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There's no rift between BNP, Jamaat

Says Jamaat
nayeab-e-ameer

UNB, Chandpur

Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, nayeab-e-ameer (deputy ameer) of Jamaat-e-Islami, yesterday claimed there is no distance between BNP and Jamaat.

"In fact, we have a good relationship, and I believe BNP is right in saying that they have no conflict with Jamaat," Taher said while speaking at a workers' conference in Shahrasti upazila of Chandpur.

"We aim to maintain good relations with all parties, including Islamic and other political groups, by keeping communication channels open," he added.

Regarding the election reform issue, Taher described the benefits of the Proportional Representation (PR) system, saying it will offer a

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Dew drops nestled within a spider's web glisten like pearls on a chilly winter morning in Bilpaba village, Khulna. As the droplets accumulate on the vines and leaves, they create the illusion of a delicate pearl necklace. Each sparkling drop by the roadside enhances the natural beauty of the scene, capturing the enchanting essence of winter. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

We're not desperate for polls: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday refuted claims that the BNP is desperate for national elections.

He labelled the allegation as "false" and accused certain factions of attempting to create divisions in national unity.

Speaking at the AB Party's council at Suhrawardy Udyan, Fakhrul emphasised the BNP's commitment to reforms and national cohesion.

"We have already spoken about reforms. Once again, we say we want reforms. Some people are trying to create a false narrative that we [BNP] want elections before reform and we are desperate for elections. But that is not true. We want elections quickly because elections will strengthen the nation," he said.

"A functioning government and parliament will make us stronger and resolve the ongoing crises," Fakhrul said, adding that a unified national government will help address the country's challenges collaboratively.

"We want to solve the country's problems together. Those who belong to other parties or political parties, think about this and share their opinions," he added.

"We want to return to a democratic system, eliminate inequality, and build a new Bangladesh with the youth. Unfortunately, some individuals are trying to create a rift in unity, but I am confident their efforts will not succeed," Fakhrul said. Calling for collective efforts, he said, "Together, with unity, we can achieve our desired goals."

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Preserve history of July uprising

Shafiqul Alam tells event

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Comprehensive information about the July mass uprising should be preserved for authentic history, said Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday.

Speaking at a programme organised by the Jagannath University Journalist Association on the media's role during the uprising, Shafiqul said the lack of documentation on the Liberation War had allowed for distortion of its history.

"A moment as noble as the July uprising has never come to the nation before. Every second of this historic event should be documented to prevent future distortions," he said.

"I do not know how much of the 1971 war our journalists witnessed. Ten million of our people became refugees, but very little has been written about their suffering," he added.

He criticised certain media outlets during the uprising for portraying protesters as "enemies of the nation," even relaying messages to suppress them.

"If the fascist forces had triumphed, two lakh people would have been imprisoned, and the narrative would have labelled protesters as miscreants," he said.

Shafiqul also accused the Awami League government of kleptocracy and claimed public funds were siphoned abroad, with laundered money now being used to spread propaganda.

Press Institute of Bangladesh Director General Faruk Wasif compared fascism to feudalism, calling for an end to domination in favour of national and public interests.

The event was chaired by Journalist Association President Imran Hossain and moderated by General Secretary Mahtab Hossain.

CORRUPTION IN ACC

238 officials punished over last 16 years

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has penalised 238 officials and staff members over the past 16 years for offences including extortion, fraud, bribery, and corruption. The disciplinary actions ranged from dismissals and forced retirements to demotions and salary reductions.

In the past year alone, nine officials were penalised, including terminations. Departmental investigations are ongoing against 13 officials, while 25 others are under scrutiny by the ACC's internal anti-corruption committee.

One notable case involved Deputy Director Abu Bakar Siddique, who was investigated last April for allegedly accepting bribes in foreign currency.

Other cases included the dismissal of Constable Emran Hossain for misconduct, the suspension of Assistant Director Neel Kamal Pal's salary increment for three years, and the forced retirement of Chief Assistant Muhammad Mahbulul Hasan Afrad. Data Entry Operator Omar Faruq has also been

temporarily suspended.

