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SCUFFLE AT SECRETARIAT Stern action to be taken against officials involved Says Adviser Ali Imam Majumder

BAHARAM KHAN

The government has decided to take stringent action against some deputy secretaries involved in a recent scuffle at the public administration ministry over the postings of deputy commissioners (DCs).

Those who will be found guilty after an initial enquiry will face tough punishment, sources in the Cabinet Division and the public administration ministry confirmed The Daily Star.

An investigation into the incident is underway, and a joint secretary has already been transferred outside Dhaka.

Ali Imam Majumder, an adviser attached to the Chief Adviser's Office, said officials who would be found guilty will face stern action.

There is no scope for creating indiscipline in the administration, he told The Daily Star.

Ali Imam said that transfers and postings are part of a routine work.

"One cannot say that every decision is 100 percent correct. If a decision requires

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Bangladesh opener Zakir Hasan drives at the ball away from his body, leaving a big gap between the bat and pad and in the process, loses his stumps during the second day of the first Test against India at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. Bangladesh were bowled out for 149 in reply to a first-innings total of 376 from India, who later ended the day at 81 for three in their second innings.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers look for respite

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chennai

Near the end of second day's play in the Chennai Test, Shakib Al Hasan was squatting at the bowling crease in between deliveries to possibly relax his tired legs. Bangladesh had bowled in the morning session and removed the India tail with relative ease but were then themselves dispatched in 47 overs, leading to another day in the field — this time under the hot Chennai sun. In between, the game has slipped from away from Bangladesh within just two days at Chepauk, with India's lead standing at a mammoth 308 runs and with seven second innings wickets remaining for the hosts.

The start of the Test had been very promising on Thursday. Bangladesh had bowled in favourable seaming conditions to dismiss the India top-order before a rearguard action from Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja allowed the hosts to get on top on Day 1.

But having bowled India out in the first session yesterday, Bangladesh got the best possible batting conditions that Chepauk might offer in this ongoing Test. Yet, a top-order stumble saw Bangladesh skittled out for 149 runs before India sent them back into the field without enforcing a follow-on.

Bangladesh have been regularly exposed against the new ball whenever

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COMMUNAL ATTACKS

'There was no trial in last 15yrs'

Tarique calls for
formation of civic
probe commission

UNB, Dhaka



BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said there was no trial or credible investigation into any incident of communal violence over the past 15 years, as the "fascist" Awami League government "exploited these issues for narrow political gains". While exchanging greetings with the members of the Hindu community, he also called for the formation of a civic investigation commission to uncover the actual causes behind these incidents and ensure justice.

The commission can be formed with representatives of the civil society, all political parties, and various religious groups, he said.

The BNP organised the programme at its

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TEXTBOOKS FOR CLASS-4 TO 9

'Exaggerated' historical info to be struck off

Say Nat'l Curriculum and Textbook Board officials

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The government has decided to remove any "exaggerated" historical information or "unnecessary" glorification of any individuals from textbooks for the upcoming academic year, officials of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) have said.

Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, the NCTB decided to discontinue the new national curriculum and restore the old one in 2025.

Officials said textbooks for grades six to nine under the old curriculum, along with those of grades four and five, are undergoing revisions for the next education year, while the curriculum for classes one to three will remain unchanged.

To facilitate this transition, the government formed expert committees to revise 33 textbooks across various grades. Each committee, comprising three to five subject matter experts, will review and revise the textbooks as per

instructions from the NCTB and the interim government.

According to these experts, the subjects expected to see the most changes include Bangla, Mathematics, ICT, Bangladesh and Global Studies, Civics and Citizenship, History of Bangladesh, and World Civilization.

Cover pages of all textbooks across grades will also be either changed or removed.

A group of teams has already started the revision process, and is expected to complete the task by the end of this month, said NCTB Member (Curriculum) Prof Robiul Kabir Chowdhury.

Speaking to The Daily Star, one member involved in the process said, "Many textbooks written during the previous government's tenure contain narratives and speeches of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, along with other exaggerated information. We have been directed to remove such content."

This means that there is little possibility

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Abducted schoolgirl rescued in police raid

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Police early yesterday rescued the tenth-grade schoolgirl, who had been reportedly abducted two days ago from Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

The 16-year-old girl was found during a police raid at Pateshwari Beparihat in Nageshwari upazila around 4:00am, said Phulbari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nawabur Rahman.

Police also arrested the alleged abductor, Alinur Rahman, 35, a resident of Anantapur village.

OC Nawabur said, "During primary interrogation, Alinur told us that he did not abduct the girl and that she willingly ran away with him as her family did not accept their relationship."

Alinur Rahman is a married man, the OC added.

"Further legal action would be taken as per the court's decision," said the police official.

Meanwhile, the girl's

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Israel kills top Hezbollah figure in Beirut strike

Lebanon's health ministry says 11
more people killed, 66 hurt

AGENCIES

Israel killed a top Hezbollah commander and other senior figures in the Lebanese movement in an airstrike on Beirut yesterday, vowing to press on with a new military campaign until it is able to secure the area around the Lebanese border.

The Israeli military and a security source in Lebanon said Ibrahim Aqil had been killed along with other senior members of an elite Hezbollah unit in the airstrike, sharply escalating the year-long conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed group, reports Reuters.

The Israeli military described Aqil as the acting commander of the Radwan special forces unit, and said it had killed him along with around 10 other senior commanders as they held

a meeting. Aqil sat on Hezbollah's top military council, sources in Lebanon told Reuters.

The strike inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after two days of attacks on the group in which pagars and walkie-talkies used by its members

exploded, killing 37 people and wounding thousands. Those attacks were widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed or denied its involvement.

Lebanon's health ministry said Friday's

strike killed 12 people and wounded 66 others, nine of whom were in critical condition. Rescue teams were searching for people under the rubble of two buildings, the country's civil defence service said.

On Thursday night, Israeli fighter

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Israeli strike, Hezbollah attack reported at Lebanon border



UN peacekeepers call for immediate de-escalation



14 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Polls show Harris, Trump tied nationally

REUTERS, Washington

US Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump remain deadlocked less than seven weeks before the



November 5 US presidential election, according to new polls released on Thursday that also show a tight race in the key state of Pennsylvania.

While the surveys found likely and registered voters gave higher marks to Democrat Harris in last week's debate with her Republican opponent, they showed the race — particularly in the battleground state — remains close, in line with other polling.

In the national poll, Harris and Trump were tied at 47 percent among the 2,437 likely voters polled September 11-16, according to a survey by The New York Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Siena College. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In Pennsylvania, one of seven critical battleground states, Harris maintained her 4-point advantage, leading 50 percent to 46 percent with a margin of error of plus or

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Kazipara metro station reopened yesterday, over two months after it was damaged by attackers on July 19 during the quota reform protests. The metro rail authorities also launched their Friday service from Uttara to Motijheel for the first time yesterday. The photo was taken around 3:30pm.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

50-year-old man's body recovered from a bush

Police suspect he
was beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a man from a bush near Jhilpara area of the capital's Khilgaon Taltala.

Nur Islam, 50, of Ati Rayerchar village of Keraniganj, is suspected to have been beaten to death, said Sub-Inspector (SI) of Khilgaon Police Station Md Abdullah Al Hasan. The CID used his fingerprints to identify the victim.

"An investigation is ongoing to find out more details about his death," said the SI.

The police recovered the body around noon and later sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital mortuary for an autopsy.

SI Abdullah said there were injury marks all over the victim's body. "We suspect that he was beaten

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