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, mining, trade and energy.

Xi hailed ties with Africa as their "best period in history" as he addressed the leaders at the forum's opening ceremony in Beijing's ornate Great Hall of the People yesterday.

"China is ready to deepen cooperation with African countries in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, trade and investment," he said.

"Over the next three years, the Chinese government is willing to provide financial support amounting to 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion)," Xi said.

More than half of that will be in credit, he said, with \$11 billion "in various types of assistance" as well as \$10 billion through encouraging Chinese firms to invest.

He also promised to help "create at least one million jobs for Africa".

Xi pledged \$141 million in grants for military assistance, saying Beijing would "provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa".

Guterres told the forum that growing ties between China and Africa could "drive the renewable energy revolution".

"China's remarkable record of development – including on eradicating poverty – provides a wealth of experience and expertise," he said.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi hailed the summit as a "complete success" at a joint news conference with his Senegalese and Congolese counterparts later.

"When China stands shoulder to shoulder alongside (its) African strategic partners, we will inevitably play a greater role in promoting prosperity for the peoples of China and Africa, and in upholding global peace and stability," Wang said.

Congo's Jean-Claude Gakosso described China-Africa relations as "exceptional".

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa lauded China's \$50 billion pledge as a "great boon" for Africa.

China, the world's number two economy, is Africa's largest trading partner and has sought to tap the continent's vast troves of natural resources including copper, gold, lithium and rare earth minerals.

Death toll in Poltava hits 55

AFP, Kyiv
The death toll from a Russian missile strike on Ukraine's city of Poltava rose to 55 with over 300 wounded, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

The strike hit the Poltava military communications institute on Tuesday, according to Ukrainian officials who did not specify how many of the victims were military or civilians.

On Tuesday, the official toll stood at 51 people killed in one of the single deadliest strikes of the two-and-a-half-year war.

Advertisement

ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD. GENEROSITY SHINES IN SUPPORT OF BANGLADESH FLOOD VICTIMS

In a heart warming gesture of solidarity, ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD. has come forward to support the flood victims of Bangladesh. The employees of the company have donated their one-day salary and a significant amount of clothing to the Chief Adviser's Relief & Welfare Fund and to the Bangladesh Army to aid those affected by the recent devastating floods.

The donation aims to provide immediate relief to the flood-stricken communities, ensuring they have access to essential resources during this challenging time. Representative of the company expressed his commitment to supporting the nation and standing by the affected families.

"We believe in giving back to the community and helping those in need. This donation is a small step towards alleviating the suffering of the flood victims," said a spokesperson from ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD.

The generous contributions from the employees of ASMARA (BD) PVT. LTD. highlight the power of unity and compassion in overcoming adversity. Their support is a beacon of hope for the flood victims, demonstrating that together, we can make a difference.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Naogaon.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.: 46.02.6400.07.000.001.24-3072 Date: 05.09.2024

Corrigendum of Tender Notice No. : 05/2024-2025
Tendering Method (OTM).

Following amendments has been made to the Tender Notice No. 05/2024-2025 vide Memo No.: 46.02.6400.07.000.001.24-2435, Date : 30/07/2024

Sl No	Tender ID No	Original			Amended		
		Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
01	1004084, 1004085, 1004086, 1004087, 1004088, 1004089, 1004090 & 1004092	28-Aug-2024 17:00	29-Aug-2024 12:00	29-Aug-2024 12:00	18-Sep-2024 17:00	19-Sep-2024 12:00	19-Sep-2024 12:00

This Notice of corrigendum will be treated as a part & parcel of the tender documents. All other terms and conditions will be remained unchanged.

(Tofail Ahmed)
Executive Engineer
Ph: 01708-123218
e-mail : sen.naogaon@lged.gov.bd

GD-361

Bangladesh Land Port Authority
Ministry of Shipping
Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) –
Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project
Land Port Building, Plot No. F-19/A, Shere-e-Bangla Nagar,
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24-06 Dated: September 4, 2024.

Amendment of Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)
(Consulting Services – Firms Selection) (International)

The REOI published vide Memo No.: 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24-01, Dated: September 2, 2024 for the Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision and Contract Management (CSC), Reference No.: BLPA-S1 will have the following amendment.

The second para of REOI mentioned the name of Land Ports that are Ramgarh, Sheola, Bhomra, and Benapole will be substituted by Burimari, Bhomra and Benapole Land Ports.

Other text of REOI will remain unchanged.

(Md. Ruhul Amin Miah)
(Service ID-15346)
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Land Port Building
F-19/A, Shere-e-Banglanagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
E-mail: pdaccessblpa@gmail.com

GD-358

Ridding the admin of corruption is vital

We must ensure the accountability of corrupt officials

We are encouraged by the recent push for building a corruption-free and public interest-driven civil administration. This will not be a cakewalk given how deeply embedded corruption has been for over 15 years, with remnants of the old regime still resistant to any change that may expose past transgressions or challenge the "business as usual" approach. But a pro-people reform in our administrative culture is long overdue. And it must be pursued regardless of any resistance and to honour the spirit of the mass uprising that claimed over 1,000 lives, as per a recent estimate.

On Wednesday, in his first meeting with the secretaries of all ministries and divisions, the chief adviser encouraged top officials of the state to "think outside the box" while bringing about reforms in government operations. Among other things, he underscored the importance of initiatives targeting corruption and simplifying provision of services to "achieve the highest level of public satisfaction." There is no denying that corruption committed, enabled, or ignored by civil servants is a major reason behind the woeful state of our institutions. So minimising their chances of corruption—starting from before recruitment to even post-retirement—and building a strong accountability mechanism can help largely prevent it.

The administration has already started the process of establishing accountability by initiating some measures. Among them is the mandatory disclosure of assets by all officials and employees across the public system, regardless of whether they fall under the tax net or not. While such regulations have existed for years, they have largely been ignored or loosely enforced. Reportedly, no one will be exempt from submitting their asset declarations, with particular focus on officials at public administration, police, customs, tax, and registration departments. Those in the judiciary have already submitted their declarations. The government has also sent a strong message that anyone found involved in corruption will be punished, including senior officials who will be held responsible not only for their own conduct but also that of their subordinates.

However, perhaps the most significant aspect of this anti-corruption drive has been in its focus on instilling ethical governance at every level. In his address to the secretaries, the chief adviser also urged officials to work for the public, not out of fear but a sense of duty to them. His call for public servants to uphold national interest and moral responsibility in all their dealings is a reminder that public service is a duty to the people, not an opportunity for personal gain. Over the years, this message was significantly diluted as public servants were showered with not just perks and benefits but also opportunities for corruption.

Going forward, we hope this message will be consistently conveyed with matching actions to build an administration that exclusively serves public interests. As for the drive to collect asset declarations, it is vital that this doesn't turn into a pointless routine like that of the submission of affidavits by political candidates during elections. The authorities must follow up on the declarations by investigating the veracity of their contents and taking necessary actions if irregularities are found. This process of accountability for assets acquired by public servants and all other aspects of their operations must continue regularly.

Injured protesters need better help

Financial assistance for their treatment must be disbursed soon

The mass uprising in July-August has brought us freedom from an oppressive regime but at a huge cost, as evidenced by the sufferings of those who lost their loved ones and those who are still languishing in hospitals with irreparable injuries for over a month. One government estimate puts the total number of casualties during the protests at over 17,000, of which the number of fatalities could be as high as 1,000. This just shows how great the cost of this freedom was.

