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CA updates president on steps for fair polls

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday apprised the president of the measures taken by his caretaker government for solving various problems facing the nation and holding a free, fair, neutral and acceptable election.

"The caretaker government is working to create an environment conducive to holding a free, fair, neutral and acceptable election," he said from his meeting with President Iajuddin Ahmed when he called on the president at Bangabhaban.

The chief adviser, who came to the helms of a reconstituted caretaker government at a crisis time, especially mentioned the initiatives taken for infusing dynamism into economic activities and creating social stability.

He also mentioned different other measures taken by his government to curb corruption, establish the rule of law, supply fertiliser to the farmers timely, ensure fair price of produce for the people.

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## Stand neutrally beside people for democracy

Chief adviser asks armed forces

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday said the armed forces, imbued with patriotism and responsibility, could stand neutrally beside the people to establish rule of law and uphold the constitution and democracy.

Stressing that the national unity is very essential at this critical juncture of the country, he urged the officers of the armed forces to carry out their assigned tasks with firm determination for the interest of the nation.

Fakhrudin expressed the belief that the armed forces would perform their duties devoted with highest duty, sincerity and patriotism for holding free, fair and credible elections with the participation of all political parties.

"Insha-Allah, we will be able to attain our desired goal by the combined efforts and effective cooperation of all," he said addressing the officers of the armed forces at

Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment.

"We're accountable to the sacred constitution of the country and the people. We are carrying out

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PHOTO: PID

President Iajuddin Ahmed talks to Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhrudin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

our works relentlessly to hold a free, clean and credible democratic election to fulfill the people's

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Time has come to rid politics of pollution

Says Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday prescribed necessary action for ensuring the emergence of "pollution-free politics" through free and fair elections so the nation could

have a fresh start with a clean slate.

"The opportune moment has come...We'll have to make endeavour to establish politics free from corruption through a fair election," he told reporters at Zia International Airport prior to his departure for New Delhi.

He said, "The elections are ahead of us. Those who are polluted must be dropped. If the polluted people escape, it would be of no use. Our future cannot be guaranteed by polluted politics."

Referring to his previous statement about politicians in Bangladesh Prof Yunus said he did not want to create any debate by making the remarks. He just echoed what other people view about the state of politics.

In reply to a question, the Nobel Laureate said, "I am not in favour

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## Wholesale arrest put to a stop

Govt to prepare new list of criminals, arrest real culprits, their patrons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory council on law and order yesterday asked law enforcement agencies to hunt down the listed and top criminals along with their patrons instead of making wholesale arrests.

The committee, at its first meeting since formation, ordered preparation of a list of 'real criminals' by cross-checking the lists of different intelligence agencies.

The meeting, which was convened to work out the means for translating the caretaker government's law and order agenda into actions, also strongly considered rehabilitation of slum dwellers and street vendors evicted from slums and footpaths during the joint forces drive, as it fears the evicted might turn into a law and order threat, said meeting sources.

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein chaired the meeting

that brought together the chiefs of security agencies and other committee members MA Matin and Ayub Quadri.

The meeting was held at the law and parliamentary affairs ministry.

"ARREST ONLY CRIMINALS, UPHOLD RIGHTS"

The committee instructed law enforcement agencies to concentrate on arresting 'real criminals' rather than just increasing the number of arrestees.

"Rather than arresting people in hundreds like mass arrest, we've asked them to arrest a small number of people and stressed on those who are real criminals," Mainul Hosein told reporters after the meeting.

He asked security personnel to be considerate and careful that no innocent person is harassed during anti-crime operations.

Expressing satisfaction at the improvement of law and order, the

meeting directed the law enforcers to improve it further by making 'qualitative arrests', and to go for the top and listed criminals, and their godfathers.

"Actions will be taken against those who had earlier thought they were beyond the reach of the law," Mainul Hosein told reporters.

Since the declaration of state of emergency on January 12, members of the police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), and the armed forces arrested a staggering 30,650 persons, prompting an outcry from different quarters, including former army officials, for not arresting the innocent.

