

No one, not even PM, will be able to abuse power

Pledges Tarique at seminar on BNP's 31-point reform agenda



- If voted to power, BNP will eliminate all tools of suppression used by AL regime
- Follow Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Restore freedom of expression
- Media to have freedom to 'speak truth to power'
- Establish rules-based state structure
- Ensure accountability, transparency at all levels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP, if voted to power, will ensure no one can abuse power or emerge as an autocrat, said Tarique Rahman, the party's acting chairperson.

"We aim to build a Bangladesh where no individual – not even the prime minister – can abuse power with impunity. Accountability and transparency will be ensured at every level of the government,

from the highest offices to the grassroots, so that we can reaffirm that no one is above the law," he said yesterday.

The foundation of BNP's governance will be the rule of law, human rights and freedom of expression, Tarique said while addressing a seminar on "31-Point Structural Reforms of the State and Citizens' Perspective".

The proposed reforms aim to build

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Brick kilns set up on the Dhaleshwari are contributing to air pollution in the Nimtoli area of Munshiganj's Sirajdikhan upazila. Sand traders have also occupied a part of the riverbank, further reducing the river's width. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Indemnity' provision for power sector unlawful

Declares HC following writ petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared unconstitutional two sections of the long-debated "indemnity act" of the power sector that protected the decisions of the government from legal challenges and gave the energy minister the sole authority to approve all sorts of plans for the sector.

In the ruling, which came following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyers Shahdeen Malik and Md Tayeb-Ul-Islam Showrov on August 28 citing public interest, the HC however condoned the actions already taken in good faith under the two sections of the act to avoid legal complexities.

"However, the government will have the right to revisit the activities of the parties concerned with the agreement subject to certain conditions. If any criminal offence is committed, this provisional condonation will not be applicable," said the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury.

It also directed the government authorities concerned to immediately take necessary steps to make all the state-owned power plants fully operational in the interest of national and economic development and for the greater benefit of the people.

The writ petition said that any act to

HOW THE AL GOVT USED THE ACT

- Awarded power and energy projects without tender
- Increased power generation capacity to 27,000MW against the demand for 17,000MW
- Gave Tk 130,000cr as capacity charges in last 15yrs to idle power plants
- Imported high-priced LNG from spot market

provide indemnity to a process where huge amounts of public money and heavy state investment are involved is ill-intended.

Using the act, which was passed by

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Is respect too much to ask for?

Injured victims vent frustrations

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and AHMED DEEPTO

Rasel Alam, 36, a tailor from Mohammadpur, has been fighting two battles since the July mass uprising – one for his health and another for his dignity.

Injured during the protests on August 4, he underwent a surgery on his right leg and another one around his waist at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

Despite being discharged on September 15, he is still far from full recovery.

"I can barely sleep at night because of the pain," Rasel told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

"Since I got injured, I haven't been able to work and so there is no source of income ... My wife had to borrow Tk 1 lakh from relatives to cover the mounting expenses, including for my surgeries and medication.

"Doctors said it will take another eight months for me to recover. How will my family survive till then?"

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MASS UPRISING

All the injured to get lifelong free treatment

Govt to issue ID cards to let them access services at public hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those injured in the July uprising will get identification cards which will allow them to get free care at government hospitals for life, the government decided yesterday.

Certain private hospitals will be bound by contracts with the government to treat those people for free, said Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser on health and family planning.

A framework on the government's initiatives for the injured would be provided within five work days, he said after a meeting at the health ministry attended by six advisers, a group of students, and several individuals injured in the July uprising.

Some of the decisions made at the meeting are already being implemented, he told reporters.

At the meeting, the injured expressed frustration over mismanagement at hospitals and spending for treatment. Sayedur said he told them to keep the receipts so that the government could reimburse them.

The current government stands on the sacrifices made by these people, he said.

Sayedur said beds would be allocated for them at all government hospitals, and the government facilities in Dhaka will be networked for their care.

If the injured file complaints about negligence, there will be thorough investigations, he said, adding that the government would do everything possible to make life easier for those who lost their vision.

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Interim govt to carry out vital labour reforms

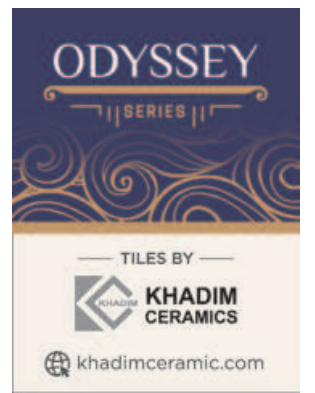
Yunus tells ex-UK PM before returning home

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the interim government would carry out vital labour reforms to attract more foreign investments in the country's manufacturing sector.

He made the comments during a meeting with former British prime minister Theresa May on

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সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বৈষম্যবিরোধী ছাত্র-জনতার আন্দোলনে গত ৫ আগস্ট, ২০২৪ তারিখে সরকার পতনের পর প্রাক্তন মন্ত্রী, সংসদ সদস্যসহ পতিত সরকারের ঘনিষ্ঠ একাধিক আবাসন ব্যবসায়ী আত্মগোপনে রয়েছেন। এই সুযোগে কতিপয় অসাধু ও স্বার্থান্বেষী ব্যক্তিবর্গ নিজেদেরকে পলাতক ব্যবসায়ীদের ঐ সকল আবাসন প্রকল্পের মালিক পরিচয় দিয়ে জমি/প্লট বিক্রয়সহ অবৈধ লেনদেনে জড়িত হচ্ছেন। ফলে সাধারণ জনগণ এই ভুয়া মালিকদের নিকট থেকে জমি/প্লট ক্রয় করে প্রতারিত হচ্ছেন মর্মে অভিযোগ পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।

এমতাবস্থায়, কোন অসাধু ব্যক্তি তথা ভুয়া মালিকদের সাথে জমি/প্লট ক্রয়-বিক্রয়জনিত লেনদেন না করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সতর্ক করা হলো। ভুয়া মালিকদের নিকট থেকে জমি/প্লট ক্রয় করে প্রতারিত হলে তার দায়-দায়িত্ব বাংলাদেশ ল্যান্ড ডেভেলপারস এসোসিয়েশন (বিএলডিএ) গ্রহণ করবে না। জমি/প্লট ক্রয়ের পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট আবাসন প্রকল্পের প্রকৃত মালিকানার তথ্য যাচাই-বাছাই করার জন্য পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো। এ বিষয়ে প্রয়োজন হলে বাংলাদেশ ল্যান্ড ডেভেলপারস এসোসিয়েশন (বিএলডিএ) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

মোস্তফা কামাল মহীউদ্দীন
মহাসচিব



প্লট # ৩৩৫, (২য় তলা), ব্লক # ডি, আলহাজ্ব আব্দুস সোবহান রোড, বসুন্ধরা আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২২৯।
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Sri Lankans
vote in
parliamentary
election

P7



Ending
impunity
for crimes
against
journalists

P8



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In Everlasting Memory of
MD. MUJIBUR RAHMAN

Founder Chairman of Blessing Group
Managing Director of Roxy Paints Ltd.
Former President of Bangladesh Paints Dyes & Chemicals Merchants Association

On his 4th Death Anniversary

The void he left, no one can heal. The memories that we cherish no one can steal. His values will continue to inspire us to take his noble works forward. He will live on with us always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Deeply missed and remembered by.....

(15 November, 2020)

