

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



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

2009 BDR CARNAGE Around 200 granted bail in explosives case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal dealing with a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act regarding the 2009 BDR mutiny granted bail to suspects who have been acquitted by higher courts in the BDR carnage case and have no pending appeals against those acquittals.

Judge Md Ibrahim Mia of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal 2 of Dhaka gave the order after holding a hearing on their bail petitions at a makeshift courtroom inside the Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, Special Public Prosecutor Jewel Munshi Sumon told The Daily Star.

"Around 200 people have been granted bail. The exact number of those granted bail can only be confirmed upon receiving the court's written order," he said.

Earlier, some 400 accused filed bail petitions with the court, said a court staffer.

Yesterday, the judge also recorded statements of prosecution witnesses Major (retd) Syed Md Yousuf.

With Yousuf, a total of 284 prosecution witnesses testified before the court.

The BDR carnage on February 25-26, 2009 resulted in the massacre of 74 people, including 57 army officials, at the BDR headquarters in Pilkhana.

On November 5, 2013, a Dhaka court handed death sentences to 150 BDR members and two civilians, and life imprisonment to 160 others for their role and involvement in the carnage.

A total of 256 people, mostly BDR soldiers, were given jail sentences.

The court acquitted 278 others, but the prosecution later appealed against the acquittal of 69.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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

PHOTO: MONG SING HAI MARMA

'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

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

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.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

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."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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 Ziaudur 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,



SEE PAGE 6 COL 3