According to Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, more than 400 people alone lost their eyesight because of bullet wounds. Many who were shot in the head have little hope of surviving, as complicated and risky surgeries are often required to remove bullet residues. What's more heart-rending is the fact that many of the wounded are young people barely in their teens or twenties. The emotional and financial toll for the families of the injured defies description. Sadly, the inefficiencies of our health system are adding to the stress of these families. Although the interim government has waived treatment costs and hospital bills for the injured currently under treatment at public hospitals, the families still have to pay for medicine and tests unavailable in these hospitals. For the wounded patients in private hospitals, the medical cost is even higher.

The government's announcement on August 17 to bear all medical expenses of the injured came as a positive move. However, that assistance is yet to reach many as the government is still in the process of completing the list of fatalities and injuries from the July-August uprising. Under the circumstances, the government may consider disbursing financial assistance in phases, prioritising those whose information on injuries has been confirmed. That would provide some respite to the families who urgently need help. The government may also consider streamlining all donations for the injured by urging people to donate through the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund. The most crucial measure would be to ensure that unnecessary medical and logistical delays do not exacerbate the sufferings of the wounded.

Finally, the government should plan for the rehabilitation of people maimed for life so that they can return to normalcy. Ensuring that these victims of an autocratic government get all the help they need to recover and rebuild their lives is a moral duty for all of us, especially the interim government that emerged out of the foundation of their sacrifices.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Princess Diana's funeral held

On this day in 1997, about a week after her death in a car accident, a funeral was held for Princess Diana. An estimated 2.5 billion people watched the televised ceremony, which included a performance by Elton John.

Two hours with the chief adviser

THE THIRD VIEW



Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

For me, it was after 12 years that I could get anywhere close to the highest seat of power, leave alone have an exchange of views. The former prime minister never allowed the largest circulated English daily of the country, its editor or any of its journalists access to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) or to cover any event where she would be present. The reason I mention it is to point out that, by law, any position—except perhaps those devoted to national security—that is run using public money cannot be kept out of the process of accountability, including and especially that of the media. She broke the law by denying us access to the highest seat of governance. When former US President Donald Trump threw out CNN's White House correspondent because he loathed the new network, a federal court reinstated him in less than two weeks, saying no office run by taxpayers' money can be denied access to the media. But here she was, the "law" and the courts were at her beck and call. For us to go to the court would—as we thought, and our suspicion was justified by examples—have led to a judgment that would give a legal veneer to an illegal act. We were denied access for 12 years until the chief adviser (CA) of the interim government called us on Tuesday. The same fate was meted out to the highest circulated Bangla daily in the country, *Prothom Alo*. Our only crime was that we wanted to hold power to account.

Hopefully, that story has ended forever in Bangladesh, along with one-person rule, one-person bank loot, one-person-led loan default culture—who changed his looks and garb to pretend piety while looting the stock market, bond market, etc, and at the same time destroying financial discipline. Hopefully, we also have seen the end of abuse of power, cronyism, corruption, extrajudicial killings, and forced disappearances—an endless list of degeneration that 15 years of unaccounted for rule led us to.

Yesterday, we commemorated one month after the end of this repressive regime. It was a transformative moment when people from all walks of life spontaneously joined the students in a united struggle for freedom.

The two hours with the chief adviser, Prof Muhammad Yunus, began with a refreshing modesty. Instead of "I know everything, listen to me, wonder, and applause," he began by unhesitatingly sharing how onerous the tasks he faces are, how little time he has to accomplish it, how limited his own and his team's expertise is, and how desperately he

needs the support of all people, and especially of the media. What a breath of fresh air it was—especially for those of us who tried our best to speak truth to power in the last 15 years—when Prof Yunus urged the editors to say, as loudly as possible, whenever we saw something wrong being committed by his cabinet. From a culture of "I cannot make any mistake because I love my people and Bangladesh always benefits when my party and I are in power," to an open and sincere invitation to criticise the government which—the CA understood and the former PM did not—would only help him achieve the goals that the people want him to. The modesty, the humility, the openness and, above all, the sincerity won our hearts and minds.



FILE PHOTO: PID

The most challenging task that the chief adviser sought the media's help in is to work towards unifying the nation.

The most challenging task the CA sought our help in was to work towards unifying the nation. He felt, and we agreed, that today we stand dangerously divided, which must be ended as soon as possible. It is this division that gravely corroded all our previous attempts to take the country forward. He did not explain the issue in detail, and neither could we, but we all felt, intuitively and deeply, the centrality of that particular challenge.

There were talks about the reform of the constitution, especially devolving the unrestrained power that our constitution gave to the head of the government. There were talks of making the judiciary independent, empowering the Anti-Corruption Commission (which is described by one of its chairmen as a "toothless tiger"), human rights and all other statutory bodies powerful and independent enough to do their

granting functional autonomy to the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Bangladesh Television (BTV), and Bangladesh Betar so that public money is no longer wasted on propaganda for the government.

In his introductory remarks, Prof Yunus raised the question of the length of the interim government's tenure. He added that the political parties he had spoken with so far had given two broad views: "take as long as you need," and "take a reasonable amount of time" without defining what reasonable meant. Most of the editors responded by saying that the interim government should first set out its agenda and use that to determine the time it needed, and not go the other way of allowing the specificity of time to determine its agenda. The very few who gave any specific time frame, which varied between one and three years, added that the "honeymoon period" may not last for long, adding

community played an ignominious role, casting aside all ethics and norms of good journalism, thereby shaming all journalists.

There are two fundamental streams of work that the interim government needs to do: one is to run the everyday affairs of the government, and the other is to reform it. The first is itself a massive task that would occupy the full energy and resources of a full-fledged elected government in any country, made more so by the injustices, discrepancies, corruption and bad governance left behind by the ousted regime.

The second is the task to create for us a chance to build a better future. A one-minute pause by any of us would bring to our focus the tremendous challenge that the interim government faces.

Let us help them and give them time, patience, understanding and, most importantly, trust.

RESTORING POWER TO THE PEOPLE

A step towards a fair energy pricing system

Helen Mashiyat Preoty is senior research associate at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Mashfiq Ahasan Hridoy is research associate at CPD.

HELEN MASHIYAT PREOTY and MASHFIQ AHASAN HRIDOY

Exactly 10 days after taking office, the interim government of Bangladesh made a significant shift in the power and energy sector by announcing the discontinuation of the Quick Enhancement of Energy and Power Supply Act, 2010 and the cancellation of its executive authority to raise power and gas prices without a public hearing by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC). This much-needed shift towards transparency and accountability repeals the controversial clause, which allowed the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources to unilaterally set energy prices, and will help restore BERC's authority. This reinstatement of public hearings marks a return to democratic principles in energy governance and reflects a broader commitment to safeguarding consumer interests.

For nearly two years, Bangladeshi consumers have suffered under an executive system that gave the government unchecked power to set energy prices without their input. The 2022 amendment to the BERC Act was intended to stabilise energy supply

and address economic needs quickly. Instead, it led to repeated price hikes, straining household budgets and causing widespread dissatisfaction. In 2024 alone, the former government raised electricity tariffs four times without offering any public justification.

The now-repealed Section 34 (A) of the BERC Act bypassed the regulatory oversight intended to check government power, undermining transparency and public participation. By sidelining BERC, the government weakened the commission's role as a regulatory authority and eroded public trust. Without public hearings, consumers felt powerless and excluded, leading to a sense of injustice and disenfranchisement.

