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Three pro-BNP bodies march towards Indian mission

Submit memorandum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three pro-BNP organisations yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, demanding the stop of misinformation about Bangladesh and ensuring the safety of Bangladeshi missions in India.

The memorandum also urged investigations into the recent attack on Bangladesh's Assistant High Commission in Agartala and sought the protection of minority rights in both countries.

A six-member delegation from Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, Swechchhashebok Dal, and Chhatra Dal handed over the memorandum to an official of the Indian mission in Baridhara at 1:15pm.

The team consisted of Jubo Dal President Monayem Munna, General Secretary Nurul Islam Nayan, Swechchhashebok Dal President SM Jilani, General Secretary Rajib Ahsan, Chhatra Dal President Rakibul Islam Rakib, and General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir.

Addressing reporters in front of the Indian High Commission after submitting

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Activists of pro-BNP Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal and Swechchhashebok Dal beginning their march towards the Indian High Commission from the party's Nayapaltan office yesterday. They were going there to submit a memorandum in protest of the recent attack on the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala of India's Tripura.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BORDER MANAGEMENT

India to install new system for Pakistan, Bangladesh

Says Home Minister Amit Shah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India will put a comprehensive integrated management system to "monitor sensitive areas" along the entire border with Bangladesh and Pakistan, Home Minister Amit Shah said yesterday.

Speaking at an event marking the 60th Raising Day Parade of the Border Security Force in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, he said the government "has created an integrated border management system for monitoring sensitive areas, which will be implemented on the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh."

Shah said the system has been implemented as a pilot project in Dhubri, Assam, and the initial results have been very encouraging.

"After some improvements, this system will be applied across the entire borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh," an official statement quoted the home minister as saying.

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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

Under AL, ACC became a political weapon

DIPAN NANDY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Established to combat corruption, the Anti-Corruption Commission has gone on to become a tool for the Awami League government to suppress opposition to the ruling party.

Over the past decade or so, the commission has primarily targeted individuals opposing the incumbent government while investigations into ruling party members' corruption rarely progressed despite credible allegations.

"ACC has remained embarrassingly ineffective over the years," Iftekharuzzaman, chief of the ACC Reform Commission, told The Daily Star.

The top appointments were based on partisan political basis and the next level of ACC leadership of director generals and secretaries have been under the exclusive control of bureaucracy.

As a result, the commission has remained hostage to partisan political and bureaucratic influence, which made it dysfunctional, according to Iftekharuzzaman.

"The ACC is as good as the government is. Everyone thinks that the ACC runs on the whims and fancies of the government -- it's not too much of a lie."

Moydul Islam
former ACC DG

"The ACC is as good as the government is. Everyone thinks that the ACC runs on the whims and fancies of the government -- it's not too much of a lie," said Moydul Islam, who served as the ACC's director general from 2015 to 2019.

Meanwhile, the ACC has become virtually ineffective now after the resignation of the commission led by Moinuddin Abdullah on October 29. The commission cannot decide on any new inquiries, investigations or cases.

Amid the situation, the ACC is set to observe the International Anti-Corruption Day today with the theme "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity".

The commission has the independence to address minor corruption but lacks the authority to tackle major scandals involving vast sums of money, several ACC directors told The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity.

Occasionally, investigations into high-profile individuals close to the government are initiated under pressure. Rarely are they completed, they said.

After the interim government assumed power on August 8, the ACC decided to investigate about 150 AL leaders.

The list includes notable names such as former lawmaker and AL joint secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, former lawmaker Pankaj Nath, Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Abdus Sobhan Golap and former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury.

The ACC filed a case against former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan and his family for amassing illegal wealth.

But there are hardly any instances of taking action against such people in the last 15 years.

Some investigations only began following court directives, not from ACC's initiative.

For example, in 2022, a complaint against former Gazipur mayor Jahangir Alam over fund embezzlement from development projects gained traction only after a court writ was filed.

The same happened in the case of Abdus Sobhan

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DISINFORMATION

CA asks Meta to address push against Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday asked Meta, the parent company of Facebook, to address the disinformation campaign against Bangladesh being carried out from certain countries to undermine the July-August mass uprising.

"There's a massive disinformation campaign, and we are the sufferers," the Chief Adviser told Meta's director for human rights policy, Miranda Sissons, when the latter called on him at the state guest house Jamuna.

Sissons explained to the chief adviser the human rights policy of Meta saying that they remained alert to prevent anyone from using their platforms to spread disinformation.

The chief adviser also asked Meta to make its technology more user-friendly for young entrepreneurs.

