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No plan to lift ban on extremist groups

Says CA's press wing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government does not have any plan to lift the ban on extremist groups that were outlawed in recent decades.

The Chief Adviser's Press Wing Facts issued a notification clarifying the government's stance on the issue on its Facebook page yesterday.

"Extremist outfits, Hizb ut-Tahrir and Ansarullah Bangla Team are banned in Bangladesh. The Interim Government led by Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has a zero-tolerance policy towards all extremist groups in the country," the notification said.

It said the government's attention had been drawn to a social media post by writer Taslima Nasreen, who "falsely claimed early this week that the Interim Government had lifted the ban on the two groups".

"Bangladesh does not have any plan to lift the ban on the two groups or other extremist groups, which were outlawed in

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People waiting in front of a TCB truck to buy essentials at subsidised prices on Abdul Goni Road near the Secretariat yesterday. The number of people purchasing commodities increases with their market prices going up.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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Mother, daughter raped in Noakhali

Two land in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Noakhali court yesterday sent two men to jail on charges of aiding the gang-rape of a woman and her daughter on the night of October 21 in Companiganj, Noakhali.

Police arrested Char Elahi residents Hasan, 36, and Harun, 32, on Saturday night after the mother filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, said Inspector Abdus Sultan of Companiganj Police Station.

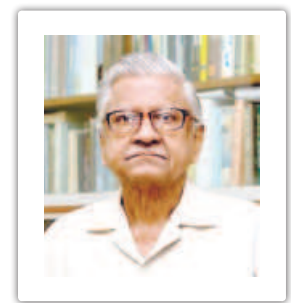
The other accused in the case are Rashed, Saiful, Raju and Ibrahim.

Police and locals said the woman, her daughter, and grandchild live in a secluded area. Her husband is a lorry driver in Chattogram and her daughter is a single mother.

According to the complaint, the accused men broke into the victim's hut around 11:00pm and two of them dragged her outside and raped her beside a nearby pond and two others raped her daughter in the house as the arrestees stood guard.

The men raped her daughter in turns until 3:00am, and before leaving, they took away the little money the women had in the house and other valuables, adds the complaint.

AK Fazlul Haq new Bangla Academy president



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent intellectual and writer Abul Kashem Fazlul Haq has been appointed as the president of Bangla Academy.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs issued a notification announcing his appointment yesterday.

Kashem, a former professor of Bangla language and literature at Dhaka University, will serve in this position for the next three years, it added.

Speaking to this newspaper, Kashem said, "Bangla Academy is the national institution of intellectual thinking. But for a long time, it has not been utilised properly. Now, we will aim to revitalise this institution and restore it to its former glory through a collective initiative."

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Trump holds rally at Madison Square Garden

Harris in Philadelphia

REUTERS, New York/Philadelphia

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump headlined a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden yesterday, a high-profile event in a state that last backed a Republican president in 1984.

Opponent Vice President Kamala Harris traversed Philadelphia, the largest city and a Democratic stronghold in must-win Pennsylvania.

Speaking at the Church of Christian Compassion in the morning, Harris didn't mention Trump by name. "In this moment we do face a real question: what kind of country do we want to live in?" she said.



Trump's rally in Manhattan, like Harris' event in Houston on Friday with Beyonce, hopes to lean on star power to support local congressional candidates ahead of the Nov. 5 election.

U.S. billionaire Elon Musk, who is supporting Trump's reelection bid with his X social media platform, enormous wealth and cash giveaways that have raised legal questions will be among the featured speakers, the Trump campaign announced.

Trump, a New York celebrity for decades, will use the event at the iconic venue known for Knicks basketball games and Billy Joel concerts to deliver his closing argument against Harris.

"We want to close it out with a beautiful bang," he said last week.

Polls show the rival candidates are neck and neck in the battleground states that will decide the next president with just over a week until

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Ex-minister Mosharraf arrested

Former DMP chief Faruq barred from leaving country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested former housing and public works minister engineer Mosharraf Hossain in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area yesterday in a case filed over the death of BNP activist Mokbul.