Repealing the ministry's price-setting powers and reinstating BERC's role is more than just restoring procedure—it represents a commitment to public involvement in crucial decisions. This move underscores the government's dedication to transparency and good governance, particularly in the energy sector. However, while reintroducing public hearings is a positive step, it alone

cannot ensure fair or rational energy pricing. The existing challenges, along with BERC's diminished authority since the 2020 amendments, raise doubts about the effectiveness of this approach in truly serving the public interest.

In addition to electricity and gas prices, BERC should also take responsibility for setting fuel oil prices, a role currently held by the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). BPC's dual role as both the sole importer and regulatory authority raises concerns about the credibility of its price determinations, especially for petrol, diesel, octane, and kerosene. Since BERC already regulates the price of imported LPG, extending this responsibility to other fuels would be a logical and necessary step.

Public hearings enhance transparency by involving stakeholders in the price-setting process, but transparency alone does not guarantee rational tariff outcomes. Anomalies in the financial accounts of public authorities raise questions about financial transparency and credibility. The data provided, especially by the BPC, must be rigorously scrutinised to ensure it reflects the true financial state of the energy sector. Concerns are growing that information from BPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) may not be accurate, with discrepancies in financial reports potentially leading to misguided decisions.

A major issue is the inefficiency within companies like BPC, where operational problems, such as fuel leakages, are passed on to consumers through higher prices. These inefficiencies should not become a public burden. Instead, they must be measured, reported, and resolved at the source to ensure that price adjustments reflect actual costs, not the inefficiencies of the providers.

To achieve true fairness and effectiveness in energy pricing, BERC's original powers from the 2003 act must be reinstated. Before the 2023 amendments, BERC had the authority to conduct energy audits, enforce standardisation, introduce competitive bidding, and hold both government and private entities accountable. The legislative weakening of BERC has significantly undermined its role as an independent regulator. To ensure an effective energy transition, these crucial powers must be restored.

Additionally, competitive pricing should align with international market standards to ensure that Bangladesh's energy prices reflect global trends. Pricing mechanisms must also account for the broader impact on the transport and power sectors, which are heavily reliant on energy costs. Any new pricing structure should be implemented with careful consideration of its ripple effects across these critical sectors to avoid unintended economic disruptions.

We must not allow sacrifices of the martyrs to go in vain

The chief adviser's message on the occasion of a month since the student-led mass uprising



Prof Muhammad Yunus is the chief adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh.

MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Yesterday, we celebrated a month of achieving Bangladesh's second independence. Thousands of students and people from all walks of life have made the ultimate sacrifice for one of history's most glorious revolutions. They have ended the 15-year-long dictatorial rule of the fascist Sheikh Hasina, under whose leadership a brutal massacre was conducted. Sheikh Hasina has fled, leaving behind a corrupt state and a fragile economy. It is our responsibility to establish our Bangladesh in her full glory. I am remembering those brave young people, workers, day labourers, and professionals who embraced death as they stood up against a heinous, murderous, fascist



Thousands of students and people from all walks of life have made the ultimate sacrifice for one of history's most glorious revolutions.

FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

One of our prime responsibilities is to ensure the free treatment of the thousands who were severely injured during the revolution. Countless young students have lost their eyesight because Hasina's criminals shot rubber bullets aiming for their eyes. We will try with everything we have to bring back the light in their eyes. We are continuously working to create a full list of those martyred and wounded. The main list is ready.

power. I am remembering the journalists killed during the movement. I convey deep respect to everyone who was martyred in this revolution. I also want to salute the thousands of people who were wounded, who were hit by deadly force to be left crippled for life, and those who lost their eyes. Last month, when I was given the responsibility of leading the interim government, I was inspired by the selfless sacrifices of Abu Sayed, Mugdho, and every known and unknown martyr, to take the responsibility despite all my limitations. I am committed to fulfilling the dream of building a new Bangladesh that our young revolutionaries have ignited in the hearts of the people of the country. Inspired by the sacrifices of the martyrs, we want to change the course of history. We want to commence a new era. My dear young people, You took an oath to realise your dreams. Your dreams, painted across the walls of urban and rural localities, still stand in front of us adorned in colours. During the revolution, you discarded your studies to spend your stressful, sleepless nights with friends and then in the daytime, you said your final goodbyes to each other

and took to the streets to resist a cruel regime. At the end of the revolution, you guarded the religious minorities of the country and their places of worship, and took the responsibility of directing traffic across the country. I know your studies have been harmed. So now, it's time to get back to your studies. Schools, colleges, and universities have been reopened. I urge you to go back to class and to your campuses. Because we need a well-educated and skilled generation to take home the fruit of the revolution. It has only been a month since the interim government took responsibility. Despite that, we have undertaken important reform work to achieve the true goals of the revolution. Our first task is to ensure justice and accountability for the killings of July and August. To conduct a free and neutral investigation into the massacre under the leadership of the United Nations, we have invited the United Nations Human Rights Office. They have come to the country and started their work.

Recently, we signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. As a result, we are internationally committed to ending the "disappearance culture" established by the dictator. Separately, we are forming a commission to investigate each and every incident of enforced disappearance in the 15 years of the fascist rule. Our hearts go out to the families who have spent years after years in painful wait for their missing fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers.

and wounded. The main list is ready. Now, we are collecting information on those whose bodies have been taken far away to make the list complete. Work is at the final stage to create a foundation to cover the expensive treatment of the hundreds of wounded who need long-term treatment, as well as to look after the families of the martyred. We will never forget those whose martyrdom gave us the birth of a new Bangladesh. Recently, we signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. As a result, we are internationally committed to ending the "disappearance culture" established by the dictator. Separately, we are forming a commission to investigate each and every incident of enforced disappearance in the 15 years of the fascist rule. Our hearts go out to the families who have spent years after years in painful wait for their missing fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers. The Aynaghars ("Houses of Mirrors," where victims of enforced disappearance were kept) have been closed down. We will soon be able

been overwhelmed by the massive support we have received from our foreign friends. Our brave and patriotic expatriates have also been engaged in the efforts to reform the nation. I want to thank them all sincerely. On this memorable and sad occasion, I want to express endless gratitude to the families of every martyr and every person who was wounded. I will invite the family members of every martyr to the capital, and I will meet them within a few days. I want to assure them that we will never betray the dreams of the martyrs. We are moving forward. Now, our big challenge is repairing the damage created by misrule and dictatorship. For this, we need unity and coordination. We all take the oath to not allow, as a nation, the blood of the martyrs and the sacrifice of our wounded brothers and sisters to fail at any cost. We will never allow the opportunity they have created for us to slip out of our hands. On this memorable occasion, we vow again to create the Bangladesh of their dreams. May the Almighty help us all.

Rebranding and rebuilding Bangladesh



Zarif Faiaz is a journalist at the Tech & Startup section of The Daily Star.