"Technology is a tool to make things happen. But technology doesn't decide what we want to do with things. So, we have

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REGIONAL RESISTANCE

PART 6

During the 1971 Liberation War, dozens of regional forces emerged across Bangladesh. Just as the freedom fighters trained under the sub-sectors and the Bengal Regiment fought valiantly, these regional forces also put up tough resistance against the Pakistan army. In the month of victory, we bring you the stories of some of these heroic forces.

Pathaan Bahini of Chandpur

AHMAD ISTIAK

Through a combination of well-executed tactics, bravery on the battlefield, and overall masterful guerrilla warfare, a local resistance group shaped the outcome of the war in the Chandpur region.

The Pathaan Bahini, led by Zahirul Haque Pathaan, a Bangalee subedar in the Pakistan Army, operated across a 1,000-square-mile area spanning 13 upazilas in Chandpur, Cumilla, Noakhali, and Lakshmipur.

While visiting these districts in June of this year, The Daily Star interviewed over 30 Pathaan Bahini freedom fighters.

Initially formed by former personnel and deserters of the Pakistani army, the force eventually grew to over 900 freedom fighters, including members from all walks of life, such as students, youths, and labourers.

The force engaged in over 40 battles against Pakistani forces, displaying immense courage and bravery.

The details of the war and the heroism of the Pathaan Bahini have been recorded in several books, including "Chandpur Zillar Muktiyuddher Itihas" by Shahjahan Kabir, Bir Pratik, and "Muktijuddhe Chandpur" by Dr Delwar Hossain Khan, a Pathaan Bahini member.

According to the books, force chief

Zahirul was a well-known figure for his role in the 1965 Indo-Pak War, which earned him the "Tamgha-i-Jurat", the fourth highest military award of Pakistan.

FORMATION
In early 1971, Zahirul, serving under the 1st East Bengal Regiment, was stationed at Jessore Cantonment. In February, he was ordered to transfer to Lahore. However, he instead took a two-month leave to go to his village home in Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur and assess the country's political situation.

In March, following Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's call for a non-cooperation movement, a war committee was formed in Chandpur.

As per the decision of the committee, a group of 30 young students were recruited for training in the Alipur village of Hajiganj.

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A truck carrying humanitarian aid drives on the main Salah al-Din road in the Nuseirat refugee Camp in the central Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas militant group.

PHOTO: AFP

Chinmoy, 163 others sued for murder attempt

Journos among accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari and 163 others have been sued on attempted murder charges during violence on the Chattogram court premises on November 26.

Enamul Haque, a businessman from Khatunganj, also made 400-500 unidentified people accused in the case filed with the court of Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Bakar Siddique yesterday, said complainant's lawyer Beradul Islam.

The court recorded the complainant's statement and ordered the inspector (investigation) of Chattogram's Kotwali Police Station to investigate the incident and submit a report, the lawyer told The Daily Star.

Somoy TV's Chattogram Bureau Chief Kamol Dey, Chattogram Press Club General Secretary Deb Dulal Bhowmik, local daily the Chattogram Pratidin's Adviser Ayan Sharma, and Chittagong University teacher Kushal Baran Chakraborty were also made accused, according to the case statement.

Citing the case statement, Erfanul Haque, another lawyer for the complainant, said his client was at the land registry office for registration work on November 26, when clashes broke out between Chinmoy's followers and police.

Enamul alleged that he was attacked by Chinmoy's supporters and a group of Awami League activists. They vandalised vehicles and other properties on the court premises.

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Pacers strike early after batters deliver for Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pacers made early inroads in the Powerplay after a strong showing from the batters to place Bangladesh in the driving seat in their first of three ODIs against hosts West Indies at the Warner Park in St Kitts yesterday.

Half-centuries from captain Mehedi Hasan Miraz (74 off 101 balls), Tanzid Tamim (60 off 60) and Mahmudullah (50 not out off 44) and a handy 40-ball 48 from Jaker Ali helped the Tigers post 294-6 in their 50 overs.

At the time of filing this report, West Indies were reduced to 42-2 in 10 overs with Shai Hope and Keacy Carty unbeaten on 12 and 0 respectively.

Tanzim Sakib and Nahid Rana took one wicket each in the Powerplay with Sakib trapping Brandon King lbw for nine in the eighth over and Rana removing Evin Lewis for 16 in the following over in the same manner.

Earlier, batting first, Bangladesh got off to a bright start despite losing opener Soumya Sarkar (19 off 18) and one-down Liton Das (2 off 7) inside the first 10 overs, thanks to Tanzid's entertaining knock, which included three sixes and six fours.

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