

Some global powers want a govt loyal to them: PM



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said some major powers of the world want to establish in Bangladesh a government loyal to them due to the country's geographical location.

The premier said this while addressing a discussion marking the National Mourning Day. The event was organised by Dhaka north and south city units of Awami League at Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Refraining from mentioning any country, she said if any of those countries becomes friends with anyone there is no need for an enemy.

Referring to Ukraine, she said, "What is the condition of Ukraine today? Women and children there are facing untold miseries. The country has been demolished for this kind of friendship. That is the reality."

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Dejected Anisha Islam Ensha holding a laminated photo of her missing father Ismail Hossain Baten at the auditorium of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday. Anisha has not seen her father since he was picked up by men in plain clothes in 2019.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Handcuffs, blindfold ... it felt like a grave'

Survivors of enforced disappearance recount horror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Usually, one sees the families of the victims of enforced disappearances demanding their loved ones be returned. But in a rare occurrence, the survivors came to the fore at a programme yesterday to narrate the ordeals they went through.

"I was kept in a cell like a grave for seven months," said Abdul Baset Marzan, a former vice-chairman of Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur.

"I was blindfolded and handcuffed the entire time."

Marzan was picked up by men in plainclothes from a friend's home in Dhaka on January 31, 2015. He was then running for the upazila parishad with Amar Bangladesh party ticket.

"They tortured me the whole day and when I cried for mercy, they said that they are using only one method [of torture], and have over a hundred more," said Marzan, breaking down as he described the torture.

At the programme organised by Maayer Daak, a platform of the

families of the victims to enforced disappearances, Jahangirnagar University student Sakibuzzaman, who is involved in Gono Odhikar Parishad, narrated how he was kept in a room for three days and tortured.

Sakib was detained on March 26, 2021. "I was going towards the National Memorial to commemorate the day [Independence Day], and I was ambushed at the gate by men in plainclothes and shoved into a car,"

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CYBER SECURITY ACT It's DSA, only renamed

It'll still curb freedom of expression, says TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The draft Cyber Security Act (CSA), which would replace the controversial Digital Security Act, criminalises freedom of expression of the citizens, and is essentially a renamed version of the DSA, said Transparency International Bangladesh.

The draft contains all provisions of the DSA that curbed freedom of speech, dissent, freedom of thought and conscience, and particularly the freedom of the press and independent journalism, the graft watchdog said at a press conference yesterday.

"The fundamental weakness of the Digital Security Act -- curbing freedom of expression, speech and the media -- is also there in the draft law in terms of

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Scrap all DSA cases against people over free speech

CPIJ, 18 global bodies urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee to Protect Journalists and 18 international rights organisations yesterday urged the Bangladesh government to immediately drop all charges under the Digital Security Act against those targeted for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

In a letter sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina via email and posted on the

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Rita Khan

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A NEW CHAPTER IN CONNECTIVITY

One of the most eagerly awaited megaprojects of Bangladesh and the first of its kind - The Dhaka Elevated Expressway - will see a partial inauguration by the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 2nd September, 2023. Covering a distance of 19.73 kilometers, this expressway runs from Kaola, located in the south of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, through Mohakhali, Mogbazar, Kamalapur and Jatrabari to Kutubkhali, located along the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. GPH ispat is proud to be associated as a major steel re-bar supplier of this project as this expressway will make the daily commute faster and more comfortable.



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