ZARIF FAIAZ

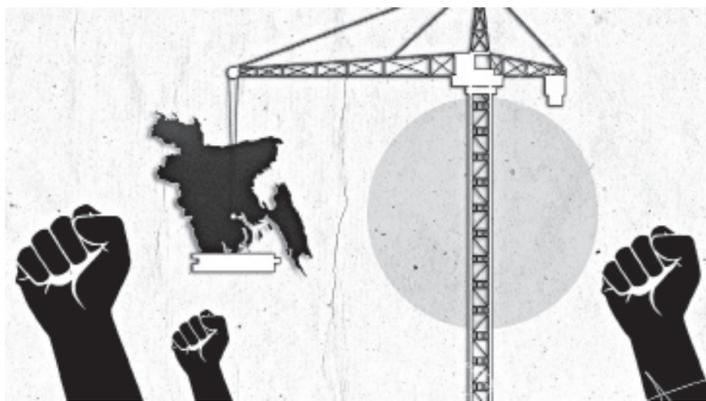
"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." In many ways, August 5 marked a new beginning for Bangladesh, and nothing describes the events that followed better than the quote above by Charles Dickens. We saw the remarkable struggle by the youth, who led the July uprising and ousted a dictator. We saw a brief period when the country plunged into complete lawlessness as the police retreated from the streets. We saw attacks on minorities, and we saw inflated reports of these attacks too. We saw cities turn into Gothams—the crime-infested fictional city from the Batman comics—and we saw literal Batmen rise up to the occasion, with citizens acting as vigilantes to protect one another. The youth, who led the uprising, took to the streets to manage traffic, even when they didn't have to. We saw them repaint their cities in the colours of hope and resistance. We saw them questioning the status quo. Through this revolution, we saw an "apolitical" generation turn fiercely political. Now that the dust is starting to settle down, there are growing calls for reforms across the nation. The youth are voicing their demands louder than ever, and it is clear that they don't

want to go back to the broken old system. The country's eroded democratic institutions must be restored. Reforms must come, and they must come in all sectors. But where and how do we begin? It is commendable that the interim government has taken its first steps, starting with the administration, particularly the police force. For 15 long years, the police force has been slowly transformed into a repressive state apparatus, distancing itself from the people. The anger, fear and hatred of the mob directed at this force must be taken into account, and we are seeing a reform beginning with changes to police uniforms and logos. However, police reform must not stop with cosmetic changes. The force must be retrained, if needed, in modern, humane policing practices. The revamped Bangladesh Police must treat everyone with dignity and respect, prioritise the community, promote transparency and rule of law, and above all, be a force that we can trust. While changing the logo and the uniform is a good starting point, long-term reforms are essential if the police are to become a trustworthy, people-first institution. Changes must come in other sectors, too. It's time to seriously address the country's public transportation system. Dhaka, the capital city, is one of the slowest cities in the world. A 2024 study by the Dhaka Chamber

of Commerce and Industry found that Tk 140 crore worth of working hours are lost every day due to traffic congestion. The outcry over this issue is hardly new, and for years, the politically backed transport-owners' syndicate has been blamed for this. This syndicate must be dismantled and the public transport sector must be freed. Franchise-based bus routes should be introduced in our cities, and the bus route

The flag carrier must strive to become a leading airline in the region, representing the national brand with pride. In 1984, Emirates Airlines started its journey as a part of Dubai's long-term vision of transforming the region into a global hub. Today, it is a leading brand ambassador of the UAE, attracting foreign remittances and investments into the empty deserts of Dubai—which interestingly freed itself in 1971 from the British—and turning

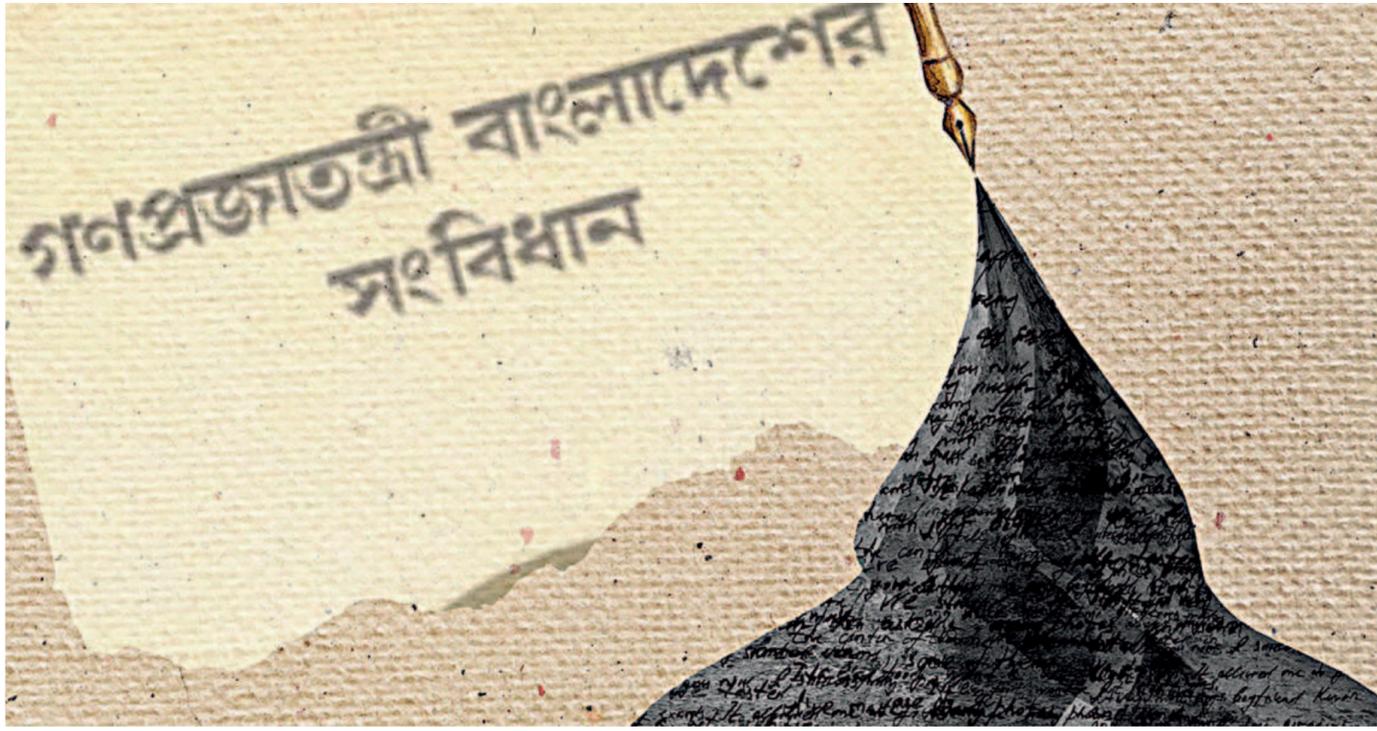
practices, starting at the grassroots levels. Long-term reforms in our educational system are also crucial, with a vision towards a larger goal. Our redesigned educational system must strive to produce socially inclusive, tolerant, civic, politically mature and technically skilled citizens. In the 1950s and 1960s, Lee Kuan Yew, the founder of modern Singapore, shifted his government's focus on building a universal education system that would provide a skilled workforce for Singapore's large-scale industrialisation programme. To support this, Lee's government also saw the need to develop a professional, well-paid and resourceful teaching force, along with local universities of international standard that could compete globally. Today, modern Singapore enjoys the benefits of these visionary initiatives. There is no reason why Bangladesh cannot follow the same path. We hope reforms in other sectors will follow. And that the interim government, with an advisory panel that garners high expectations, will lay down the groundwork for these foundational reforms and work towards strengthening our social and political institutions so that the next democratically elected government can build on these frameworks and create a truly prosperous Bangladesh 2.0. Since our independence, no government in Bangladesh has been able to truly materialise the expectations and demands of its citizens. We dream of a new Bangladesh where every citizen, regardless of their religion, ethnicity and gender, can live with dignity and their basic human rights fulfilled. Will this government and the next ones be able to fulfil our demands? History teaches us to be sceptical. But the July uprising teaches us that nothing is impossible and that people are more powerful than their governments. So, we will patiently wait for the reforms. Until then, we will keep dreaming, no matter how hopelessly optimistic it may seem.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

permit system must be freed from police control and fixed in coordination with the city corporations. Additionally, the traffic police must also be trained in modern traffic regulation systems and ensure their proper implementation on the streets. Rebranding is also necessary in the country's tourism sector and national services, including Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Biman's outdated branding warrants a modern rethink, but reforms should not stop with just rebranding.

the once quaint fishing village into a modern business hub. The youth of Bangladesh want radical changes, not just on the surface but in the very way our society operates. We must rethink our political culture and gradually move away from the politics of muscle and street dominance to the politics of intellectualism and free thinking. Good governance, accountability and actionable promises need to be introduced in political



CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

A case against Article 7B of our Constitution

The inclusion of Article 7B is more political than Constitutional. If the will of the people is not reflected through the Constitution, it loses its spirit and undermines its own legitimacy. The insertion of Article 7B through the 15th Amendment demands serious debate and discussion.

