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Fishermen prepare their trawler and nets for a fishing expedition in the Bay of Bengal. Each trawler typically carries 13-15 fishers who spend 10-12 days at sea catching fish before returning home. Each fisherman earns around Tk 5,000-6,000 per trip. The photo was taken at Ghat-5 in Khulna yesterday. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

EC should be formed

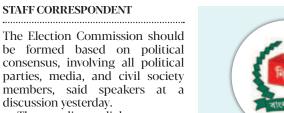
on political consensus

Act against harassment of journalists **Indian press clubs** write to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Correspondents' of South Asia (FCC), the Press Club of India (PCI), the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) and the Press Association (PA) have expressed anguish and concern over the selective harassment of Bangladeshi journalists, and the undue restrictions on them.

In a letter to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Friday, they said implicating as many as 52 respected media personnel in murder cases, imprisoning some of them and filing unsustainable charges against many others in the International Crimes Tribunal are blatant violations of the freedom of expression and thoughts. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



The policy dialogue Democracy organised International in Dhaka. Speakers stressed the need for

a search committee inclusive of representatives from all parties, the media, and civil society to ensure a transparent and fair process. They also demanded the

cancellation of the "Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Appointment Act, 2022", urging reforms to prevent government control.

Badiul Alam



Speakers stressed the need for a search committee inclusive of representatives from all parties, the media, and civil society to ensure a transparent and fair process.

Majumdar, provided feedback on the draft, secretary of Shushashoner but our recommendations were Jonno Nagorik, said, "When ignored. The Act was passed with the Act was passed in 2022, we an indemnity provision, which

is unacceptable. This provision allows them [government] to appoint whoever they want to the Election Commission."

"The previous government appointed people of their choice, which was biased. An election that disrupts democracy is unconstitutional. They violated constitution. Therefore, this law should be repealed and reformed," he added.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said on Wednesday that Badiul Alam Majumdar will head the Electoral System Reform Commission.

Yesterday, Badiul said his would committee propose forming the Election Commission based on political consensus and transparency.

At the discussion, former election commissioner and an adviser to the interim government Sakhawat Hussain proposed a SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



3 more die of dengue, 548 get hospitalised STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three dengue patients died and at least 548 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till vesterday morning, according to the daily statement of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the deaths, two were in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area while one at Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) area.

This year, the total number of cases rose to 18,589 while 106 deaths from dengue disease were reported during the period.

Currently, 1,932 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, of which 672 are from outside Dhaka.

'Women's role in movements often ignored'

Speakers tell seminar marking death anniversary of Noorjehan Murshid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite women playing an instrumental role in all movements, their voices are often ignored once the movements end, said Sharmeen Murshir, social welfare and women's affairs adviser of the interim governmnt at a seminar yesterday.

Citing historical examples, she said, "They [women] are told to return home and are neither welcomed nor celebrated."

"Even though 100 women fought as armed freedom fighters during 1971, after the ninemonth war ended, they were not accepted back into their families. Entering married life became a difficult matter for them, even though their male counterparts were celebrated upon returning home," she said.

She praised the women who participated in the July 2024 movement, highlighting their solidarity with men in defending protesters from attacks and arrests.

The seminar, titled Nariswar (Voice of Women), was organised by Uttarsury: Noorjehan-Sarwar Mushid Cultural Centre at Bangla Academy to mark the 21st death

Despite women

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deserved.

PRAPTI TAPASI

Protest Coordinator

anniversary Noorjehan Murshid, a key figure in Bangladesh's women's movement.

highlighted Noorjehan's crucial role in shaping Bangladesh's cultural political foundation. The second phase

of Nariswar focused "Movement, Progress, and the

Language of Women's Resistance".

Sharmin said the 2024 mass upsurge saw female martyrs for the first time in contemporary history and stressed the importance of remembering their sacrifices.

She also criticised the interim governmen which she herself is a part of, for failing to implement a women-sensitive administration.

Prapti Tapasi, female coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement at Jahangirnagar University, also said despite women contributing significantly to the mass uprising, they did not receive the respect they deserved.

Tapasi recounted how many female students from schools, colleges, and universities joined the protests, bravely holding placards and shouting slogans like, "Why did you kill my brothers?"

She pointed out that many of these young protesters, some of whom joined without informing their parents, are now injured and receiving treatment at hospitals.

She honoured the legacy of female pioneers such as Begum Rokeya, Nawab Faizunnesa, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Nurses demand reform in sector Form human chains in

Dhaka, Gazipur STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurses, midwives, and nursing students and teachers organised protests in Dhaka and Gazipur yesterday morning, demanding reforms in the nursing and midwifery sectors.

In Dhaka, under the banner of "Nursing Reform Council", they formed a human chain in front of the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology on Mirpur Road around 11:00am yesterday, which continued till 12:00pm.

In a letter sent to the health adviser, the protesters made a one-point demand, which is the removal of all non-nursing administrative officials from the positions of director general and director of Directorate General SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



No shortage of fertiliser in country Says agri adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Agriculture and Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam yesterday Chowdhury said that the country has enough fertiliser stock to last until December and there will be no shortage.

He made the statement while speaking as the chief guest at a meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Farmers will be able to purchase and use fertilisers according to their needs, he said.

The meeting addressed the current flood situation across various districts, reviewed rehabilitation measures for affected farmers, and evaluated progress in relief efforts.

Officials also discussed the activities of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Pedestrians and vehicles struggle through a rain-soaked, pothole-riddled road in front of Mugda Hospital, Dhaka. Despite repeated repairs, the road remains in poor condition, continuing to disrupt daily life for commuters. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN