

BNP against partisan

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information to journalists after submitting the recommendations.

In its proposals, the BNP called for the immediate identification of partisan and corrupt officials who have been serving in the administration during what they referred to as the “autocratic Awami League regime” of the last 16 years.

suggest that officials identified as corrupt or partisan, who have completed 25 years in service, should either be dismissed, made Officers on Special Duty, or transferred to less important positions.

The BNP committee also proposed the promotion of honest officials who had been made OSD or forced into retirement over the last 15 years.

Government

FROM PAGE 5
out the real culprits and masterminds behind the killings during the BDR massacre in February 25-26, 2009.

The HC bench ordered the government to complete the process and to submit a report after complying with the directive before it by yesterday. On November 5, the bench issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why they should not be directed to constitute a national independent committee in this regard.

The court also ordered the home ministry to dispose of the application filed by the writ petitioners, seeking to form such a committee in 10 days.

It issued the rule and order following a writ petition filed by two Supreme Court lawyers—Md Tanvir Ahmed and

Biplab Kumar Poddar—seeking its directive on the government to constitute a national independent committee headed by a retired Appellate Division judge.

ACC sues

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savings that could be traced for these assets.

Benazir himself declared assets worth Tk 11.42 crore, while ACC's verification revealed that he, along with his minor daughter Jahra Zarin Binte Benazir, possessed assets valued at Tk 14.05 crore.

Meanwhile, former member of the National Board of Revenue Motiur Rahman and his second wife have been accused in two separate cases of acquiring illegal assets worth Tk 11.18 crore and concealing asset information.

Cadet College Club gets new board of directors



STAR REPORT

Tariq Abul Ala has been elected as president and Ashraf Hussain director (administration and services) of Cadet College Club Limited, said a press release.

Besides, Kazi Masum Hossain has been elected as director (finance & accounts) and Zinnat-un-Nahar (Seema) director (women and children affairs).

The board of directors 2025 was announced in the 22nd annual general meeting of Cadet College Club Limited held on December 14 on the club premises, Purbachal.

The other elected board of directors are Tanim Khan, M/N 1092; Dr Hasan Shahriar Md Nuruzzaman (Kallol), M/N 1144; Maj (ret'd) Syed Shahed Hasan Kabir, M/N 1174; Khandakar Md Wahid Sadique Shuvo, M/N 700; Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq, M/N 1350; Nazbul H Khan, M/N 1132; Dr Mafruha Akter Rumana, M/N 2220; Maj (ret'd) Mohammad Abu Sufian, M/N 1506; and Mohammad Asaduzzaman Shaon, M/N 1366.

Bangladesh far from

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genuine human rights, we must remain vocal and proactive while ensuring supportive government policies,” she said.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, stressed the need to eliminate human rights violations. “As we envision a new Bangladesh based on anti-discrimination movements, fundamental rights must always be protected,” she said.

She said violence and hatred persist because the principles of international human rights have not been fully embraced in society. “We need to nurture a mindset of accepting differences from an early age,” she added.

She also criticised the NHRC for being ineffective and called on civil society to be more vocal against violations. “Had we stood firmly, the scale of atrocities could have been reduced,” she said.

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Nicolas Weeks highlighted structural barriers such as stereotypes and limited access to resources as key factors

behind inequality. “We need a civic space where people can share opinions and exercise fundamental freedoms,” he said.

He called for greater transparency and accountability in governance.

Corinne Henchoz Pignani, Chargée d'Affaires of the Swiss Embassy, urged patience while working towards a fairer society.

“Right now might be challenging, but don't lose the vision,” she said, referencing the Human Rights Day slogan: Our rights, our future, right now.

Sara Hossain, executive director of BLAST, emphasised the unique challenges faced by the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

“The CHT has distinct characteristics, and its policies require a unique approach,” she said. Unresolved court proceedings are stalling progress in the region, she added.

Prof Sharmind Neelormi of Jahangirnagar University and a member of the White Paper Commission also spoke at the event.