MUHAMMED ASADULLAH AL GHALIB

The Constitution of Bangladesh is the highest law of the land. As stated in the preamble and Article 7, our Constitution has been framed to uphold the "solemn expression of the will of the people". The power to amend the Constitution has been vested upon the Parliament by Article 142 of the Constitution to bring necessary changes over time with a view to making the Constitution more dynamic and effective.

However, if the Constitution is amended arbitrarily, it is natural that the Constitution will lose its essence. In fact, some specific features are entrenched in the Constitution itself, which, if amended, will cause the Constitution to deviate from its unique character and purpose.

From the case of *Anwar Hossain Chowdhury v Bangladesh* (8th Amendment case), we get an idea of the basic structure doctrine, according to which, no parliament can amend the basic structure of the Constitution. In light of the 8th Amendment case, the principle of the basic structure got entrenched in our Constitution through the 15th constitutional amendment in 2011. Article 7B states that notwithstanding anything contained in Article 142 of the Constitution, the preamble, all articles of Part I (high ideals), all articles of Part II (fundamental principles of state policy), subject to the provisions of Part IXA all articles of Part III (relating to fundamental rights), and the provisions relating to the basic structures of the Constitution including Article 150 of Part XI shall not be amendable by way of insertion,

modification, substitution, repeal, or by any other means.

Such insertion of an "Unamendable Clause" is not unique. Quite a number of countries have adopted such unamendable clause(s) in their Constitution on a limited scale to protect their basic features. For example, France and Germany have moved to make the nature of their respective Republic and Federal Republic unamendable. However, in Bangladesh, the insertion of such a broad unamendable clause collides with the concept of the Constitution being a living document and shrinks space for dynamism or evolution.

It is worth noting that the Constitution can certainly formulate safeguards for itself and has to do so to protect from arbitrary amendments that may potentially undermine its spirit. Any clause that inhibits the power to make amendments to the Constitution rationally bars the functionality of the Constitution itself and essentially limits the will of the people. Moreover, the provisions in Article 7B have also nullified the power of Judicial Review of the Supreme Court. It is not beyond questioning whether the Parliament can declare one-third of the Constitution as its basic structure. As we grapple with the state reforms that have to be undertaken, this should explicitly be brought into question.

There is a debate with Constitutional jurisprudence as to whether and which of the provisions of a Constitution can be treated as its basic structure. In the Indian context, the doctrine of basic structure was comprehensively dealt with in the

Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala case (1973), where the bench was split 9 to 4 as they delivered the judgment. In Bangladesh as well, in the 8th amendment case, the judges could not agree on what would constitute the fundamental features.

Furthermore, declaring fundamental principles of state policies and rights as unamendable creates obstacles for overall social and financial development. The state policies, as of now, are not enforceable by the courts, whether they (and their so-called unenforceability) can be treated as basic structure of the Constitution, also remains a question. Illustratively, even though education or medical care is not a fundamental right at present, there will be legal barriers to declaring these rights as fundamental rights in the future. Interestingly, Articles 8 and 12 of the Constitution enshrine secularism as a fundamental principle of state policy—an unamendable clause, but Article 2A declares Islam as a state religion permanently. It begs the question of how these two can coexist, and that too, both as part of the basic structure of the Constitution.

The inclusion of Article 7B is more political than Constitutional. If the will of the people is not reflected through the Constitution, it loses its spirit and undermines its own legitimacy. The insertion of Article 7B through the 15th Amendment demands serious debate and discussion.

The writer is Advocate, District and Session Judge's Court, Dhaka.

RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

The state of mob justice in Bangladesh

H. M. FAZLE RABBI

Mob justice, also known as vigilante justice, involves a group of people taking the law into their own hands, meting out punishment through violence. The recent surge in mob violence in Bangladesh necessitates a discussion on this topic. According to Social Disorganisation Theory, when institutions like law enforcement and the judiciary are weak, corrupt, or ineffective, people feel compelled to take the law into their own hands. Other contributing factors, such as social inequality, misinformation, or entrenched cultural practices, drive communities to enforce their own version of 'justice' through collective action.

From a legal perspective, mob justice contributes to lawlessness and constitutes a gross violation of human rights, particularly the rights to life, liberty, and security of the person as protected under the Constitution and international human rights instruments to which Bangladesh is party. Article 31 of the Constitution ensures the right to protection of law, stating that every citizen is



entitled to be treated only in accordance with law. Moreover, Article 35 provides for the right to a fair trial, including protection from *ex post facto* laws, double jeopardy, and self incrimination. However, the prevalence of mob justice in Bangladesh starkly contrasts these constitutional guarantees.

Also, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights explicitly protect the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence. The state's failure to prevent or punish acts of mob justice can be seen as a violation of its obligations under such treaties, which require Bangladesh to ensure that all individuals within its jurisdiction enjoy the rights that are protected by these international instruments.

The Penal Code 1860 addresses crimes such as murder, unlawful assembly, causing hurt, etc. that are often the results of mob violence. Again, the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 empowers police officers to intervene in situations of unlawful assembly, disperse mobs, and prevent violence. Additionally, the Special Powers Act 1974 empowers the government to act against activities that threaten public order, while the Cyber Security Act 2023 addresses the spread of misinformation that can incite mob violence. However, despite these provisions, enforcement remains a significant challenge, largely due to lack of resources, inefficiency within law enforcement agencies, and political interference that undermines independence of the judiciary.

When institutions like law enforcement and the judiciary are weak, corrupt, or ineffective, people feel compelled to take the law into their own hands. Other contributing factors, such as social inequality, misinformation, or entrenched cultural practices, drive communities to enforce their own version of 'justice' through collective action.

Addressing the rise of mob justice in Bangladesh requires a multifaceted approach. First, it is essential to enhance the capacity and independence of the judiciary to ensure timely and impartial adjudication of cases. Second, law enforcement agencies must be reformed to improve their effectiveness in preventing and responding to mob violence. Third, there must be a concerted effort to educate the public about the dangers of mob justice and the importance of adhering to legal processes through public awareness campaigns and community engagement. Finally, legal reforms must address the underlying social and economic inequalities that contribute to the rise of mob justice.

While widely condemned for its violent and unlawful nature, mob justice is sometimes perceived to have certain benefits, particularly in societies where formal legal systems are deeply flawed. But in reality, it undermines the rule of law, leading to miscarriages of justice. Moreover, mob justice perpetuates a cycle of violence, as those affected by it may seek revenge, leading to further conflict and instability within communities.

