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BANGLADESH'S
NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

'Filing of case
doesn't mean
random arrests'

Home ministry says cops
under pressure from some
quarters to record cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has warned of legal action against those responsible for creating instability through forced resignations, vandalism, arson, illegal searches, looting, extortion, and tender manipulation, which it said were being carried out by a group of overenthusiastic and vested quarters.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the warning in a circular yesterday.

The circular also stated that in an attempt to create instability, some quarters are putting pressure on the police to record cases and are attacking the accused in court. In this context, the government wants to assure everyone that a case filed does not mean random arrests will be made.

"All these cases will be properly investigated, and appropriate action will be taken," reads the circular.

The government will identify all the

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57 Bangladeshis
convicted for
protesting in
UAE pardoned

**Yunus writes to UAE
president to thank him**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president of the United Arab Emirates yesterday pardoned all 57 Bangladeshis who were convicted by the UAE Federal Court for demonstrating in the Arab country during the uprising in Bangladesh.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus paid deepest gratitude to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for pardoning the Bangladeshi who were sentenced to jail terms for expressing solidarity with the student-led mass upsurge.

"This act of humanity, following our telephone conversation [last week], not only exemplifies Your Highness's compassionate leadership but serves as a conduit for strengthening the enduring bond of fraternity between our two nations," Yunus said in a letter to the UAE president yesterday.

The decision to annul the sentences of the migrants has been a great relief for their families and countrymen, the letter said.

"We are, indeed, profoundly touched by your empathy and understanding. We have full respect for the laws of the UAE and renew our commitment to brief and educate our nationals on the local laws and culture of their host countries before

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Rickshaws negotiate a waterlogged road in the capital's East Tejpuribazar around noon yesterday, hours after heavy rains. The downpours inundated many roads and alleys in the capital, causing sufferings to the city residents.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

LOOTING OF POLICE STATIONS 2,000 arms, 3 lakh bullets still missing

Joint drive to recover those underway

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite repeated calls by the government to submit the looted firearms and bullets to nearby police stations, over 3 lakh bullets and 2,000 guns remain missing.

The government conducts a joint drive, comprising the members of armed forces, BGB, Coast Guard, police, Rab, and Ansar, across the country to recover the arms from today.

The drives begins from 12:00am as yesterday was the last day to hand over the guns, including those whose licences have been suspended, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury after the first meeting of the advisory council on law and order at the Secretariat yesterday.

After the fall of Hasina-led government on August 5 amid an uprising, mobs looted firearms and bullets from different police stations and establishments across the country.

Since August 12, the Police Headquarters asked several times to hand over the guns and bullets and the deadline to do it ended yesterday.

According to the PHQ data, 5,829 firearms and 6,06,742 bullets were looted from police, different police stations, and establishments.

Of those, 3,763 guns and 2,86,082 bullets were recovered, meaning that 2,066 arms and 3,20,660 bullets remain missing.

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The guns include rifles (Chinese), SMGs, pistols, shotguns, teargas launchers, and signal pistols.

The PHQ data shows 31,044 teargas shells, 1,455 teargas grenades, 4,692 sound grenades, 291 smoke grenades, 55 stun grenades, 893 multiple bang stun grenades, and 177 teargas spray were also looted.

5,829 arms looted;
3,763 recovered

6.06 lakh bullets
looted; 2.87 lakh
recovered

2,116 sound grenades,
22,139 teargas shells
recovered

Of those, 22,139 teargas shells, 704 teargas grenades, 2,116 sound grenades, 213 color smoke grenades, 18 stun grenades, 533 multiple bang stun grenades, and 94 teargas sprays have been recovered so far.

"We will also recover the illegal firearms, along with the looted ones, during the joint drive," Md Rezaul Karim, deputy inspector general of the PHQ, told The Daily Star.

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Bangladeshi
girl killed in
BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
moulvibazar

A 16-year-old girl was shot dead allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar on Monday night.

Swarna Das, daughter of Parendra Das of Kalnigarh village, was a student of class eight at Nirod Bihari High School in the upazila.

Several Bangladeshis attempted to illegally enter Indian territory when BSF shot dead one of them and took the body, said Nayek Obaid, patrol commander at Lalarchak Border Outpost of the Border Guard Bangladesh.

Binay Bhushan Roy, officer-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station, said bringing Swarna's body back would require an official procedure involving authorities from both sides of the border.

Swarna's grieving father Parendra said his daughter and wife attempted to cross the border to visit his eldest son, who lives in Tripura.

A couple from Chattogram and two locals who helped them walk across the border were in

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Israeli PM signals no appetite for Gaza truce

Remains defiant amid mounting
criticism; 18 more killed in Gaza

AGENCIES

Concerns grew yesterday over the chances of securing a Gaza truce, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected making any "concessions" in stalled talks towards a hostage release deal.

Netanyahu told a televised press conference at the end of a day of nationwide protests that he would "not give in to pressure" to renege on demands in indirect negotiations with Hamas to end the war, now nearing its 12th month.

Analyst Mairav Zonszein of the International Crisis Group said Netanyahu's remarks showed "he won't stop the war... until Hamas surrenders, and he basically announced there won't be a hostage deal".

Gripped by grief and fury after six dead hostages were recovered from Gaza, Israelis took to the streets on Sunday and Monday to ramp up pressure on their government to secure the release of the remaining captives.

The military said the six were all captured alive during Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war, and shot dead by the captors shortly before troops had found them.

"These murderers executed six of our hostage," said Netanyahu, who has increasingly faced accusations from critics in Israel as well as Hamas officials and analysts of prolonging the war for political gain.

US President Joe Biden, who on Monday met negotiators working



Uphold
religious
harmony

Tarique urges an end to
games with 'minority card'

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting
chairman
Tarique Rahman
yesterday called
upon the people
to come forward
and stop the
old game of
"minority card" to uphold religious
harmony in the country.

"Many games have been played with the 'religious minority card' at home and abroad," he said during a virtual meeting with the BNP's grassroots leaders and activists from Chattogram and Barishal divisions.

The BNP leader said everyone knows who repeatedly tried to gain political advantage by exploiting a sensitive issue like the minority-majority divide and creating fictitious stories of persecution to conceal their misdeeds and destabilise the country.

"The old game of destroying

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'Forcing teachers to resign totally unacceptable'

Edn adviser calls for immediate
end to harassment of teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education and Planning Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud has called for an immediate end to forcing teachers to resign and their harassment.

He said such practices are "completely unacceptable".

During a meeting with education ministry officials at the Secretariat yesterday, the adviser expressed concern over the ongoing incidents of teachers being forced to resign and harassed in educational institutions across the country. He added that these must be stopped immediately, said a press release.

Any allegations of corruption or misconduct against teachers or officials will be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate authorities, and necessary actions will be taken, said the adviser.

Local administrations have already been directed to take steps against any illegal or criminal activities, he added.



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Two women workers sift through soggy jute fibres that were damaged by recent flash floods at a factory of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation in Feni. Most of the stored jute at the factory have been ruined, officials said.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Khaleda Zia
cleared in 5
defamation
cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been acquitted from five defamation cases filed against her during the last Awami League tenure over derogatory remarks about the Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Three separate courts in Dhaka dismissed the cases and relieved the BNP chairperson from these charges yesterday as the complainants were absent for several dates without taking any steps.

Khaleda's lawyer told journalists that AB Siddique, complainant of four out of the five cases, died four years ago.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbubul



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