Probe report on

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The 12 HC judges – Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan, Justice Naima Haider, Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif, Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar, Justice Ashish Ranjan Das, Justice Khizir Hayat, Justice SM Maniruzzaman, Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman, Justice Md Akhtaruazzaman, Justice Shahed Nuruddin, Justice Md Aminul Islam, and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon – have not been given judicial duties since then.

Meanwhile, three other High Court judges, who were barred from judicial

duties for five years in the wake of an inquiry into allegations against them, resigned on November 19.

They are Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury, Justice Quazi Reza-Ul-Hoque, and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque.

The president accepted their resignation letters the same day, a law ministry notification said.

However, neither the government nor the Supreme Court administration has provided information on the allegations against the judges, the investigating authority, or the current status of the investigation.

Experts call

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They urged the government to offer financial support, citing high costs and low demand for organic products.

Md Abu Zubair Hossain Bablu, additional secretary of the agriculture ministry, acknowledged the harmful effects of excessive pesticide use and called for strategic control. He urged farmers to adopt high-yielding seeds and use fertilisers and pesticides judiciously.

Taslima Islam, acting chief executive of BELA, advocated for a specific law on farming protection, while Md Ziaul Haque,

director of the Department of Environment, stressed collaborative efforts to safeguard farmland and water bodies.

Dr Mohammad Ariful Islam, chairman of Agricultural Chemistry at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, said both organic and conventional farming can ensure food safety if managed responsibly.

The event also featured contributions from Dr Munnujan Khanam of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute and Prof Dr Nazneen Sultana of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

New executive committee for ex-rotaractors



STAR REPORT

Ex-Rotaractors Forum, an organisation of former Rotaractors, has recently elected its executive committee for 2024-26.

Saadat R Khan and Muhammad Ezaz Rasul were elected president and general secretary respectively, said a press release.

Other elected are: Mohammad Asadujjaman Rasel (vice-president); Rashed Haider and Ferdousul Alam Ferdous (joint secretaries); Md Siddiquir Rahman (treasurer); ATM Kamruzzaman Apu (publication secretary); Shimul Parveen Parvez (welfare secretary); Mohammad Nurul Huda Ansary (membership secretary); Kamrul Hasan Chowdhury (finance secretary); and executive members Afzal Hossain, Syed Abu Zafar, Murtaza Nurul Huda, Mohammad Bin Kashem Khokon, Lutfur Rahman Putul and Khandaker Mohammad Zaman.

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BR launches Dhaka

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BRTC LAUNCHES AC BUSES

In another programme held at Shibbari in Gazipur, the adviser launched 10 AC buses of BRTC on the Gazipur-Gulistan route.

The service includes a 20km-long corridor formally known as BRT Line-3.

The adviser urged authorities to complete the unfinished works of the BRT project to ensure full functionality of the service.

“Despite several extensions of the project deadline, work remains incomplete. This has delayed benefits for the public. As an interim measure, we are starting service with 10 BRTC buses on an experimental basis, aiming to make journeys more comfortable,” he said.

According to a BRTC official, the bus service will have seven designated stoppages at Gulistan, Shahbagh, Farmgate, Airport, College Gate,

Board Bazar, Joydebpur Chowrasta, and Shibbari. The fare for the route has been set at Tk 140.

Originally, the project aimed to procure specialised buses for the dedicated BRT service. However, in the absence of these vehicles, the authorities opted to introduce BRTC buses, deviating from the initial plan.

The decision comes over a decade after the BRT project was launched in November 2012.

Our Gazipur correspondent also contributed to this report.

PRAYER TIMING
DECEMBER 16

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	3:45	5:22	7:00
JAMAAT 5:55	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Correction Notice

In reference to Bangladesh Bank BRPD Circular Letter No. 54, dated 12 December 2024, the age limit for Management Trainee (MT) and Probationary Officer (PO) positions has been revised to 32 years as of December 29, 2024.

All other terms and conditions and the application deadline remain unchanged.

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