The committee termed 'shameful' the Bogra incident where police unlawfully carried out physical torture on a man by tying his hands behind his back and hanging him from the ceiling by the wrists.

It also asked the top officials of

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## Editors vow to defy media gagging rule

No such law enacted yet, says information adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the people are the source of this government's power.

"I have explained to them [editors] that the emergency has a framework according to which we have the power but did not introduce any law curtailing press freedom," he told reporters emerging out of the meeting with the editors and senior journalists.

In the meeting, columnist and eminent journalist ABM Musa said, "After reading the law, it seems that the caretaker government does not trust the media. It has damaged the trust that developed over the period."

Referring to Pakistan, Daily Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said, "They have 100

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## Buriganga clean-up drive launched

150 structures demolished on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aided by a large number of law enforcers, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday demolished at least 150 structures along the Buriganga structures.

Equipped with a bulldozer, a tugboat and a ship, the BIWTA officials started their eight-day longeviction drive yesterday morning in the presence of the army, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), armed police and Kamrangirchar police.

They demolished 96 structures on a char in Kamrangirchar and 54 on the river bank. Thirty of the structures were concrete while the rest were semi-pucca.

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Land encroacher Hafez Kamal constructed the structures and rented them to people for residential and business purposes, said an official of the Dhaka River Port.

The law enforcers searched for Hafez Kamal but failed to get him.

No untoward incident occurred during the eviction drive that continued from 10:30am to 4:30pm.

This time the Dhaka River Port authorities will conduct the drive along both banks of the 42-kilometer river area under their jurisdiction, BIWTA sources said.

Among the 680 illegal structures that the authorities have identified on the Buriganga and Turag rivers, the BIWTA will knock down 560

