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OPERATION DEVIL HUNT

It will go on until all 'devils' rooted out

Says home adviser; 1,308 held on first day; central command centre set up to bring all forces together

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joint forces detained 1,308 people across the country between Saturday evening, when Operation Devil Hunt began, and yesterday afternoon.

The interim government launched the operation on Saturday to restore law and order following Friday night's attack on

destabilise the country, break the law, and engage in criminal activities."

During a briefing on the operation yesterday afternoon, Nasimul Ghani, senior secretary at the home ministry, said, "This is a police-led operation, with the army and other forces providing assistance."

"They [the joint forces] will have the same authority as the police and

The operation will target those who attempt to destabilise the country, break the law, and engage in criminal activities.

Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Home Adviser

"students and people" in Gazipur.

The operation will continue until all the "devils are rooted out", said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

When asked about the objective of the operation, Jahangir said, "What does 'devil' mean? It refers to evil forces. The operation will target those who attempt to

magistrates within the legal framework. The operation began yesterday [Saturday] and will continue for as long as necessary," he said.

The government yesterday evening launched a central command centre for the operation, said Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam, adding that

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Police disperse demonstrating students of Medical Assistant Training School near Shikha Bhaban yesterday afternoon. Several protesters were injured. Under the banner "General MATS Students' Unity Council", they were going towards the Secretariat from Shahbagh with a four-point demand, including recruitment to vacant positions. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Economic growth lowest in 4 years

GDP grew 4.22% in fiscal 2023-24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's economy grew by 4.22 percent in fiscal 2023-24 fiscal year, the lowest in four years, marking the second consecutive year of deceleration due to weak consumption and exports.

The final growth estimate by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is 1.6 percentage points lower than the provisional estimate, which was 5.82 percent.

According to the final growth figures, the size of the GDP stood at \$450 billion in FY24, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said at a press briefing yesterday. It was \$459 billion as per the provisional estimate.

In FY24, people saw their purchasing power erode amid persistent inflation and sluggish merchandise exports and imports.

Because of the revision and devaluation of Bangladesh's taka against the dollar, per capita income fell to \$2,738 last fiscal year, the lowest in three years, from \$2,749 in the previous year.

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BNP to resist proposal that may hinder fair election

Says BNP leader Nazrul Islam Khan after talks with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will oppose any proposal of the Election Reform Commission if it believes the proposal would obstruct the holding of a fair election.

BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said that they, after discussions with the Election Commission yesterday, have understood that the EC would be ready by May or June this year to hold the polls.

A three-member BNP delegation met the chief election commissioner and four other commissioners.

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Star INTERVIEW

With the interim government having completed six months in office, the calls for a national election have intensified. Meanwhile, several reform commissions have submitted reports to the government. Regarding these developments and more, **Akhter Hossen**, member secretary of Jatiya Nagorik Committee, a civic platform formed in the aftermath of the uprising, recently spoke to **Star's Ashik Abdullah Apu** and **Sirajul Islam Rubel**.



Students' party by end of Feb

Says Akhter of Nagorik Committee

TDS: When the Jatiya Nagorik Committee was formed, you described it as a pressure group against the government. How would you evaluate the past six months since the government took office?

Akhter: Six months in, there's been no significant improvement in the law-and-order situation. However, the government appears committed

to reforms across various sectors, aligning with public expectations.

The investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the numerous killings by Awami terrorist forces have yet to make substantial progress. Many perpetrators remain unaccountable, highlighting a major failure of the government.

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66% people think civil servants behave like rulers

Shows reform commission's online survey covering over 1 lakh people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An overwhelming 80 percent of the people think the administration is not friendly to the general public, finds a survey by the Public Administration Reform Commission.

Besides, 66 percent of people feel that civil servants behave like they are the rulers, according to the survey of over 1 lakh people.

Thirty-one percent of the respondents say they have experienced discourteous behaviours from government employees, 42 percent believe receiving services is impossible without paying bribes, and 46 percent report facing harassment while seeking services.

The reform commission led by Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury conducted the survey on 105,000 people online to gather opinions on various issues related to public administration reforms.

The survey questionnaire also featured a section for open comments.

The reform commission submitted

52% believe it's impossible to get services without paying bribes

46% report that they faced harassment while seeking services

69% say there was a lack of neutrality in admin in last 15 years

its report with around 200 recommendations to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday.

The full report of the commission along with other reports were uploaded on the Cabinet Division website on Saturday.

According to the commission's survey, 56 percent of the respondents consider

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Mob beats mentally challenged man to death
He was caught on suspicion of theft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A mentally challenged man was beaten to death on suspicion of committing theft in Kabirhat upazila of Noakhali early Friday.

The victim, Zahir Uddin Bechu, 40, was reportedly apprehended by a group of people and attacked near DhumcharChhamirpaik Government Primary School around 4:00am.

His mother filed a case with Kabirhat Police Station yesterday against eight named individuals and 20-25 unidentified persons.

Police have arrested three suspects: Habib Ullah, 45, and his

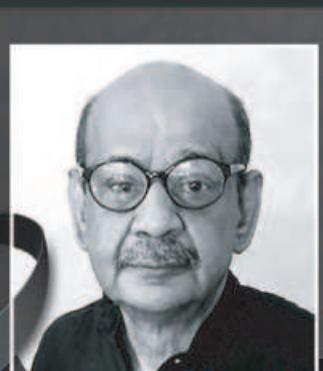
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Warning: Beware of Online Scams!

We want to inform everyone that fraudsters have created a fake Facebook page named Square International to solicit funds by falsely using the name of Square Group. We want to clarify that Square Group has no connection to this page or any fraudulent activities. We urge all our stakeholders, shareholders, and well-wishers to stay vigilant and not engage with such misleading information. Please do not fall victim to these scams.

Please be aware that Square Group will not be held responsible for any harm, loss, or inconvenience caused by interactions with the aforementioned fake page.

We Mourn



Syed Ali Haider Rizvi (Maharaj)
(1944 - 2025)

With profound sorrow, we share the passing of **Syed Ali Haider Rizvi (Maharaj)** on the morning of February 9, 2025, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Alehey Rajeun...

A renowned film director and producer, he was a visionary in the industry, leaving behind a legacy of cinematic excellence in Poland and Bangladesh. Haider Rizvi was also a popular former Adjunct Faculty at Dhaka University and IUB.

Beyond his artistic and academic contributions, Haider Rizvi was a generous philanthropist whose kindness and support touched countless lives. He was a loving father, a devoted brother, and a compassionate soul, always uplifting those around him with warmth and care.

He is survived by his beloved son, Nasir Rizvi. His absence leaves an irreplaceable void, but his spirit, generosity, and passion for storytelling will continue to live with us.

We seek your prayers that Allah SWT may grant him the highest place in Jannah (Ameen).