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## NAGAD IRREGULARITIES ACC finds proof of Tk 2,300cr corruption

### Nagad administrator attacked soon after ACC raid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagad's administrator was attacked by miscreants yesterday, moments after an Anti-Corruption Commission team raided the digital financial services provider's headquarters and left with preliminary evidence of corruption and money laundering amounting to Tk 2,300 crore.

"We have collected documents and will scrutinise them before submitting a detailed report to the commission," said Tanzir Ahmed, an assistant director at ACC. Ahmed and Ruhul Haque, another assistant director at ACC, led the raid.

Initial findings indicate that Tk 1,700 crore was laundered, while there were irregularities concerning Tk 600 crore in e-money, Nagad's administrator Mohammad Badiuzzaman Didar told the media after the raid.

Earlier on February 3, BB filed a case against Nagad, alleging fraud, embezzlement and financial irregularities amounting to Tk 645 crore.

The lawsuit named 24 individuals, including 16 officials of Nagad and eight officials of the Directorate of Posts.

After the ACC enforcement team left Nagad's

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Relatives of enforced disappearance victims yesterday gathered near the Mayer Daak office in the capital's Shaheenbagh, protesting their exclusion from the Aynaghar visits. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, accompanied by some survivors, media personnel, and others, yesterday visited the secret detention centres in three places in Dhaka.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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## 'Interim govt backed by the will of people'

In its full verdict, HC  
says the current govt  
is supported by legal  
instrument

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in the full text of an order observed that the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus was supported by legal documents and formed by the will of the people.

"As to the submission [arguments] of Mr [Muhammad Mohsen] Rashid to the effect that the present interim government is not backed by any legal instrument that makes the Yunus government a usurper, it is pertinent to mention that the president of Bangladesh in a unique situation in the history of Bangladesh upon taking advisory opinion as per article 106 of the constitution has acted as per the opinion.

"It is therefore, backed by legal instrument as well as backed by the will of the people of Bangladesh," the HC bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi said in the recently released full text.

Earlier on January 13, the bench summarily rejected a writ petition filed by Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, a Supreme Court lawyer, challenging the process for formation and oath of the Prof Yunus-led interim government under the Supreme

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## Uncertainty over Gaza truce builds

Israeli military calls up reservists after  
Netanyahu issues hostage release demand

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel's military has called up reservists in preparation for a possible resumption of fighting in Gaza if Hamas fails to meet a Saturday deadline to release more Israeli hostages and a nearly month-old ceasefire breaks down.

Under the ceasefire deal in force since January 19, the Palestinian group agreed to free three more hostages on Saturday. But it said this week it was suspending the handover because of what it said were Israeli violations of the terms.

US President Donald Trump responded by saying all hostages must be freed by noon on Saturday or he would "let hell break out". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Tuesday that Israel would resume "intense fighting" if Hamas did not meet the deadline, but did not say how many hostages should be freed.

Meanwhile, Israel continued its siege of the city of Tulkarem, as well as the refugee camps of Tulkarem and Nur Shams, in the occupied West Bank.

Israeli officials said government ministers had endorsed Trump's threat to "cancel" the ceasefire unless all the remaining Israeli hostages are released on Saturday.

Hamas has said it remains committed to the agreement but has not agreed to release the

hostages on Saturday.

A Palestinian official close to the talks said mediators had stepped up their intervention "to prevent things sliding into a real crisis."

Asked for comment on where things stand, another Hamas official told Reuters, without giving details: "Contacts are under way."

Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit told the World Government Summit in Dubai that if Trump pressed ahead with his vision for Gaza, he would lead the Middle East into a new cycle of crises with a "damaging effect on peace and stability."

Jasem al Budaiwi, who heads the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council political and economic alliance, called on Trump to remember the strong ties between the region and Washington.

"But there has to be give and take, he says his opinion won't be accepted by the Arab world," he said.

Egypt will host an emergency Arab summit on February 27 to discuss "serious" developments for Palestinians.

Aboul Gheit said the idea of the Arab Peace Initiative floated in 2002, in which Arab nations offered Israel normalised ties in return for a statehood deal with the Palestinians and full Israeli withdrawal from territory captured in 1967, would be reintroduced.

- Qatar, Egypt working intensively to resolve crisis: Palestinian source
- Trump's Gaza plan risks new crises: Arab League
- Israel wreaks havoc in occupied West Bank

## JULY UPRISING Ex-Ctg police commissioner, another former cop arrested

STAR REPORT

Two senior police officers, including a former Chattogram Metropolitan Police commissioner, were arrested yesterday in connection with cases filed over the July uprising.

The arrestees are former CMP commissioner Saiful Islam and Rajan Kumar Saha, former assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Badda zone).

Meanwhile, the Detective Branch of police detained Tanvir Salehin Emon, superintendent of police at Sardah Police Academy in Rajshahi.

Saiful was arrested in Dhaka and brought back to Chattogram yesterday afternoon.

He was then presented before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mostafa with a 7-day remand prayer in a case filed over the murder of a Chittagong University student during the July uprising.

The court allowed police to interrogate him at the jail gate for three days.

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## EC seeks record Tk 2,794cr for next nat'l polls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission has sought Tk 2,794 crore for conducting the 13th parliamentary election, making it the costliest poll in Bangladesh's history.

In the 12th national polls in 2024, Tk 1,927 crore was shelled out, almost double the amount spent in the previous election held in 2018, according to the report from the Electoral Reform Commission. In the 10th parliamentary polls that saw 153 members of parliament get elected unopposed, Tk 282 crore was spent.

"Although this is our initial demand, it will be reviewed and finalised after a meeting with the EC Secretariat," EC Additional Secretary KM Ali Newaz told reporters yesterday.

As much as 60 to 70 percent of the total money is spent on law enforcement agencies, according to EC officials.

At least 7.47 lakh members of various law enforcement agencies and other forces -- 5.16 lakh Ansar members,

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A train from Dhaka is heading north after crossing the newly built Jamuna Railway Bridge. Bangladesh Railway is operating passenger trains over the country's longest dedicated railway bridge on a trial basis. The 4.8km double line dual gauge bridge is expected to be opened formally on March 18. The photo was taken from the bridge's west zone in Sirajganj.

PHOTO: STAR

## Lalon festival called off after objection by Hefazat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Lalon festival in Tangail's Madhupur was called off yesterday following objections by Hefazat-e-Islam.

Sabuj Mia, convener of the festival committee, confirmed the cancellation in a Facebook post.

Madhupur Lalon Sangha had planned a cultural event, "Lalon Smaran Utsab 2025," at 8:00pm at Madhupur Upazila Bus Stand to mark Fakir Lalon Saiji's 134th Tirodhan Dibash (death anniversary). Madhupur UNO was set to attend as chief guest.

"Everything was going smoothly. However, suddenly, we heard that Madhupur Hefazat-e-Islam objected to our programme," Sabuj Mia told The Daily Star.

A meeting was held on Tuesday between event organisers and Hefazat-e-Islam leaders, mediated by Madhupur upazila BNP president Zakir Hossain Sarkar. Madhupur Hefazat President Mufti Anwar Hossain, General Secretary

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& LAB EXHIBITION

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PHARMA EXPO

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