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# Hasina must be brought to justice at any cost

Says Tarique Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the “fugitive dictator” must be brought to justice at any cost for the extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances over the past 17 years and the casualties during the July uprising.

“Today, after the sacrifices of thousands of people, we managed to free Bangladesh from tyranny,” he said, without taking any names.

Thousands of people were victims of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, while tens of thousands of people were injured and thousands were crippled.

“The dictator must be held accountable for this as per the laws of this land. The fugitive dictator must be brought to justice at any cost.”

Tarique’s comment came at a programme arranged at Saber Pilot High School field of Songazi in Feni to hand over a new house on his behalf to the family of Sonagazi Upazila’s slain Jubo Dal leader Mohammad Masud, who was shot dead in crossfire on June 25, 2016. He joined the event virtually from London, where he has been based since 2008.

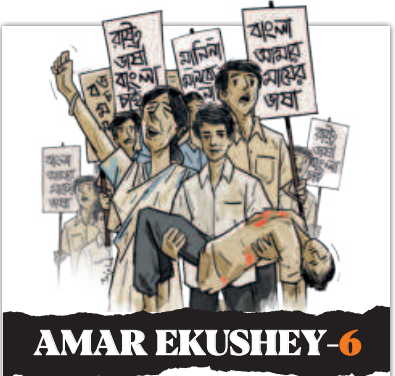
“We must be united in our demand for one thing: the fugitive dictator must be brought to justice as per the laws of this land. The dictator cannot be spared.”

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Dredgers, survey, support, and utility vessels rusting away on the Shitalakkhya near Hajiganj Ferry Ghat in Narayanganj. Some of them are about to sink and some have been beached. Several teens were seen hanging around on the vessels. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## AMAR EKUSHEY-6

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1952 Language Movement. Drawing on research based on various published books, this 21-part series tells the story of the historic struggle for our mother tongue.

## Language Movement in Rangpur

AHMAD ISTIAK

The flames of the Language Movement spread across Rangpur since 1948. According to “Bhasha Andolon Kosh-Volume I” by M Abdul Aleem, the movement in the district had its roots at Carmichael College. SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# BCS recruitment should be done in 18 months

Reform body proposes completing preliminary, written tests in a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BCS recruitment process should be completed within 18 months, recommends the Public Administration Reform Commission.

These 18 months will cover the time span between call for applications and final recruitment.

In its report submitted to the chief adviser yesterday, the reform commission also recommended that the Bangladesh Civil Service preliminary and written tests be done in 12 months.

The other processes, including the recruitment, should take another six months.

The circular or call for applications should be published by the second week of January and the successful candidates should join the work July 1 the following year.

Currently, the procedures take almost four years.

Terming the current process excessively lengthy, the report says the recruitment needs to be simplified.

After the publication of the circular in January, the preliminary tests should be held in the first week of April, the results published in the first week of May, the written tests in the second half of June, the results of those published in December, the viva-voce in January and February, and the final results in the third week of April.

After health screening and police certification, a gazette for appointment should be published in June, which will allow the candidates to join work on July 1. Their foundation training will be held in the first week of August, according to the proposal.

The written tests will be on six compulsory subjects: Bangla essay; English essay; English Composition and Precise; Bangladesh Constitution, History, Culture and Tradition; International and Current Affairs, General Science and Technology; and Social Science, Geography

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## The Aga Khan, leader of the Ismaili Muslims, passes away

AFP, Paris

The Aga Khan, Imam of the Ismaili Muslims and head of a major development aid foundation, died Tuesday in Lisbon at the age of 88, his foundation announced.

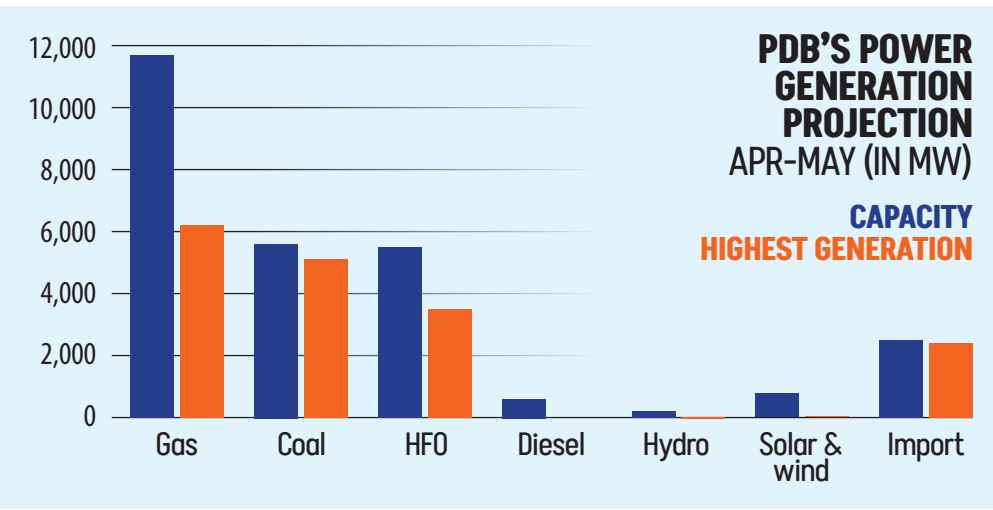
He was the founder and president of the Aga Khan Development Network, which employs 96,000 people and finances development programmes particularly in Asia and Africa.

