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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



People sleeping on the floor of Dhaka Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. At night, the usually bustling station turns into a temporary shelter for many homeless individuals. Additionally, those hoping to buy tickets early in the morning often spend the night there to secure their place in line.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Recognise all communities in state reform: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's people fought against discrimination for an inclusive nation, 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 elite being empowered," said Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University.

He spoke at an event titled "Constitutional Philosophy of Manabendra Narayan Larma: 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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DURGA PUJA Chief adviser greets Hindu community

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus

yesterday greeted all Hindu citizens of the country on the occasion of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community, beginning today.

"On the occasion of Durga Puja, the main religious festival of the Hindu community, I extend my heartiest greetings to all the Hindu citizens of the country," he said in a message on the eve of the day.

Durga Puja is not only a festival of the Hindu community rather it has now become a universal festival, he said. Dr Yunus said destruction of evil forces and worship of truth and beauty are the main features of the Durga Puja.

"This country belongs to all of us. This country is a safe abode for all people irrespective of caste and religion," he added. He wished peace, welfare and prosperity to all the citizens of Bangladesh.



5 fishermen 'abducted by Arakan Army'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Five Bangladeshi fishermen were allegedly abducted by Myanmar's rebel group, the Arakan Army, from the Naf River near Shahparir Dwp in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar, on Monday afternoon, according to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The fishermen have been identified as Md Alam, 22; Russell Mia, 23; his siblings Saiful Islam, 17, and Borhan Uddin, 19, all from Teknaf's Jaliapara village; and Md Rashed, 24, from Chakaria in Cox's Bazar.

Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB-2 Teknaf Battalion, said the fishermen

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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 violation

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.

'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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The Daily Star
STELLAR
WOMEN
SEASON 2

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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:

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(31 st October '24)	(30 th November '24)	(31 st December '24)

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