



IMF presses for more reforms to unlock \$750m

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Lifeline by boat faces dry season challenges

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Myanmar's junta pushed polls plan in talks with neighbours

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Munna finds success as coach in Malaysia

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Framed by AL regime, they're in the clear now

Accused in political cases finally getting acquitted; law ministry seeks list of such cases

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

After 13 years of legal battle, BNP leader Moinul Islam and seven others have been acquitted in a case filed over arson, vandalism, and assault on law enforcers in Mohakhali.

Moinul is a joint convener of Banani Thana committee of Jubo Dal, BNP's youth wing.

At least 30 leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations were accused in the case filed with Gulshan Police Station in 2011.

On December 28 last year, a little over a week before the national election, a Dhaka court sentenced Moinul and seven others to 42 months in prison.

Following an appeal, the Special Judge's Court-1 of Dhaka on November 19 this year overturned the verdict citing flaws in the

"We are now seeing judicial confirmation of what political parties have long alleged, that cases were filed for harassment."

TAWOHHIDUL HAQUE Associate Prof of DU

trial court judgment.

"The trial court did not properly scrutinise the evidence. The judgment was neither legally nor factually sound," the special judge court said in its verdict.

The prosecutor failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubts, it added.

Moinul's lawyer Eltut Mish said, "My client did not get justice from the trial court. Besides, only seven witnesses testified and most of them were police personnel."

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and other D-8 leaders pose during a photo session at the D-8 summit at the New Administrative Capital of Egypt yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

3 youths try to rob bank, end up in detention

Police say suspects used toy pistols

RAKIB MADBER

Two boys aged 16 and a 22-year-old man brandishing "toy pistols" kept the entire nation in suspense yesterday afternoon while trying to rob a bank being inspired by "video games and movies".

After a three-hour-long standoff at the Jinjira branch of Rupali Bank in Keraniganj, they surrendered to law enforcers, claiming they wanted to rob the bank to save a patient suffering from terminal kidney disease and to buy an iPhone.

Police recovered Tk 18 lakh in cash, four toy pistols, and two knives from their possession.

Ahmad Moyeed, superintendent of police of Dhaka, disclosed the preliminary findings while talking to reporters at Keraniganj Model Police Station last night.

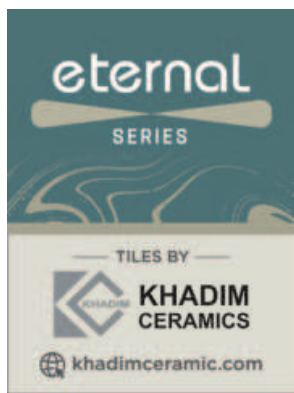
The 16-year-old suspects' identities were not revealed for legal reasons. The 22-year-old youth was identified as Lion Molla Nirob from Gopalganj.

Citing statements made by the detainees during primary interrogation, SP Moyeed said they needed Tk 15 lakh to help the patient.

"Police are now investigating and verifying the address of the patient they have given. They had also planned to buy an iPhone with the remaining Tk 3 lakh," he said.

Witnesses, police, and Rab officials said three persons wearing masks entered the bank in the Chunkutia area around 2:00pm and held the

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CA'S SPEECH

No mention of election date frustrates BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP expressed its disappointment yesterday over the absence of a specific date for the next parliamentary polls in the chief adviser's recent address to the nation.

The party urged the interim government to set an election date through dialogues with political parties and other stakeholders.

It also pointed out that conflicting statements from the chief adviser and his press secretary about the election timeline have created confusion.

"We had hoped that the chief adviser would come up with a clear election roadmap, but he did not do so. This has left us and the nation disappointed," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He was speaking at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office in the morning.

In an address to the nation on Monday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus hinted that the 13th parliamentary polls could be held either at the end of 2025 or in the first half of 2026.

However, his Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam on Tuesday said the next general election could be expected by June 30, 2026.

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Invest in youth to build tomorrow's economy

Yunus urges D-8; bats for 'two-state solution' for ending conflicts in ME

"It is not an issue that merely concerns the Muslims. ... It is about the universal pledge to protect the vulnerable. It is indeed our moral duty to stand by them, resolutely."

PROF YUNUS on the plight of Palestinian people

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the D-8 countries to invest in youth and youth-based startups to build an economy of the future.

He also urged the D-8 to open result-oriented conversations involving the youths and youth-driven businesses and work in unison to improve the lives of people of the bloc.

The Nobel Laureate praised the theme of the summit "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Towards Shaping the Economy of Tomorrow" and said the youth and technology-driven businesses would be the driving force of future economies.

He also offered Bangladesh's leadership in convening a multi-stakeholders meeting in 2025 in this regard.

"In the time of changing world of work, we need to rediscover and reposition learning regarding youth and work to redesign

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Hasina among 58 sued at ICT over Pilkhana BDR carnage

Families of 20 slain army officers filed the case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family members of 20 army officers who lost their lives in the 2009 BDR massacre lodged a complaint against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 57 others with the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday.

The complaint was submitted to ICT Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam over the killings that took place at the headquarters of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (now Border Guard Bangladesh) in the capital's Pilkhana on February 25, 2009.

Apart from Hasina, her former defence adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and ex-army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed have also been named in the complaint, said lawyer SM Tasmiur Islam, who assisted the victims' families.

Speaking to the media after filing the complaint, the families called for the release of the innocent ex-BDR soldiers who have been imprisoned for years.

"Fifty-seven unarmed army officers were killed because of their patriotism, honesty, and skill. This massacre was

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POLLS PARTICIPATION

'No barriers for those compliant with the law'

Says Badiul Majumdar

STAR REPORT

Badiul Alam Majumdar, chief of the Election System Reform Commission, yesterday said he sees no obstacles for those who comply with the law and prepare accordingly to participate in future elections.

"This, however, falls under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission," he wrote in a Facebook post.

He added that the Awami League's electoral activities would depend on the resolution of the cases filed against its leaders. Many AL leaders, including the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, stand accused in murder cases, including those filed under the ICT Act.

Majumdar came up with the post to clarify the comments he had made earlier in the day after a dialogue with stakeholders at the Rangpur Deputy Commissioner's Office, organised by the Election Reform Commission.

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Scores of people from the low-income group had been waiting near the TNT field in the capital's Khamarbari for the TCB truck, so that they could purchase kitchen essentials at subsidised prices. However, as the truck arrived around 12:00pm and distribution went on till late in the afternoon, many missed the chance to go home and cook lunch for their families. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

EMBEZZLING TK 1,092CR

ACC files case against S Alam's son, 57 others

STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case accusing Ahsanul Alam, former Islami Bank chairman and son of Mohammed Saiful Alam, and 57 others of embezzling Tk 1,092.43 crore.

The money was taken from the bank in the form of loans issued to shell companies, an investigation has found, officials said.

Banking rules were violated and forged documents were used when the loans were issued, said the complaint.

Most of the other accused are former and current bankers who played a role in issuance of the loans from Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC's Chaktai Branch in Chattogram city, ACC Deputy Director Nazmus Sadat told The Daily Star.

The loans were taken by Murad Enterprise, a shell entity that resorted to forgery to get the money, officials said.

ACC Deputy Director Yasir Arslan

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