“His Highness Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, Aga Khan IV, 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be

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# Govt aiming for record power generation this summer

Zero load shedding during Ramadan: energy adviser



ASIFUR RAHMAN

The Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has projected the highest electricity demand during the summer months would be 18,000 megawatts (MW), while the highest production target is 17,260MW.

That means the country may face at least 740MW of load shedding. In 2024, the highest demand was projected at 17,800MW while the highest generation was 16,477MW.

However, the government said they are aiming for zero load shedding during Ramadan, when the highest power demand is projected at 15,700MW.

“We are trying for zero load shedding during Ramadan and load shedding with a small amount in the summer monsoon,” said Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources, at a briefing at Bidyut Bhaban

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## Former army officers move to float new political party

ZYMA ISLAM

Some former army officials are planning to bring forth a political party in March under the coordination of Brig Gen (ret) Md Shamim Kamal.

A good number of retired army officers, including lieutenant generals, major generals and brigadier generals, as well as some former BNP MPs, and also independent lawmakers who contested the 2024 election have already come together to this end, Shamim told The Daily Star.

“In our recruitment process, we are targeting individuals who would be able to lead a constituency,” said Kamal, son of Mojbibur Rahman, a seven-time Jatiya Party MP from Lalmonirhat-2.

The move, he claimed, has the support of the private university students, many of whom feel they have been sidelined post-August 5 despite having played a major role in the July uprising.

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## 3 journos attacked by ‘BNP men’ at SC premises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three journalists were injured in an attack allegedly by BNP activists at the Supreme Court premises yesterday.

Javed Akhtar (ATN News), AKM Rafiqul Islam Hasan Javed (NTV), and Azizul Islam Pannu (Deepto TV) were covering the verdict in a case related to the 1994 train attack on deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina in Pabna’s Ishwardi. A large number of BNP leaders and activists, including BNP Chairperson’s Adviser Habibur Rahman Habib, were also present.

An argument between a young man and the journalists escalated into a scuffle, leading BNP activists to physically assault them. Witnesses saw the journalists being punched and kicked before BNP leaders Kayser Kamal and Shamsur Rahman

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PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong Kings’ Arafat Sunny runs for joy as Aliss Al Islam watches his shot reach the boundary off the last ball of the innings to clinch a thrilling two-wicket victory against Khulna Tigers in the second qualifier of the Bangladesh Premier League at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, setting up a final clash against defending champions Fortune Barishal.

# New political party by end of this month

Say leaders of student, civic platforms at launch of a campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students Against Discrimination and Jatiya Nagorik Committee yesterday launched a nationwide campaign to gather public opinion about their new political party, likely to be floated by the end of this month.

At a press conference, Nasiruddin Patwary and Hasnat Abdullah, conveners of the civic and student platforms, announced the initiative at the central office of the student platform at the capital’s Banglamotor.

“The current political parties and system have failed to fulfill the people’s aspirations; they failed to understand the sentiments of the younger generation. An initiative has been taken to form a political party taking all anti-fascist forces onboard to reflect the aspirations of the people created through the July uprising,” said Hasnat.

He added that although the Awami fascism fell on August 5, fascist elements remain within the existing state structure, and the final victory is yet to be achieved.

The convener of Students Against Discrimination said the public opinion survey aims to ensure that the party is not dominated by any specific individual, group, class, region, or ideology.

The two platforms will conduct this survey in every district. They are using paper-based forms for those without internet access, while digital forms are available via WhatsApp and social media.

Once completed, the results will be publicly shared, said Hasnat. Under the slogan “Your Vision for a New Bangladesh,” the campaign

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