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2 MONTHS OF INTERIM GOVT

Hopes still persist

TANIM AHMED

The interim government had taken oath two months ago with overwhelming public support and amid almost equally unrealistic expectations. While much of that support still remains, there are questions about its performance, which although largely premature do have genuine grounds. What might have been dismissed as initial jitters of a new government and an inexperienced cabinet appears to have become a consistent pattern due to the incumbent's inability to decide on key issues.

As the chief adviser had rightly identified as his top priority during the initial days in office, law and order still remains a concern to a large extent. The lingering unrest in the RMG sector appears to have finally ebbed but the law enforcers need to ensure that it does not rekindle.

Despite repeated reassurances, the incumbent has not been able to fully revive the morale of law enforcers. Giving temporary magistracy powers to the military did not solve the problem. In the meantime, there have been persistent protests among garment workers, several flare-ups in the hills with Bengalis clashing with the indigenous, alarming rise of radicals and a string of extremely brutal instances of lynchings.

As the chief adviser had rightly identified as his top priority during the initial days in office, law and order still remains a concern to a large extent. The lingering unrest in the RMG sector appears to have finally ebbed but the law enforcers need to ensure that it does not rekindle. At the same time, it seems to be escaping the incumbents that the sudden, and alarmingly visible, rise of extremist elements require special attention and need to be handled with resolve.

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Women jostle for their space in a queue in front of an OMS truck on Ring Road in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. Many of them, mostly from low-income families, waited nearly three hours to buy rice and flour at subsidised prices as the truck reached there at noon instead of the scheduled 9:00am.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Public order yet to be fully restored

Police inertia to blame

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A group of people attacked the home of Asma Begum in Nimertek area of Savar around 11:00am on October 3. They ransacked her home and beat up Asma, who is three months pregnant.

The attack was allegedly made over a dispute involving Asma's teenage son playing a mobile phone game with other locals.

After the attack, Asma filed a case with Savar Model Police Station, accusing four named individuals and 12 unidentified ones. Police personnel were supposed to visit the scene the next day, but it has not happened.

Asma, fearful for her safety, is now living elsewhere.

She told The Daily Star, "If the police had appeared and started the investigation, the attackers might have been scared. But now they [attackers]

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Rab will no longer get involved in killings: DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab will never again get involved in incidents such as enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, the force's Director General AKM Shahidur Rahman has said.

"Enforced disappearance and killings are criminal offences. There is no scope of carrying out these acts as per the law," he said during

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Yunus' economic gambit paying off
Interim govt has made progress in beleaguered financial sector

AM JAHID

Two months ago, as Professor Muhammad Yunus waded into Bangladesh's unprecedented political turmoil, he inherited economic chaos by default.

The interim government led by the Nobel Peace Prize winner started into an economic outlook darkened by double-digit inflation, massive capital flight, shrinking reserves and a heavily strained banking system – a legacy left behind by Sheikh Hasina's regime. Prof Yunus' team wasted no time and took swift steps to rebuild reserves, reform the banking sector and retrieve bad loans. It strived to balance immediate interventions with long-term plans to ensure economic recovery and stability.

As reserves dwindled to a dangerous level, Bangladesh appealed to global lenders for help, securing a clear commitment from the International Monetary Fund to stand by the nation and fast-track fresh loans. The authorities now expect as much as \$6 billion in new funds from global lenders, a badly needed lifeline that will ease pressure on reserves.

- ⌚ Swift steps taken to shore up reserves, reform banking sector
- ⌚ \$6 billion in new funds expected from global lenders
- ⌚ Series of central bank policy measures to tackle inflation
- ⌚ Experts see positive signs, call for more dynamic reforms

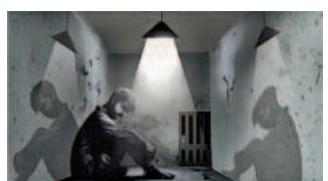
Bangladesh has been grappling with persistently high inflation for years, consistently exceeding 10 percent. This prolonged inflationary pressure is placing a significant burden on middle- and low-income groups, as well as marginalised communities. In response, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, appointed by Yunus, implemented a series of policy measures aimed at tackling inflation. These actions included halting the printing of

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Gazans recount a year of suffering

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Aynaghars should be a site of remembrance

P8



Can rewriting the constitution bring real freedom?

P9

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