

Going against people will bring on fate like Aug 5

Tarique warns BNP rank and file

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has said that if a political party and its members become isolated from the people and act against the national interests, they will face a fate similar to what the Awami League suffered on August 5, 2024.



"We've seen on August 5 the consequences of going against the people and the country. Moving away from people and their expectations will result in a fate similar to that of August 5. If a political party wants to avoid this, it must remain with the people and keep them close."

Tarique made the remarks yesterday afternoon while virtually addressing leaders and activists at training workshops organised in Khulna, Satkhira, and Bagerhat.

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Fahima Aktar of Barguna in tears as she listens to a fellow madrasa teacher speak demanding their primary level educational institutions under the madrasa board be nationalised. Teachers of Swatantra Ebtedayee madrasas had been demonstrating in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University since Saturday. They ended their demo yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

EMBEZZLING TK 918CR ACC sues S Alam's son, 51 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against 52 people, including Ahsanul Alam, former Islami Bank chairman and son of S Alam, for embezzling Tk 918 crore through abuse of power, fraud, and forgery.

ACC Director General (prevention) Md Akhtar Hossain yesterday said the defendants are accused of embezzling Tk 827.42 crore, which amounts to Tk 918.57 crore with interest from Islami Bank's Khatunganj Corporate Branch. They are also charged with concealing the source of funds and laundering money, according to the case statement.

The accused include Ahsanul Alam, former chairman and director of Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC; Md Ariful Islam Chowdhury, managing director of Century Food Product Limited; Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, a member of the company;



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Muggings even in daylight rattle Mohammadpur

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Muggings in Mohammadpur are no longer waiting for the cover of darkness.

Armed with machetes, knives, and other weapons, they mug in broad daylight.

On Saturday, a 17-year-old college student was mugged near Dhaka State College on Nurjahan Road around 4:15pm.

Three young men stopped the rickshaw he was on and took his phone at knifepoint. The incident was caught on a security camera, and people nearby saw it.

"My son was shaken," said ATM Saiful Islam, who filed a general diary (GD) with Mohammadpur Police Station, reporting a lost phone, but omitting the incident of mugging.

Three other similar incidents happened that day in the area. All of the victims reported that they had lost their belongings.

"If people are mugged on busy streets in broad daylight, how can they feel safe in this neighbourhood?" asked Rabeya Islam, a resident of Mohammadpur.

In January alone, police and Rab teams arrested at least 142 suspects with criminal

records in Mohammadpur and its adjacent areas, according to text messages sent by the law enforcers.

They told this correspondent that they had not mentioned the mugging because they did not want to go to court to testify during the lengthy trial proceedings.

In one of the incidents that happened right next to the police station around 8:25pm, an O-levels student was "robbed of his very expensive iPhone 15 Pro, wallet, and watch", said his elder brother Tanjil Islam Tanvir.

The muggers, three men with sharp weapons, even forced the boy to tell them the password to his phone.

Around 7:00pm the same day, United International University student Suad Hossain was mugged near Tin Rastar Mor on Mohammadpur Beribandh, which is a busy road. The muggers, wearing masks, took his phone and wallet.

In another incident, Riaz Islam, an employee of a shipping company, was mugged in Nobodoy Housing.

"The miscreants made off with Tk

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"If people are mugged on busy streets in broad daylight, how can they feel safe in this neighbourhood?" asks Rabeya Islam, a resident of Mohammadpur.

JULY UPRISING Ex-ADC, 2 cops land in jail over crimes against humanity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has sent former additional deputy commissioner MM Mainul Islam and two other police officers to jail in connection to allegations of crimes against humanity during the July uprising.

The two other police officers are Assistant Sub-Inspector Chanchal Chandra Sarkar and former sub-inspector Md Arshad Hossain.

The two-member bench, comprising Justice Md Shoful Alam Mahmood and Judge M Mohitul Hoque Anam Chowdhury, passed down the order after convening at 3:00pm yesterday.

According to the prosecution, during an initial investigation, the trio were found directly involved in committing crimes against humanity during the July uprising last year.

Prosecutor BM Sultan Mahmud said, "Mainul was directly involved in the firing on protestors in the Mirpur area during the uprising."

Besides, footage of Arshad gagging a protestor's mouth near the Supreme Court area and Chanchal shooting a student hanging from a building's ledge in Rampura sparked outrage across the country at that

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China's DeepSeek AI a 'wakeup call' for US tech firms

Warns Trump, takes aim at DEI, Covid expulsions, transgender troops

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Chinese start-up DeepSeek's technology should act as spur for American companies and said it was good that companies in China have come up with a cheaper, faster method of artificial intelligence.

"The release of DeepSeek, AI from a Chinese company should be a wakeup call for our industries that we need to be laser-focused on competing to win," Trump said in Florida.

"I've been reading about China and some of the companies in China, one in particular coming up with a faster method of AI and much less expensive method, and that's good because you don't have to spend as much money. I view that as a positive, as an asset," Trump said.

"I view that as a positive because you'll be doing that too, so you won't be spending as much, and you'll get the same result, hopefully," he said.

Trump also signed a series of executive orders on Monday to remove diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) from the military, reinstate thousands of troops who were kicked out for refusing Covid-19 vaccines during the pandemic, and take aim at transgender troops.

Earlier on Monday, Pete Hegseth, who narrowly secured enough

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Girls' football match called off after venue vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Joypurhat

A women's football match scheduled for today in Joypurhat's Akkelpur upazila has been called off after some locals and madrasa students vandalised the venue at Tilakpur High School ground yesterday.

The T-Star Club, a local sports club, had been organising a football tournament at the ground for over a month, selling tickets for Tk 30 for ground seating and Tk 70 for chairs.

The friendly match between the two female teams from Joypurhat and Rangpur was supposed to take place before the final match of the tournament today.

However, the event drew opposition from a section of locals, who objected to women participation in sports, said organisers.

Following Asr prayer yesterday, protesters, including madrasa students, gathered at the Independence Square near Tilakpur Railway Station.

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300,000 Palestinians return to north Gaza Says Hamas

AGENCIES

More than 300,000 Palestinians have crossed from southern Gaza into the north, the Hamas-run Gaza media authority said in a statement early yesterday, as the United Nations warned that "needs on the ground remain immense".

Specialised teams have been clearing unexploded ordnance and missiles in all governorates of the Gaza Strip over the past few days, it said in a statement on Telegram.

"We call on our Palestinian people to take the utmost caution, care and attention during daily movements, and we appeal to our people to stay away from suspicious objects and inform the competent authorities immediately," it said.

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A drone view shows displaced Palestinians waiting for their vehicles to be inspected by the Egyptian-Qatari committee as they return to their homes in northern Gaza from the south, at Salahudeen Road in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Benin enlists voodoo to protect its mangroves



AFP, Gogotinkpon

The banks and delta of the Mono River in Benin are home to mangrove swamps which harbour fish and rare wild birds – and some are deemed sacred.

The government has tried to protect them by imposing bans on overfishing and felling for firewood. But it has discovered that voodoo is more powerful than threats and is now seeking to co-opt traditional elders into its conservation plans.

In the southern village of Gogotinkpon, which lives off fishing in Lake Aheme, locals regularly turn to the deities to help mark off stretches of mangroves as sacred areas.

To the rhythm of drums and gongs, they swirl and dance before voodoo masks in ceremonies to honour Zangbeto, the guardian of the night.