In the context of recent events in Bangladesh, we are seeing an alarming rise of mob justice, where escalating political and social tensions have led to increasingly violent and destructive actions by different sections of people. Conversely, the acts of vandalism and arson violence targeting significant historical, cultural, and architectural sites reveal deep-seated discontent and uncontrolled mob behavior. Such acts not only threaten public safety but also destabilise the socio-political landscape, making it all the more challenging to maintain law and order.

The writer is law graduate from Department of Law, University of Dhaka.

DEMOCRACY AND INCLUSION

Electoral inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

FARZANA AKTHER

According to the National Survey on Persons with Disabilities (NSPD) 2021 by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the percentage of disability is higher among adult people than among children in Bangladesh. As a citizen of Bangladesh, persons with disabilities have constitutional right to be treated equally and with non-discrimination. The principle of universal, equal, free, and secret ballots are essential components of the fundamental right of people with disabilities to vote. Furthermore, disability-inclusive parliament is one of the core pillars of democracy which is enshrined in Bangladesh constitution as a founding principle.

Although the Rights and Protection of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 addressed some issues of social securities, vertical improvements in terms of democratic rights of PWDs remains elusive. Nonparticipation in the political life is a clear indication that PWDs is not on the same boat as other privileged sections of the society. That absence is a prominent threat to realizing an exploitation-free equal society as pledged in the constitution. The recognition of PWDs in political life is in complete alignment with the democratic high ideals in the fundamental principles of state policy as well. Though reservation for women is secured in the constitution, pro-disabilities reservation is yet to be

included. But there is scope within Article 28(4) of the constitution to interpret Article 65(3) of the constitution for a more inclusive amendment. A reformed reservation scheme can pave way for balanced electoral opportunities for the PWDs.

The duty of the state to establish political participation of PWDs on equal basis with other citizens depends upon some condensed factors of equity

and good public utilities. The main obstacles are insensitive social attitudes that exclude, discriminate against, and disregard PWDs from political involvement with others on an equal footing. By and large, lack of policies, regulations, and legislation relevant to an inclusive and accessible voting process for people with disabilities is creating electoral barriers for PWDs in our country.

The 2013 Act recognises different sorts of disabilities such as

By and large, lack of policies, regulations, and legislation relevant to an inclusive and accessible voting process for people with disabilities is creating electoral barriers for PWDs in our country.

physical, visual, speech, intellectual, deafness, blindness, down syndrome, autism etc. "Accessibility" is one of the core standing parameters in the bundle of rights offered in the Act. The diversity-based electoral inclusion requires some structural renovation for ensuring accessibility. For instance, accessible built-facilities and audio-visual aids for physically and visually challenged people in the parliament, can go a long way. Inclusion of PWDs in the electoral process also requires congenial digital innovation. Relevant authorities ought to foster inclusive election by adopting scrutinisation of election process at different tiers as mandated by article 33(2) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Political parties should have disability wing as well as internal reservations for the PWDs within the parties. Furthermore, regional collaboration coupled with inclusive policies can accelerate political participation of PWDs.

The writer is Lecturer, Department of Law and Human Rights, University of Asia Pacific.



CABRERA HAPPY with 'lucky' win in Thimphu

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera expressed his satisfaction with a "lucky" win as his charges ended three months of footballing hiatus with a 1-0 victory against Bhutan in a FIFA friendly fixture at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

The Bangladesh players, who had last played a competitive match on June 11 and did not have any club engagement either since then, took the lead through a Sheikh Morsalin goal in the sixth minute of the game.

The young forward bundled home the rebound, on the second attempt, after Bhutan goalkeeper Tshering Dhendup failed to gather a fairly straightforward cross from Rakib Hossain in the right, instead parrying the ball straight at Morsalin who was standing a mere few feet away.

Cabrera admitted it was a lucky goal, but the Spaniard took heart from the fact that his team came out with a victory despite not being in the best of shape and having to deal with the high altitude of



PHOTO: BFF

Thimphu. It was Bangladesh's first victory at the venue, where they had suffered their only defeat to Bhutan in 2016.

"We knew it wasn't going to be easy. We were lucky, scoring that goal that early in the game. After that we were struggling until the 20th or 25th minute of the game. Slowly the team got into the game and since then the team did extremely well," the Spaniard said at the post-match press conference.

"[It was a] very mature performance, and that is what we were expecting. With six-seven training sessions we came here to play at [high] altitude, with a team that is in the middle of the season. I'm very, very happy – more than the result, about the way they have performed," the coach opined.

While there was very little intensity on either side throughout the match, Bangladesh were largely untroubled by the

hosts who had the advantage of playing on their home soil and in front of a passionate crowd. The coach said that it was good to have a win under their belt after four defeats in a row in the World Cup Qualifiers and following a three-month gap.

"Obviously it was important to win but that wasn't the main target," Cabrera said. "It was good to get the players after three months and start getting ready for what is coming from next year. But it was important to win after four defeats in a row, especially for the confidence."

The coach, meanwhile, expected a much tougher challenge from the hosts in the second match on Sunday; in probable absence of Rakib, who injured his left ankle towards the end of the first half and was subsequently taken off.

Morsalin, meanwhile, was happy to have scored the winning goal for the team, taking his tally to five international goals in 12 appearances.

"We played the way the coach had instructed us to play," the teenager said. "Our target was to take it match by match, and if we can play according to the coach's plan, we can have another positive result."

US Open to crown fresh royalty

AGENCIES

This year's US Open will see two new champions crowned, regardless of the semifinal outcomes, following the quarterfinal eliminations of former title holders Daniil Medvedev and Iga Swiatek yesterday.

Jannik Sinner, after defeating 2021 winner Medvedev 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4, will face Jack Draper tomorrow. Draper, Sinner's friend and recent doubles partner, is currently playing some of the best tennis of his career.

The reigning Australian Open champion, Sinner, is the only man in the 2024 US Open semifinals with a Grand Slam title, as Draper and American players Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe all chase their first major.

Unlike Medvedev's exit, top seed and 2022 champion Swiatek losing in straight sets, 6-2 6-4, to Jessica Pegula

In the past 20 years, 11 grand slams have seen one former major winner reach the men's singles semis. That player has gone on to win the event nine times, with Rafael Nadal (French Open, 2005) and Andy Murray (US Open, 2012) the exceptions.

of USA – who finally reached a Grand Slam semifinal at the seventh attempt – came as a shock.

"I feel like I was able to kind of jump on her really early and I think frustrate her," said Pegula, who will take on Karolina Muchova (6:15am, today) after the unseeded Czech beat Brazilian Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-1 6-4 in the day session at Arthur Ashe stadium despite battling a "bug".

Hoping for the rich vein of American success to continue, the sixth seed American will be cheering for compatriot Emma Navarro in her semifinal clash (5:00am, today) against top title contender Aryna Sabalenka – former runners-up and two-time Australian Open champion.

Bangladesh Tigers programme proves its worth

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

A combined effort from players, selectors, and coaching staff, alongside a lack of interference from the board in cricketing matters during the series, led to Bangladesh's historic series win in Pakistan. When it comes to coaching and preparation in particular, the Bangladesh Tigers programme had a major role, and thus the coordination between the national team, the programme, and cricket operations can go a long way to a successful tour of India in September.

The function of the Tigers programme, which began two years ago, was often questioned. After the successful Pakistan tour, its value has finally come to the limelight, especially in how players talked about the benefits of their preparation.