Mosharraf, also a presidium member of the Awami League, was sued over the death that took place on December 7, 2022, in Platan area.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziadur Rahman sent him to jail after police produced him before the court, seeking confinement in jail, said a court staffer.

On September 30 this year, Mahfuzur Rahman, a BNP activist, filed the case against 256 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and 700 unnamed persons over the murder with Paltan Police Station.



Mosharraf Hossain

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Israel pounds Gaza, Lebanon

Claims 70 Hezbollah fighters killed; IDF strikes 120 targets in southern Lebanon

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel bombarded Hezbollah and Hamas targets in Lebanon and Gaza yesterday, with no respite in the conflict one day after its strikes on Iran raised fears of a broader war.

The Israeli military said it had killed 70 Hezbollah fighters and struck 120 targets in southern Lebanon and carried out "precision strikes" on weapons factories and storage facilities in the Iran-backed group's southern Beirut stronghold over the past day.

In Gaza, it said, it had eliminated "40 terrorists over the past day". Correspondents and witnesses in Gaza confirmed that the north of the Palestinian territory had been hit.

Following Saturday's Israeli air strikes, which killed at least four soldiers, Iran said it had a "duty" to respond, but its military said it was prioritising a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also seemed to indicate that Israel was done striking Iran, saying the attack on Saturday was "precise and powerful, achieving all of its objectives".

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei took to social media to say that the attack "should neither be exaggerated or minimised".

In his post yesterday, Khamenei said Iran should make Israel "understand the strength, will,

and initiative of the Iranian nation and youth".

In Gaza, which UN human rights chief Volker Turk says is facing its "darkest hour", Israeli forces are again carrying out a ground and air campaign in the north that they say aims to prevent Hamas from regrouping.

At least 42,924 Palestinians, a majority of them civilians, have since been killed in the Israeli offensive on Gaza, according to figures from the Hamas-ruled territory's health ministry, which the UN considers reliable.

The war has since drawn in Iran-backed groups across the region, most notably Hezbollah in Lebanon, where Israel has launched a major aerial campaign and ground incursions since late September.

Smoke hung over the suburbs of Beirut after overnight strikes, which came after the Israeli military issued new evacuation warnings.

The Lebanese news agency reporting bombing in the southern cities of Tyre and Nabatiyeh.

The war has left at least 1,615 people dead in Lebanon since September 23, according to an AFP tally based on official figures, though the real number is likely to be higher due to gaps in the data.

The Israeli military said four of its soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon, bringing to 36 the total number of Israeli soldiers killed since the start of ground operations on September 30.

- 40 Palestinians killed in 24 hrs in Gaza
- Gaza facing its "darkest hour": UN rights chief
- Death toll in enclave rises to 42,924

Jubo League man stabbed to death

Two arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police have arrested two suspects in the murder of an activist of Jubo League, the youth body of the Awami League, in Rajshahi city.

The deceased, 25-year-old Mohammad Mim from the Ramchandrapur area, was beaten and stabbed to death on Saturday night, according to a case filed by his mother Keya Begum at Boalia Police Station yesterday evening.

Sabina Yeasmin, additional deputy commissioner (media) of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said Keya filed the case against 13 named and eight to 10 unnamed accused.

Witnesses said a group of 10 to 15 youths aged between 20 and 30 first caught and beat up Mim in the Sagarpara area of

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A woman walks with children while crossing from Lebanon into Syria on foot at the Masnaa border crossing as they flee the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, in Al Masnaa, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Illegal migration harming Indo-Bangla peace'

Says Amit Shah; Assam chief minister seeks coordinated effort to stop 'infiltration'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Two senior leaders of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, said yesterday that infiltration from Bangladesh was on the rise and that coordinated efforts to stop it were needed to ensure regional peace and stability.

Shah, on his first visit to West Bengal in six months, raised the issue of cross-border infiltration at two separate events, at one of which he accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's government of being involved in "state-sponsored infiltration" and corruption.

At both events, Shah urged the voters in West Bengal to bring about a change of guard by putting the BJP in power in the next assembly elections in 2026 to put an end to infiltration.

"Illegal migration harms India-Bangladesh peace.



Amit Shah Himanta

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