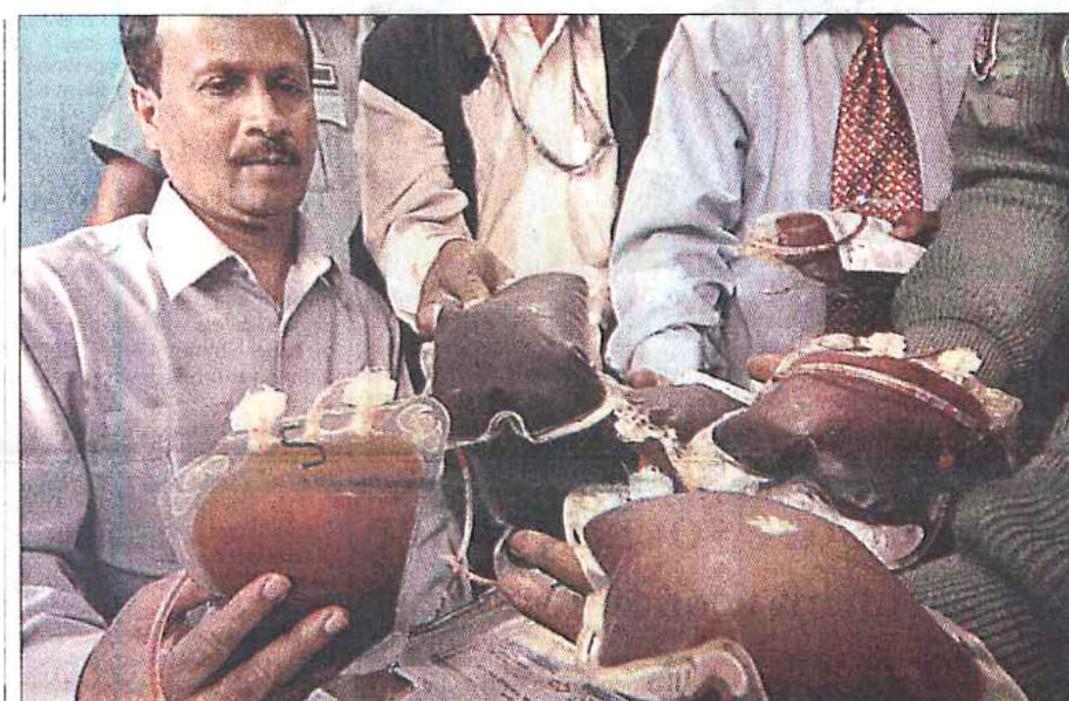


PHOTO: STAR

Magistrate Rokon-ud Doula shows the unscreened and poorly preserved bags of blood at Mohanagar Blood Bank on Mirpur Road in the capital yesterday. The magistrate led a mobile court that sealed off the unlicensed blood bank.

## 2 clinics, fake blood bank sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday filed cases against two private clinics and an illegal blood bank in the city and also fined them hefty amounts after finding serious irregularities and dirty conditions.

Led by Magistrate Rokon-ud Doula, the court first raided Crescent Hospital on Bahar Road in Mohammadpur and found just a nurse for Operating Theatre (OT) there, but no doctor. The environment was dirty and thus unhygienic for the patients. None of the hospital staff were diploma holders, sources present with the court said.

The hospital staff declined to show any medical samples to the court saying that there is no activity at the hospital at the moment and they are shifting to another place shortly.

However, a post-operative

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## 6 JMB men to walk gallows Feb 17

Date fixed primarily; Bangla Bhai too seeks mercy

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The zero hour of February 17 has been primarily fixed for the execution of six of the seven condemned militants, including Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdul Rahman and its operations commander Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

Meanwhile, all the six convicts have submitted prayers for presi-

dential clemency mentioning the execution date as militant kingpin Siddiqui Islam submitted to jail officials a written letter to the president yesterday.

The six JMB militants were convicted for killing two judges in Jhalakathi in a suicide bomb attack in November 2005. Another convict, Asadul Islam alias Arif, has been absconding.

The family members of the

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## Gias Q Chy offloaded from flight, detained

Prof Sayeed, Sohel Taj barred from travelling to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

bound flight at Zia International Airport (ZIA), sources said.

Meanwhile, immigration officials at ZIA barred Awami League (AL) leader and former state minister for information Prof Abu Sayeed and former AL lawmaker Tanjin

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Protect HR, freedom of the press

US, UK envoys ask interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis and British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury yesterday urged the government to protect the human rights and ensure freedom of the press.

Expressing concern at the recent custodial deaths, Butenis said she has brought up the issue during her meetings with advisers to the caretaker government. The government has assured her that steps would be taken for protection of human rights and that due process will be followed with regards to the arrestees.

She was talking to the reporters after meeting Law Adviser Mainul Hosein at his office in the morning.

"A lot of people in Bangladesh and we are concerned about the freedom of the press. I hope the government will expand the boundaries of press freedom," she said adding that the country enjoys

landmark decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case of the JMB convicts.

ICJ has ruled that the execution of the convicts is illegal.

1. চানেকে আইন পরিবার। 2. এম. টিভি পরিবার। 3. আর. টিভি পরিবার।

4. অসংখ্য সামরিক কর্মকর্তা। 5. সারা বিশ্বের অসংখ্য অবাসী ক্লেক্টগন।

6. বিভিন্ন শ্রেণীর বিপুল সংখ্যক প্রেশারীবি ও ব্যবসায়িক দ্রব্য।

জাতীয় শরণ দে কোন ক্ষেত্রে গুরুতর দেবার আগে অস্তত একবার আশিয়ান সিটির উপর আছা রেখেছেন এবং অস্তত প্লট ক্ষেত্রে মাধ্যমে আমাদের কার্যক্রমকে উল্লেখ দিয়েছেন।

আশিয়ান সিটির প্লট ক্ষেত্রে ক্ষেত্রটি অবস্থান করছে এবং এখন একবার আশিয়ান সিটির উল্লেখ দিয়েছেন।

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১০. একবার প্লট ক্ষেত্রে আছে।