In December last year, a scheme in coordination with the programme was charted out to align the national team's schedules with Bangladesh Tigers. It was done to finally realise the purpose of the programme in fulfilling how practice will take place, the schedules and the schemes with which practice will take place.

Main objectives were to keep players prepared for national team duties, particularly those not currently in the team but considered probables. When a series comes up, the programme is fine-tuned to prepare for specific goals.

Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha was fully aligned to the programme, and plans are in place for series or tournaments till June 2025. Also, the coaches



in it were given full freedom on how they will manage the specific needs of individual players.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, upon returning to the country, mentioned they had clear instructions on their roles and endorsed continuity, emphasising focus on process and not on outcomes.

Maintaining this coordination, selectors had already named a pool of players in three categories for preparing the team for the India series almost two weeks ago. Players from HP had begun on September 4. The Test team players and the A team players make the other two categories.

Under the Tigers programme, the Test side will undergo preparation from September 8 to 14 before departing on the 15th, while the white-ball stars will continue preparation till September 30.

Tareq Aziz, former national team player and now a bowling coach of Bangladesh Tigers, talked about the specifics, especially regarding work with bowlers.

"We know that India's batting lineup is laced with skillful players. To beat them you need skill. We are collecting information from our analyst and planning accordingly," Tareq told reporters yesterday as the national team look forward to reaping benefits of the programme.

"How to stop certain players in T20s and get them out are things we have discussed with performance analysts to fine tune and point things out to players once things begin in full tilt on 8th, both for red-ball and white-ball bowlers. We want our players to go prepared mentally, physically, and skill-wise," he added.

SHORT CORNER

England captain Buttler ruled out of Australia T20s

England white-ball captain Jos Buttler will miss this month's three-match Twenty20 series against Australia due to a right calf injury, with Phil Salt leading the side in his absence, ECB said on Thursday. Buttler has been named for the five-match ODI series against the same opponents later this month but remains a doubt.

Spain should lose 2030 WC unless racism declines: Vinicius

Brazilian striker Vinicius Junior has called for Spain to be stripped of its 2030 World Cup hosting duties unless it makes progress on the issue of racism in stadiums.

No CR7, Messi in Ballon d'Or nomination for first time in 21 years

For the first time since 2003, neither Cristiano Ronaldo nor Lionel Messi have been included in the nominees for the men's Ballon d'Or award, with England's Jude Bellingham among the 30 players named on Wednesday. Portugal's Ronaldo, who has won the award five times, also failed to receive a nomination last year, while Messi, who won for a record eighth time in 2023, misses out despite Argentina's Copa America win this year.

Read full stories on The Daily Star website

Spalletti vows to create new Italy

AGENCIES



Italy manager Luciano Spalletti pledged to revamp his team ahead of their Nations League encounter against France at the Parc des Princes in Paris on Saturday.

Spalletti's Italy endured a disappointing campaign in the recent European Championship as the reigning champions exited the tournament in Germany in the last 16 following a 2-0 defeat against Switzerland, with the side only winning once in the group stage.

"Now, we turn a new page and from now on, we have to think more about our identity," Spalletti told reporters on Monday.

"I am going to create a new group, a new team, putting less pressure on them and hopefully they feel the beauty of the Azzurri shirt even more."

Didier Deschamps' France, on the other hand, had a better outing in the Euros as they lost to eventual winners Spain in the semifinals but they were far from convincing throughout the tournament as they found the net just once from open play. Deschamps received his fair share of criticism for his reserved tactics which did earn him results but the subpar displays could very rarely be swept under the carpet.

Deschamps has placed his faith mostly on his regulars but he did drop Adrien Rabiot and Benjamin Pavard. Real Madrid duo Aurelien Tchouameni and Ferland Mendy were also sidelined due to injury.

Bayern Munich winger Michael Olise received his maiden call-up after impressing at the Olympics by recording seven goal involvements. Meanwhile, eight players from Spalletti's Euros squad, including Gianluca Mancini and Jorginho, were left out, while injuries ruled out Gianluca Scamacca and Nico Barella.

OSTAD FAZLU A dedicated soul for Bangladesh hockey

SPORTS REPORTER

Rafiqul Islam Kamal, one of the finest hockey players Bangladesh has ever produced, has paid rich tribute to veteran coach Fazlul Haque, who passed away in Dhaka on Wednesday. To Kamal, Fazlul was a 'member of the family' and a 'dedicated soul for Bangladesh hockey'.



The coach, who hails from Shaheb Bazar in Old Dhaka and is popularly known as 'Ostad Fazlu' in the country's hockey fraternity, had played for several top-level clubs in the country in the 1980s and 1990s before dedicating his life to grooming young players. One of his most successful disciples was Kamal, who scored more than 200 goals in domestic hockey and a further 56 in the international circuit.

"He was family to me," Kamal told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday. "When he used to play for Usha [KC], he would come to my house in the morning, wake me up from sleep, and take me to the hockey field which instilled the passion for the game in me. He would often give his hockey sticks, jerseys, shin guards, etc."

Fazlul had a decent career in top-flight hockey, but could never make it to the national team. Once he was very close to making it, an injury to his eye compromised his chances. Since then his whole focus turned to playing domestic hockey and working with young boys and turning them into finished articles, many of whom have featured for the national team.

Kamal recollected how it was due to Fazlul's insistence that he became a hockey player.

"When I was called up for the school hockey team, it was 'Ostad' Fazlul who managed to convince my parents to allow me to take part," Kamal recalled with gratitude.

After calling an end to his career, Fazlul founded an academy at the Armanitola High School, a hallowed place in Bangladesh's history. He would spend his whole day coaching kids at the academy, barely caring about the well-being of himself and his family.

"His life was dedicated to hockey. He may not have had groceries at home, but he was present at the hockey field. He played hockey but didn't get much in return. He hasn't left much wealth for his family."

"He got a lot of love from the people. He was a very nice human being, apart from being a great hockey coach. The number of people that attended his namaz-e-janaza is a testament to how much loved he was."

Kamal urged the government and wealthy sports organisers to help out Fazlul's widowed wife and young daughter so that they could at least live a decent life.



Following the completion of the Women's National Cricket League, Bangladesh cricketers travelled to Sri Lanka yesterday to play two one-dayers and five T20s under the banner of the 'A' team. The tour is being treated as part of the Tigresses' final preparation ahead of the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup, to be hosted by Bangladesh and played in the UAE in October.



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197 global leaders congratulate Yunus govt

92 Nobel laureates among them

STAR REPORT

In a major show of international support, 197 global leaders, including 92 Nobel laureates, have congratulated the people of Bangladesh and the newly formed interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus.

Among those who signed a congratulatory letter addressing the people of Bangladesh are former US president Barack Obama, entrepreneur Richard Branson, and renowned activist Jane Goodall, according to PR Newswire, a distributor of press releases headquartered in Chicago.

The letter expressed hope for the country's "peace and success" under Yunus' leadership, who took charge as the chief adviser on August 8.

The leaders referenced Bangladesh's "second liberation",

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THE GENTLE PARROT

A plum-headed parakeet glides across the sky, carrying a bunch of green sprouts. An endemic to the Indian Subcontinent, this species of parakeets inhabit mostly forests, open woodlands and even city gardens, where they feast on a variety of foods like sprouts, leafy greens, berries and even peppers. Since they cannot feel "spice" on their taste buds, many of them enjoy picking apart spicy peppers to get all the seeds inside. These parakeets make good pets as they are less aggressive and possessive than some other species. They are known to be gentle, social, affectionate and relatively quiet with their owners. As a matter of fact, they can even learn to mimic their humans and can talk very well. Though their numbers are gradually dwindling due to habitat loss, plum-headed parakeets thrive across their range and are not threatened by extinction.

