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Don't indulge in any misdeeds

Tarique tells BNP leaders and activists, warns them of consequences for mistakes

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has urged party leaders and activists not to give "shelter to intruders".

He also urged them to refrain from wrongdoings, reminding them that the people may once again show their strength as they did on August 5 if the activists make mistakes.

Speaking virtually at a discussion yesterday, he also said the government's accountability must be ensured through timely elections.

"I humbly request all the soldiers of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia all over Bangladesh, please don't allow intruders to crowd around you...please don't get misguided," the BNP leader said.

The BNP organised the discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the 89th birth anniversary of

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BNP leaders and activists placing wreath at the grave of former president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to pay homage to the party founder on his 89th birth anniversary yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Trump to take oath as US president today

Reports say America's 47th president will issue 100 orders on day one

AGENCIES

Donald Trump will take oath as America's 47th president on Monday noon (BST 11:00pm) in Washington DC, sealing one of the most remarkable political comebacks in recent history and inaugurating a term that promises to remake the American state and overturn the international system.

The president-elect landed in Washington on Saturday ahead of his inauguration, with the billionaire Republican set to attend a series of events and celebrations before reclaiming the presidency.

Recent inaugurations have been held on the steps of the US Capitol overlooking the National Mall, but Trump announced Friday the ceremony was moving indoors because of unusually cold weather forecast to hit Washington.

"I think we made the right decision," he told NBC. "The weather was really looking bad in terms of the coldness, and I think it would have been dangerous for a lot of people."

Following Saturday's private party, Trump is expected to lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday before attending a rally of his supporters

in Washington.

On Sunday night, the tradition usually is that the president-elect stays at Blair House, the president's guest house next to the White House. Trump, along with the incoming First Lady Melania Trump, will then pray at St John's Church on the inauguration day morning, located right across the White House, before President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden host them for tea in the White House. All four will then depart for the US Capitol, for a much smaller ceremony than planned.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the oath to Trump, while SC Justice Brett Kavanaugh will do the same for the vice president-elect JD Vance. Trump will then deliver his inaugural address, the theme of which he told NBC News this weekend will be "unity and strength".

Trump has signalled his intent to announce a slew of executive orders minutes after taking office on Monday.

When he met with Senate Republicans earlier this month at the Capitol, Trump said he was preparing more than 100 executive orders for his first day, reflecting a pledge to bolster immigration enforcement, improve border security

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Woman raped on way home from capital

Victim's family sues four

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was arrested in a case filed in connection with the gang rape of an 18-year-old woman on her way home to Habiganj for her wedding from Dhaka, where she worked as a domestic help.

Police held the suspect, Parvez Mia, 25, on Saturday. The incident occurred in Chunarughat upazila on January 15.

Police said Parvez admitted to his involvement during preliminary interrogation.

The victim was admitted to a hospital for treatment. Her cousin, also a domestic help, was accompanying the bride-to-be when the victim was returning home to Nabiganj upazila. The cousin, aged 17, was also assaulted.

According to the case lodged by the victim's mother on Saturday, the two cousins hired an auto-rickshaw after arriving at Shayestaganj upazila on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway

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'Our blood will be spilled but border will remain secure'

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The border is completely secure and no one from the other side will be able to cross into Bangladesh, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday.

"The BGB is always alert. No one can breach our border as long as we are alive. Our blood will be shed, but the border will remain secure," he said.

The adviser made these remarks during the certificate distribution and closing ceremony of the 137th Survey and Settlement Training Course 2024-25 for BCS cadre officials (administration, police, forest, and railway) and Bangladesh Judicial

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EC will stick to its role set by law

Says CEC; door-to-door visits for updating voter roll starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will not be involved in politics, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said yesterday.

He said this when a reporter asked for his take on BNP's demand for election in the middle of this year.

He also informed that the Election Commission would begin its door-to-door visits today to update the voter list.

Nasir made the comments at an event in the capital's Agargaon in which the UNDP handed over laptops, scanners, and other equipment to the commission.

The commission is preparing for the next polls in line with the timeline given by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, he said.

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UK MPs withdraw report over bias

Say it unduly painted Hasina regime in good light

STAR REPORT

A group of UK MPs has withdrawn a controversial report on Bangladesh after complaints that it was biased towards the ousted government of Sheikh Hasina, The Guardian reported yesterday.

The all-party parliamentary group (APPG) on the Commonwealth issued a report on Bangladesh last November that criticised the current regime in Dhaka but was accused of significant inaccuracies.

Officials say, however, that it is no longer being distributed and is "under review" after a Labour MP complained about it in the House of Commons.

"The report in question remains an internal document under review and has been shared with the [Foreign Office] as part of the group's broader deliberative process," a spokesperson told the UK-based newspaper.

"It is not intended for wider dissemination, and the APPG will not be taking the matter further or making any follow-ups."

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CHEQUE DISHONOUR CASE Arrest warrant issued against Shakib Al Hasan

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against cricketer and former Awami League lawmaker Shakib Al Hasan, along with three others, in connection with a cheque dishonour case involving IFIC Bank.

Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziaur Rahman passed the order after Shakib and the others failed to appear before the court as directed.

On December 18 last year, a summons was issued requiring them to appear before the court yesterday following a case filed by Shahibur Rahman, a relationship officer at IFIC Bank.

According to the case statement, Agro Farm,

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LAUNDERED MONEY Govt to send teams abroad to get it back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is going to send teams to Dubai and other tax havens to identify Bangladeshis' ill-gotten assets abroad and bring the money back.

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed revealed the decision yesterday and said sending teams alone would not be enough. "We also need concrete evidence [against the money launderers]," he said.

"We have taken various steps to identify and repatriate laundered money. But to be very pragmatic, we may not be able to recover all the money," Salehuddin said.

"However, our objective is to send a message that this [money laundering] will not happen again," he said at the 9th edition of the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards Bangladesh Grand Finale, organised

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Illegal tree logging continues in the remote Remecri area of Thanchi, Bandarban. Despite the clear evidence of such activities along the Naf, there is almost no enforcement of the law. Deforestation makes the hills prone to mudslides, putting local communities at serious risk during the monsoon.

PHOTO: MONG SING HAI MARMA