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Protect privacy without curtailing free speech

Say experts on cyber laws, urge govt to re-write CSA

STAR REPORT

A holistic approach to a new Cyber Security Act (CSA) is needed, prioritising security requirements, risk management, reporting obligations, data protection, privacy, and freedom of speech to replace the current repressive law, said experts yesterday.

"The language of the act is regressive and cannot simply be amended; it must be scrapped, and a new draft should be introduced," said Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory affairs officer at Robi Axiata.

"The aim should be to achieve a high level of cyber security, cyber resilience, and trust in the country."

He said over half of the sections in the current CSA define content-related crimes, establishing 18 provisions for punishment, with most focusing on content regulation. Additionally, four sections grant legal authority to the NTMC to block content.

In practice, the law offers no comprehensive coverage of cyberspace.

He said CSA should address security requirements, risk management, reporting obligations, certification, resilience planning, data protection, and disaster recovery - none of which are adequately covered in the current act.

He also noted that the law has been weaponised against journalists and individuals exercising their freedom of speech. In a proper legal framework, punishment cannot be imposed arbitrarily, he added.

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PROPOSALS

Scrap and Redraft CSA

Define Free Speech Clearly

Strengthen National Cyber Security Authority

Address AI-Related Risks

Protect Intellectual Property Rights



Homeless individuals sleep on the floor of Dhaka's Kamalapur Railway Station in the early hours of yesterday. Often, you may find them sleeping on foot-over bridges or any space that they can find. They are the ones often forgotten due to initiatives for rehabilitation being few and far between.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Recognise all communities in state reform: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's people fought against discrimination for an inclusive country, but now attempts are being made to exclude various groups from state reform, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

"When we talk about inclusion, it must encompass all classes. We

fought against discrimination, yet women and indigenous people remain excluded from state reform. Instead, we see fundamentalists and wealthy elites being empowered," said Professor Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University.

He spoke at an event titled "Constitutional Philosophy of Manabendra Narayan Lama: The

July Uprising, State Reform, and Indigenous People's Participation," co-organised by Maurum Journal and IP News at Dhaka University's RC Majumdar Auditorium.

"The entire system is open to authoritarianism. While the anti-discrimination movement may have shifted those in power, the

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Sundarbans tiger population rises to 125: survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tiger population in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, has increased by 11 since the last survey in 2018, according to the latest "Sundarbans Tiger Survey 2024".

In the 2018 survey, the number of tigers was recorded at 114, whereas 125 tigers were found in the latest survey.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, shared this information during a press conference held at Secretariat yesterday.

Rizwana said, "The 2023-24 tiger survey conducted in the Sundarbans found the tiger population to be 125, with a density of 2.64 tigers per 100 square kilometres of the forest."

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SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN
Adviser of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

"To determine the tiger population, the first modern camera trapping survey was conducted in 2015, which estimated the tiger population at 106. At that time, the tiger density per 100 square kilometres was 2.17."

The 2023-24 survey also observed a significant number of tiger cubs, though they were not included in the official count due to the high mortality rate amongst cubs.

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In preparation for Durga Puja, an array of beautiful and vibrant decorations have been set up in the Sri Sri Shankar Moth Mondir in Barishal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

METRO Mirpur-10 station likely to reopen this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Mirpur-10 metro rail station is likely to resume operations by mid-October, around three months after it was vandalised and subsequently closed in July, officials said.

They said the authorities will carry out a test about the station's preparedness within this week.

Most of the damaged equipment have already been replaced with equipment from two other relatively less-used stations and the metro rail training institute.

"We have a plan to reopen Mirpur-10 station by mid-October. We are trying to reopen the station as soon as possible," Mohammad Abdur Rouf, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said they would

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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION Washington urges accountability for violantion

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Washington has said those responsible for human rights violations in Bangladesh over the past few months need to be held accountable.

"We want to see human rights protected. Those responsible need to be held accountable," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller at a briefing in Washington yesterday.

Miller was asked how Washington will ensure accountability for human rights violations in Bangladesh, particularly in light of growing concerns surrounding the increasing number of legal cases being filed against innocent individuals.

The Central Health Committee of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement reports that 1,583 individuals have been declared martyred, with over 22,000 injured in the July Revolution. Following the fall of the Awami League government, there were attacks on minorities and police. There were even incidents of mob violence. Rights bodies have recently expressed concerns over the cases of mob violence and lynching in Bangladesh following the political changeover.

Miller was also asked if the US has placed any communication with the Bangladeshi authority to protect the lives of minorities.

However, he did not provide a clear response to this question.

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'DEROGATORY REMARKS' Suspended assistant commissioner summoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned Tapasi Tabassum Urmi, the suspended assistant commissioner of Lalmonirhat, for making "derogatory remarks" about Abu Sayed, who was killed by police during the quota reform movement on July 16.

Tapasi will have to appear before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zakir Hossain on November 28.

If she fails to appear before the court, an arrest warrant will be issued against her, the court said.

Earlier in the day, Abu Hanif, a leader of Gono Adhikar Parishad, filed the case against her with the same court.

Abu Sayed, a 12th batch student of the English

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STELLAR WOMEN SEASON 2

CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS / NOMINATION

The Stellar Women initiative aims to recognise twelve (12) extraordinary women throughout the year (From September '24 to August '25) for playing a remarkable role in their distinguished fields. Their work must have made positive contributions towards the development of society & the nation.

Inviting nominations/ registrations in the following categories:

Entrepreneur	Interior & Landscaping Architect	Marketing Professional
(31 st October '24)	(30 th November '24)	(31 st December '24)

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