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## Politics won't influence ACC any longer

Says new chairman after assuming office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will no longer be influenced by any political ideology or bias, said its newly appointed chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen, after assuming office yesterday.

"It would not be right to promise complete eradication of corruption. However, we must strive to do our best. We will be neutral, adhering to the law," he said while addressing a press briefing at the commission.

Momen acknowledged the potential challenges posed by corruption within

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Speakers at a roundtable discussion titled "Towards Safer Digital Spaces: Enhancing Legal and Policy Responses to VAWG in Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event was jointly organised by The Daily Star and NETZ.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## Japan to continue supporting reforms of Bangladesh

### Outgoing ambassador tells CA

BSS, Dhaka

Japan will support Bangladesh's ongoing reform, and its investors will continue to stay beside Bangladesh to help boost the country's economy, said outgoing Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Iwama Kiminori yesterday.

He made the remarks as he paid the farewell call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna.

Praising the leadership of Prof Yunus, Ambassador Kiminori said the Japanese government will cement ties with Bangladesh on three pillars -- peace and

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## Govt revising energy master plan

### Power adviser says move aimed at ensuring sustainable energy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is revising the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) and reevaluating the renewable energy policy, said Power Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan yesterday.

The aim is to ensure sustainable electricity, he said while inaugurating the 2nd Conference on Bangladesh Energy Prosperity 2050 at BIAM Foundation Auditorium.

The IEPMP was adopted in 2023 by a team of Japan International Cooperation Agency and The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan.

Many local energy experts criticised the IEPMP.

Fouzul said, "The government had begun issuing tender documents to produce electricity from renewable energy. Efforts are being made to build factories to manufacture solar power equipment."

Enabling corruption rather than achieving sustainable development seems to be the primary goal of the previous Awami League-led government, he said.

The current interim government is eliminating practices that enable corruption and moving towards sustainable power policy and practice, he added.

At the event, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said the interim government has been reviewing power purchase agreements signed by the AL government.

"Cancelling the power sector deals is easier said than done. Getting out of such deals is very costly," she said.

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## Over 78pc women face tech-based violence in Bangladesh

Says study by NETZ Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 78 percent of women in Bangladesh have experienced technology-facilitated violence against women (TF-VAW), reveals a new study by NETZ Bangladesh.

The study found that 78.4 percent of these incidents occurred on Facebook, followed by 28 percent through messaging services, like WhatsApp and Iml.

These findings were presented at a roundtable discussion, titled "Towards Safer Digital Spaces: Enhancing Legal and Policy Responses to VAWG in Bangladesh," held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday. The event was jointly organised by The Daily Star and NETZ.

As per the findings, around 50 percent of women reported avoiding online activity or hiding their identities on social media due to safety concerns. Additionally, 35 percent of women reported experiencing mental health issues as a direct result of online harassment.

The study was conducted between July and November 2023 across eight districts with a sample size of 300 respondents.

At the programme, Taherul Huq Chauhan, additional deputy inspector general of police, highlighted the risks of unregulated

online behaviour.

"The current generation often seeks popularity and trends on online platforms by sharing personal activities without fully understanding the potential consequences. In some cases, this includes sharing intimate or inappropriate content, which requires greater awareness," he said.

**Cyberbullying frequently escalates into blackmail, with perpetrators often targeting women for financial exploitation. Cyber harassment has also become a significant factor contributing to adolescent suicides. Addressing the gaps in existing laws and policies is essential to creating a safer cyberspace for everyone.**

TAHERUL HUQ CHAUHAN  
Addl deputy IGP

"Cyberbullying frequently escalates into blackmail, with perpetrators often targeting women for financial exploitation. Cyber harassment has also become a significant factor contributing to adolescent suicides. Addressing the

gaps in existing laws and policies is essential to creating a safer cyberspace for everyone," he added.

Abu Sayed Md Kamruzzaman, additional secretary of ICT division and director general of National Cyber Security Agency, emphasised the importance of reinforcing social values, norms, and ethical education among the younger generation.

He stated, "Parents need to be more vigilant. Under the guise of education, children are being given smartphones, but it is the parents' responsibility to monitor the apps their children use. The government cannot do this for them. A nation cannot function solely through laws; our culture must take a proactive approach rather than a reactive one."

Speaking about including internet safety lessons in textbooks, he said it is not feasible to include everything in the curriculum.

"We have drafted a Cyber Security Ordinance and submitted it to the Cabinet. This ordinance will address issues such as freedom of speech, cyberbullying, and harassment," he added.

Md Monir Hossain, additional director (deputy secretary) of Department of Women Affairs at MOWCA, said, "The advancement and widespread use of technology

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## Govt moves to curb officials' foreign trips

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued a series of guidelines for the foreign travel of government officials as part of its austerity measures.

In a circular dated Monday, Principal Secretary Siraj Uddin Mia said foreign travel will generally be discouraged for government officials, and they must submit a list of potential foreign trips for the year in advance.

The circular mandated that while submitting a foreign travel proposal, details of the proposed official's travel history for the previous year must be attached.

Non essential foreign trips funded by government resources are to be strictly avoided, said the circular.

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## Action against misclassification of murders: DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner SM Sazzat Ali yesterday warned his officers against misclassifying murders as unnatural deaths in police records.

"If any such incident takes place, strict punitive action will be taken, and the officers-in-charge of the police stations will be responsible for it," he said during a monthly crime review meeting at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the city.

The police's primary duty is to apprehend criminals and ensure justice through the courts, he added.

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Police blocked protesters -- who oppose the age limit in government jobs -- as they attempted to march towards Shahbagh yesterday. The protesters had initially gathered at TSC, Dhaka University, and planned to march to the National Museum but were stopped by the law enforcers.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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