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ATTACK ON ADIVASIS

Most attackers at large despite video proof

RAFIUL ISLAM

Despite clear footage from last week showing a large group of people hitting indigenous students with cricket stumps, inflicting serious injuries, law enforcers have so far arrested only two men.

Hours after the incident on January 15, two advisers to the interim government wrote on Facebook that the attackers would be arrested.

The next day, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, in a statement, said that the government had ordered an investigation into the attack.

"The other perpetrators are being identified and will soon be arrested. All miscreants will be brought to justice," the statement read.

Many have criticised the inaction, saying that they would continue to demonstrate unless the attackers are promptly arrested.

A group of students, primarily from the indigenous communities of the hill tracts, were protesting the removal of graffiti that depicted Bangladesh's racial and religious diversity from textbooks when they were assaulted in Motijheel.

The photo of the graffiti mentioned the indigenous people as Adivasis.

At least 20 people, including women, were seriously injured by the attackers who introduced themselves as

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus meets German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the 2025 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at the Davos Congress Centre in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Jamaat, IAB vow to work together

Their ameers meet at Charmonai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major political development, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) yesterday said they would work together in the interests of the country, Islam, and humanity.

Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman and IAB Ameer Syed Md Rezaul Karim, also the Charmonai Pir, made the announcement while speaking to reporters at the Charmonai Darbar Sharif in Barishal.

The Jamaat chief went to the Charmonai Darbar Sharif in Barishal Sadar upazila to meet Rezaul around noon yesterday.

The meeting between the two leaders is being considered significant in the context of the country's evolving political landscape following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

Jamaat has long sought to forge greater unity among Islamist parties and the efforts gained momentum after Hasina was deposed. It has already held meetings with different Islamist parties.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, IAB Ameer Rezaul said people's expectations remain unfulfilled even 54 years after independence. Those who governed the country all these years failed to meet the people's aspirations.

Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur said, "We love each other solely for the sake of Allah, and He accepts this bond of love."

He said the nation has not had the dignity it deserves over the last 54 years due to corruption and misgovernance.

Shafiqur said, "The people aspire to see the rule of Islam in Bangladesh, where followers of all religions can enjoy full rights and security."

Asked about the collaboration between Jamaat and IAB, the

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Election should be held after minimal reforms

Fakhrul says BNP is not demanding polls right now

UNB, Dhaka

Amid criticisms of the party's demand for early election, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they are demanding the polls be held after minimal reforms, not right now.

"We're not saying the election must be held right now. But if polls are conducted after implementing minimal reforms, many problems will be resolved," he said while speaking at a discussion yesterday.

The Zia Smriti Pathagar organised the programme at the Jatiya Press Club, marking the 89th birth anniversary of BNP founder and former president Ziaur Rahman and the 12th founding anniversary of Pathagar.

Fakhrul said many people, especially students, misunderstand him as to why he talks so much about the election.

"I say this because I believe, though I don't know if my belief is right or wrong, that any elected government is much better than an unelected one."

The BNP leader said people have access to an elected government, which is currently lacking.

Besides, he said, if the election is held, many of the problems the country is facing now will disappear, as the elected government will

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'That's not our war'

Trump 'not confident' Gaza ceasefire will hold, believes Hamas has been 'weakened'

AFP, Jerusalem

The Israel-Hamas ceasefire entered a third day yesterday, while US President Donald Trump said he doubted the fragile deal would hold.

Desperately needed humanitarian aid has begun to flow into Gaza after Israel and Hamas conducted the first exchange of hostages for prisoners agreed under the terms of the ceasefire.

The Palestinian group said yesterday it will release four women hostages in the next swap with Israel under the terms of the truce.

Meanwhile, the head of Israel's military, Major General Herzi Halevi, has resigned over his responsibility for its "failure" during the Hamas's attack on October 7, 2023. Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government to resign after the military chief quit.

The Israeli military said yesterday it had launched an operation in the occupied West Bank's Jenin that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said aimed to "eradicate terrorism" in the area.

The Palestinian health ministry, based in Ramallah, said the operation had killed eight people.