A high-profile incident last year saw Assistant Sub-inspector Kamrul Huda arrested and dismissed for accepting bribes from a businessman in Chattogram under false pretences. Similarly, Deputy Director Sudip Kumar Chowdhury was dismissed for taking bribes during an investigation.

ACC Director General (Prevention) Akhtar Hossain said addressing internal allegations is an ongoing process. "A three-member committee, led by the ACC chairman, verifies complaints and takes appropriate action. Depending on the severity, both departmental and criminal cases are initiated for serving employees, while criminal actions are pursued against retired staff," he said.

Formed in 2004 to replace the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, the ACC initially faced integrity issues with inherited officials. Proper recruitment rules were absent at the time, but relatively honest officers from the Bureau were retained. Internal complaints grew

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KEY ACTIONS	
➔	34 officials dismissed
➔	13 faced departmental investigations, 2 criminal cases underway
➔	25 misconduct allegations under review
BY THE NUMBERS	
➔	2008: 32 faced disciplinary actions, 4 dismissed
➔	2009–2013: 95 penalised, including 18 dismissed
➔	2008–2024: 238 faced disciplinary actions, with 34 dismissed

Efforts on to recover laundered money

Says Bangladesh Bank governor

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday revealed that a Chattogram-based entity illegally transferred \$20 billion abroad, marking one of the country's largest money laundering cases.

Speaking at the Branding Bangladesh event in the capital, he highlighted efforts to recover the funds and improve economic governance.

Governor Mansur said while better governance has reduced capital flight, recovering the stolen money remains a top priority.

"We are working with international authorities to retrieve the siphoned funds. Discussions with the FBI and other foreign agencies are ongoing," he said.

To expedite the process, Bangladesh is also engaging foreign legal experts to tackle the complexities of international law, he also said.

Governor Ahsan H Mansur acknowledged the challenges of tackling money laundering and stressed the need for global cooperation. "Foreign organisations are willing to help us recover the stolen money," he said.

The governor linked financial crimes like money laundering to economic issues such as exchange rate manipulation.

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SC upholds HC dismissal of five cases against Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has upheld the High Court's decision to dismiss five labour law cases against Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus.

A three-judge bench, led by Justice Md Ashfaque Islam, issued the ruling, rejecting the state's appeal for permission to challenge the HC verdict.

During the proceedings, Additional Attorney General Mohammad Aneek Rushd Haque represented the state, while Senior Advocate Mustafizur Rahman Khan represented Dr Yunus.

The Appellate Division's full order states that there were no legal errors in the HC decision, which led to the dismissal of the state's appeal.

The cases, filed in

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Interim government admits failure to curb road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has admitted its failure to reduce road crashes and deaths last year, said Road Transport and Bridges Ministry Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan yesterday.

The ministry will take several steps to curb the road crashes and death, he told reporters after attending two meetings in this regard at the headquarters of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

The adviser shared that the Road Safety Foundation recently gave them data that 7,294 people were killed and over 12,000 were injured in road crashes last year. The number of deaths was 12 percent more than in 2023.

"We, the interim government, are taking responsibility for it, that we could not reduce the number of road crashes and deaths. Rather it increased," he said.

In particular, BRTA and police are taking the responsibility for it, he added.

The interim government took charge on August 8, 2024 last year after the fall of the Awami League government following a student-led people's uprising.

The adviser also said they have taken a decision to hand over compensation for the treatment of the injured as soon as possible following the relevant laws. Additionally, BRTA officials will be made directly responsible for road crashes that occurred due to lack of a vehicle's fitness and license issues of a driver.

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Workers dredging a canal using excavators near the Madani Avenue area yesterday. Under the supervision of Bangladesh Water Development Board, work is ongoing to restore navigability of this waterbody. Constant dumping of waste and poor management over the years have left many canals in the capital in such a sorry state.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS