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'People have right to elect leaders through votes'

Says BNP leader Khasru

STAFF REPORT

BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said any tug-of-war over the ownership of the movement could lead to consequences similar to those previously faced by Sheikh Hasina.

"Ownership of the movement belongs to people, who have the right to elect their leaders through their votes," he said.

"If anyone attempts to manipulate this process, they will face the same fate as Sheikh Hasina. Staying in power through fabricated statements without electoral support is not viable. Elections must be held, and they must be held soon," he said.

He said this while speaking at the founding anniversary rally of the Chattogram City unit of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal in the port city.

"Together, we have resisted fascism. No one should try to claim ownership of this movement. If such claims are made, the account we [BNP] will provide will leave them ashamed," he warned.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

2,229 families received financial assistance so far

Says July Shaheed Smriti Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The families of 2,229 people killed or injured during the July uprising have received financial assistance from the July Shaheed Smriti Foundation, said its chief executive officer, Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdha.

While speaking at a press conference at his office yesterday, Snigdha said financial assistance for the families of victims and the injured has been provided since October 1, 2024.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus inaugurated the health card distribution programme of the Ministry of Health to ensure free health treatment to the victims of the July uprising in the country's all public hospitals. The chief adviser launched the programme at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday evening. At the event, Prof Yunus handed over health cards to two students, who were injured in the uprising.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

Workplace accidents claimed 707 lives in 2024

Says BILS report; transport sector sees highest deaths, agriculture second

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SECTOR-WISE BREAKDOWN	
Transport	273
Agriculture	102
Construction	91
Rickshaw pullers	43
Migrants	38
Day Labourers	32

At least 707 workers were killed and 292 injured in workplace accidents in 2024, with transport workers suffering the highest number of fatalities, according to the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

Additionally, 229 workers faced workplace torture, resulting in 113 deaths.

Based on an analysis of newspaper

reports from January 1 to December 15, BILS released a report yesterday showing that 273 transport workers lost their lives in accidents.

The agriculture sector recorded 102 fatalities, the second highest, followed by the deaths of 91 construction workers, 43 rickshaw pullers, 38 migrant workers, and 32 day labourers.

Among the deceased, 705 were men

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Nothing beats the warmth of a mother's embrace on a chilly Dhaka morning! Wrapped up snug and cozy, a child heads out with his mother to take on the day together. The photo was taken in Mohammadpur Bus Stand area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

2025 will be the year of trials

Says ICT chief prosecutor

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chief Prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), Muhammad Tajul Islam, yesterday said 2025 will be a pivotal year for the trials of criminals in Bangladesh.

He said this at a New Year's greeting exchange with journalists at the ICT premises.

"We aim to make 2025 a historic year, focusing on bringing to trial those responsible for heinous crimes committed over the years. Our efforts are directed toward achieving this goal," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

267 excluded from 43rd BCS protest at Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Candidates who were excluded from the latest 43rd BCS gazette yesterday protested in front of the Secretariat, demanding their inclusion and issuance of a fresh gazette.

Despite successfully completing all stages of the BCS examination and receiving recommendations from the Public Service Commission (PSC), 267 candidates have been excluded from the gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Public Administration.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

On December 30, the ministry issued a new gazette for the recruitment of candidates from the 43rd BCS. Among the recommended candidates by the PSC, 168 individuals were excluded from this gazette. The notification stated that 1,896 candidates recommended by the PSC have been appointed to entry-level positions in various cadres. These candidates are required to join by January 15.

It is noteworthy that the first gazette of the 43rd BCS was published on October 15, SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

SC gets 55 complaints in 2 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court administration has received a total of 55 complaints from justice seekers through its helpline in the last two months regarding various irregularities including bribery, negligence, delayed service and misconduct, and taken appropriate action against the irregularities.

Out of the total complaints, 22 were lodged for receiving legal service in delay. However, all the complaints have already been settled and the officials and employees concerned have been held accountable, a SC press release said yesterday.

Besides, 33 complaints were received regarding various irregularities, bribery, negligence, misconduct, etc.

Out of these complaints, 12 were made against judges of district courts, three against officials and employees of the High Court Division, 12 against employees of district courts and six against lawyers.

Legal steps have already been taken to take appropriate action regarding those complaints.

The press release said 1,003 calls have been received regarding legal advice, case-related information and complaint submissions. Out of these, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

In Loving Memory of Mrs. Hasmat Ara Islam



With heavy hearts, we announce the departure of our cherished mother, Mrs. Hasmat Ara Islam, a steadfast pillar and devoted wife to the late Mr. M.N. Islam. (Inna illah wa inna ilayhi raijun)

Mrs. Islam departed this world on 30th December, 2024, at 7:30 pm at United Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, following a courageous battle with cardiac illness, surrounded by love and deep affection.

A visionary pioneer, she was the founding Director of Flora Limited. Alongside my late father, Mr. M.N. Islam, she played a crucial role in shaping this trailblazing IT Company since its inception in the early 1970s. Her unwavering commitment and gentle guidance left an indelible mark on all who had the fortune to work with her.

Her legacy of kindness and love endures through her four devoted children, eight adoring grandchildren, four cherished great-grandchildren, and the countless family members and friends whose lives she touched with grace and warmth.

We invite all who knew and loved her to join us in her memory. Her Kulkhan will be held at her residence, House-19, Road-47, Gulshan-2, Dhaka, following Maghrab prayers at 6:00 pm on Friday, 3rd January, 2025. Your presence would be a true homage to the love and respect she garnered throughout her life.

We respectfully ask her family, friends, and well-wishers to grace this occasion with your cherished presence, as we gather to honor a life beautifully lived.

Mustafa Rafiqul Islam
Managing Director

FLORA TELECOM **FLORA SYSTEMS**

PCJSS REPORT ON CHT

2024 saw over 200 incidents of rights violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 incidents of human rights violations were committed last year in the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) by security forces, law enforcement agencies, communal and fundamentalist groups, Bangladeshi settlers, and land grabbers, according to the annual report of the Parbatya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) yesterday.

These incidents violated the human rights of 6,055 Jumma people, the report stated, adding that 21 individuals were killed, and 119 houses and shops were set on fire or looted.

Additionally, 2,314 acres of land were illegally occupied by external companies, influential individuals, and settlers.

"In 2024, there was no improvement in the fragile overall situation of the CHT. On the contrary, the situation further deteriorated. No progress was made in implementing the CHT Peace Accord during the year. Instead, activities

These incidents violated the human rights of 6,055 Jumma people, the report stated, adding that 21 individuals were killed, and 119 houses and shops were set on fire or looted.

opposing the accord and harming the interests of the Jumma people were intensified," the report noted.

It added, "One of the most brutal and horrific incidents of 2024 was the violent communal attack, arson, and massacre against the Jumma people in September, as well as the burning down of 17 houses belonging to the Tripura community in Loma in December."

The report further said, "As with previous communal attacks, none of the individuals involved in these incidents were brought to justice, and no proper legal measures or accountability were ensured for these crimes."

The report added that no initiatives were taken to implement the CHT Peace Accord last year.

"Even after 27 years since the signing of the CHT Peace Accord, two-thirds of its provisions, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4