PHOTO: SONJOY KUMAR

Three more ICT cases filed against Hasina

Former ministers of AL govt among co-accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more complaints were filed yesterday with the International Crimes Tribunal against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on charges related to crimes against humanity and genocide during the mass uprising.

Her cabinet members and party leaders were also sued by family members of three people killed in Dhaka's Savar, Ashulia and Uttara between July 15 and August 5 this year in the cases filed with the tribunal's investigation agency.

Ataur Rahman, deputy director (admin) of the investigation agency, confirmed they recorded the complaints and launched investigations.

With these, Hasina is facing 12 complaints over crimes against humanity and genocide, including 11 in connection with the student-led movement and the other centring the Hefazat-e-Islam rally in Dhaka in May 2013. She is currently in India after fleeing Bangladesh on August 5 following the uprising.

It was the Hasina-led Awami League government that formed the International Crimes Tribunal in March 2010 to try the war criminals of 1971. Six Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP leaders were executed following ICT verdicts for their crimes during the Liberation War.

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Single-use plastics banned in govt offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet division yesterday instructed all government offices to replace single-use plastic items with environmentally friendly alternatives as part of the efforts to curb environmental pollution.

The directive was issued following a request from Syeda Rizwana Hasan, the adviser of the ministry of environment, forest and climate change, on August 29.

That letter discouraged all ministries, departments and their subordinate offices from using single-use plastics to combat plastic pollution.

The ministry has identified 17 types of items/substances as 'single-use plastics'.

It has also proposed several eco-friendly alternatives such as files and folders made from paper or other environmentally friendly materials instead of plastic, cotton or jute fabric bags instead of plastic bags, glass bottles and glasses instead of plastic water bottles.

Besides, it suggested the use of banners made from cotton fabric, jute or biodegradable materials in place of plastic.

It also called for avoiding plastic lamination on invitation cards, visiting cards, promotional materials and publications and ensuring that food packets supplied at meetings and seminars are made from paper or environmentally friendly materials.

The letter also called for barring all single-use plastic items such as plates, glasses, cups, straws and cutlery.

Pencils or paper pens should be used instead of plastic pens.

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Man beaten up for 'hurting religious sentiment'

ISPR says he's in army custody

STAR REPORT

A 22-year-old man was beaten by a mob on the premises of Khulna police's deputy commissioner's office in Sonadanga area early yesterday over a social media post allegedly hurting religious sentiment, officials and witnesses said.

Initially, a rumour spread that the man died in the mob beating.

The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), however, said the person was being treated under army supervision and was out of danger.

According to an ISPR press release, he was apprehended by locals and taken to the office of the deputy commissioner of police, Khulna (South), for legal actions. Later, around 3,000-3,500 people gathered at the spot and demanded public punishment for the individual.

Earlier, the deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police told reporters that the incident

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Netanyahu trying to 'thwart' Gaza truce

Says Hamas; Amnesty urges war crimes probe over Israel levelling east Gaza

AGENCIES

Hamas yesterday accused Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to "thwart" a Gaza truce deal, after the Israeli premier said the Palestinian militant group has "rejected everything" in negotiations.

The blame trading comes as Netanyahu faces pressure to seal a deal that would free remaining hostages, after Israeli authorities announced on Sunday the deaths of six whose bodies were recovered from a Gaza tunnel.

"We're trying to find some area to begin the negotiations," Netanyahu said Wednesday.

"They (Hamas) refuse to do that... (They said) there's nothing to talk about."

Netanyahu maintains that Israel must retain control over the Philadelphia Corridor along the Egypt-Gaza border to prevent weapons smuggling to Hamas.

Hamas is demanding complete Israeli withdrawal from the area and on Thursday said Netanyahu's insistence on the border zone "aims to thwart reaching an agreement."

The Palestinian militant group says a new deal is unnecessary because they agreed months ago to a truce outlined by US President Joe Biden.

"We do not need new proposals," the group said on Telegram.

At Israeli protests in several cities this week, Netanyahu's critics have blamed him for hostages' deaths, saying he has refused to make necessary concessions for striking a ceasefire deal.

Since October 7, Israel's offensive in Gaza has so far killed at least 40,861 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory.

Most of the dead are women and children, according to the UN rights office.

Widespread Israeli bombardment overnight into yesterday included a strike which killed four people sheltering in tents near Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, a medical source told AFP.

The military said it hit a "command and control centre" used by Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in Deir al-Balah.

In a separate strike in the southern Al-Mawasi area, a missile killed one and wounded several others, Palestinian Red Crescent Society medics said.

While Israel presses its Gaza offensive, Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said the military should use its "full strength" against Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank.

- Strike on car kills 5 in West Bank as Israeli raids continue
- Netanyahu says Israel will not leave Gaza border corridor until it is secure
- Gaza death toll hits 40,861

BORDER KILLINGS Probe each, punish the responsible

Dhaka tells Delhi in protest note

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has asked New Delhi to conduct enquiries into all border killings, identify the persons responsible, and bring them to justice.

The call was made in a formal protest note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

It was mainly to protest the killing of a 13-year-old Bangladeshi girl, Shwarna Das of Juri upazila of Moulvibazar, who was shot and killed by Border Security Force (BSF) of India on September 1.

It also said, "The government of Bangladesh called upon the government of India to stop repetition of such heinous acts and conduct enquiries into all border killings, identify the persons responsible and bring them to justice."

According to human rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), 31 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF along the border in 2023, of whom 28 were shot dead.

The number of Bangladeshi citizens killed by BSF in 2021 and 2022 were 18 and 23, and at least 522 Bangladeshis were killed between 2009 and 2020, it said.

"Bangladesh strongly protested

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'Lonely' dolphin blamed for attacks on beachgoers

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A lonely dolphin is believed to be behind a spate of attacks on beachgoers in central Japan, with experts warning that the animal is probably sexually frustrated.

Dolphin attacks have left more than 45 people injured in Wakasa Bay, nearly 200 miles (320km) west of Tokyo, since 2022, with most of the recent ones occurring near the towns of Echizen and Mihama.

After examining photos and videos of some of the attacks from 2022 and 2023, experts concluded that they involved the same male Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin.

The same animal could be behind this year's attacks, said Ryoichi Matsubara, director of the Echizen Matsushima Aquarium in Fukui, The New York Times reported.

The dolphin might be displaying mating behaviour, he said, noting that it was seen attempting "to press his genitals against people" in 2022 and 2023. He added, however, that many injuries occurred as beachgoers approached or tried to touch the dolphin.



Women mourn Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Man stabs 2 dead then dies in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man was beaten to death by locals in Tangail's Nagarpur upazila yesterday after he had allegedly stabbed two men dead.

His victims were Abdus Sattar, 55, and Md Asadul, 28, while their attacker was identified as Taleb Miah, 28.

All three were residents of Dhuburia Purbapara village.

According to police and locals, an altercation turned violent in the evening when Taleb attacked his friend Asadul with a knife. When Sattar tried to intervene, Taleb stabbed him as well.

Both men were taken to Nagarpur Upazila Health Complex around 8:00pm, where they were declared dead.

Following the attack, locals captured Taleb and tied him to a pole. When news of the victims' deaths reached the community, Taleb was fatally beaten by a mob.

Tangail Additional Superintendent of Police Md Sharfuddin confirmed that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the altercation and the sequence of events.