In the Gaza Strip, civilians displaced by more than 15 months of offensive have been walking through an apocalyptic landscape to return to whatever remains of their homes, while rescuers trawl the rubble for bodies.

- 8 killed as Israel launches operation in West Bank
- Hamas will free four women hostages in next swap
- Israeli military chief resigns over Oct 7 'failure'

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15-YEAR AL RULE

Govt plans to withdraw all false cases by February

Says law adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government plans to withdraw all ghost and politically motivated cases filed during the past 15 years of Awami League rule by February, said Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday.

More than 2,500 ghost and politically motivated cases, involving several lakh accused, have been identified across 25 districts, he said at a press conference at his ministry.

"These numbers could increase, and similar cases may exist in other districts as well," he said, adding that the process to withdraw the 2,500 cases is expected to be completed by next week.

Filed under laws related to explosives, arms, special powers and obstruction of police duties, the cases involved opposition leaders and activists, along with numerous unidentified individuals.

"We hope to withdraw these ghost and

Asif Nazrul

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NAGORIK COMMITTEE

It wants polls for a constituent assembly

Prof Salimullah says new political parties are necessary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Nagorik Committee Convener Nasiruddin Patwari yesterday called for a constituent assembly election so that a new constitution can be drafted.

"When we speak of future elections, we mean the election to constituent assembly [Gono Parishad], which can present the people an effective constitution," he said.

His remarks came at a time when the BNP and its allies have been repeatedly demanding the national polls at the earliest.

Nasiruddin's comments came during a Q&A session with members of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee's thana representatives. The Dhaka North unit of Jatiya Nagorik Committee organised the event at the Celebrity Convention Hall in Gulshan.

He alleged that political parties were putting pressure on the government and trying to portray it as a failed one.

"We demanded the resignation of the president, but political parties opposed it. We also called for the prosecution of those who participated in the last three elections, laundered money, and killed our brothers, and a ban on the Awami

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EXPLOSIVES CASE

178 ex-BDR personnel get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 178 ex-BDR personnel have been given bail in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act in connection with the BDR massacre of 2009.

Judge Md Ibrahim Mia of the Dhaka Metropolitan Special Tribunal-2 on Sunday granted them bail after holding a hearing on their bail petitions at a makeshift court inside the Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, Shahadat Hossain, bench assistant of the court, told The Daily Star.

"The court accepted their bail pleas as they have been acquitted by higher courts in the BDR carnage case and have no pending appeals against those acquittals," he said.

"There is no legal bar to their release unless there is an arrest warrant in any other case," added the court staffer.

Earlier, some 400

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Palestinians run towards aid trucks after crossing into the Gaza Strip, following a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

2 men stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men were murdered in separate stabbing incidents in the capital's Bijoynagar and Mugda areas yesterday.

The police had yet to arrest any suspects in connection to these two cases as of 8:00pm last night.

In Bijoynagar, Sazu Mollah, 22, a car driver, was stabbed around 2:45am near the water tank area.

The victim, from Hatbariya village in Gopalganj Sadar upazila, had been living in the Manda area of Mugda.

Paltan Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kazi Nasirul Amin said Sazu had been dropped off at Bijoynagar by his friend Bayezid, driver of a battery-run autorickshaw.

"Bayezid went to have tea at a nearby stall when he heard Sazu calling for help. Unable to locate him, Bayezid alerted the police, who found Sazu lying in a pool of blood in a nearby alley with multiple stab wounds," the OC said, quoting Bayezid.

Sazu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead.

While Bayezid claimed that muggers attacked Sazu to steal his mobile phone and wallet, OC Nasirul suspected it to be a planned murder.

"We are investigating the incident," he added.

Sazu's uncle, Aslam Khan, also alleged murder.

"My nephew was called out of his home after midnight and killed. We have identified a suspect after analysing CCTV footage of the incident," he said.

Meanwhile, in Mugda, vegetable vendor Rimon Hossain, 27, was allegedly killed by his uncle over a family dispute.

Mugda Police Station OC Sazidur Rahman said, "Rimon died undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 5:00pm. We're investigating the murder."

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