

Ensure extradition, trial of Hasina Demands Network for Democratic Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Network for Democratic Bangladesh, an activist organisation comprising pro-July uprising expatriates, has called for the trial of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and all individuals responsible for crimes against humanity during the movement.

The group demanded accountability for human rights violations, enforced disappearances, killings, corruption, and money laundering under the previous Awami League-led regime.

In a virtual press conference yesterday, members of the organisation also called for the disbandment of the Rab, see page 4 col 5

Election only way to restore democracy Says Fakhrul

UNB, Thakurgaon



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said holding free and fair elections is the only way to restore democracy in the country.

"There is no alternative to democracy. There is no alternative to elections for institutionalising democracy. Democracy can be freed only through elections," he said.

Fakhrul made the remarks while inaugurating the Zia Memorial Football Tournament at the Thakurgaon Government Boys High School ground in the afternoon.

"We have gone through a terrible time for the last 15 years. The previous illegitimate fascist government, like a monster, destroyed all our institutions...," Fakhrul added.

The BNP leader described last year's student-led mass uprising as a political earthquake that shook the nation, paving the way for the emergence of a new Bangladesh.



A total of 92 identified illegal brick kilns in four upazilas using wood in 120-foot chimneys, with 39 in Pabna Sadar, 46 in Ishwardi, six in Faridpur, and one in Shantia upazila, contributing to environmental pollution. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



**The saw mills
set up to
supply wood
to the brick
kilns are
unauthorised.**

KAZI TARIKUR
RAHMAN
Forest officer

Illegal brick kilns run rampant in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

More than 150 illegal brick kilns are operating across nine upazilas of Pabna district, causing severe environmental damage.

Many of these kilns are burning wood instead of coal, leading to extensive pollution.

The Department of Environment recently identified 92 kilns in four upazilas that have been using wood in 120-foot chimneys, with 39 in Pabna Sadar, 46 in Ishwardi, six in Faridpur, and one in Shantia upazila.

Among these, 13 have even set up illegal saw mills to supply wood for their operations.

Md Abdul Gofur, assistant director of DoE in Pabna, said a report has been sent to higher authorities regarding this issue while the district administration continues conducting mobile court drives.

Despite the strict prohibition on using timber as fuel under brick manufacturing regulations, most brick kilns maintain large stocks of wood collected illegally from various districts without permission from the forest department, said Kazi Tarikur Rahman, district forest officer in Pabna.

Md Shantu Bishwas, owner of Bishwas Bricks in Ishwardi's Lakshmikunda area, said burning wood is more profitable than coal.

He said using coal increases the cost of manufacturing 1,000 bricks to Tk 10,000, whereas burning wood keeps it at Tk 6,500, making it necessary for kiln owners to opt for wood to sustain their businesses.

He said around 50 brick kilns operating in Lakshmikunda union are all using wood and that some kilns have set up saw mills to process large pieces of wood without legal permission.

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Shaheen Anam

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helped create opportunities for countless individuals, challenged societal norms, and paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable future.

The UK government has been a long standing partner in these efforts, working closely with MJF to drive meaningful change.

Under her leadership, MJF has played a vital role in empowering women, children, and vulnerable groups, ensuring they have access to justice, education, and economic opportunities, the High

Commission said.

In her reaction, Shaheen Anam said, "I am deeply honoured to receive this award, which reflects the FCDO's recognition of our efforts to uphold the human rights of marginalised communities. Over the years, MJF has supported movements for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and untouchable communities, empowering them to raise their voices and demand justice."

She stressed that women should not only take part in politics but also be involved in decision-making within the political party the committee plans to launch. "Women are still being oppressed and denied their rights. When they raise their voices, they face mob justice. We strongly condemn this," he added.

Arpita Shyama Das, a participant in the movement, said, "Not only do women know how to protest, but they can also lead."

Joint convener Sarwer Tusher also spoke at the event.

Water cannons

FROM PAGE 3

protesters at that point.

Female protesters were targeted with water cannons as they attempted to advance, he said.

Despite police action, many gathered near the High Court around 4:35pm, said Abdullah Al Mamun, another protester.

The candidates have been continuing their demonstration for the 11th consecutive day, demanding cancellation of the High Court order that scrapped their recruitment.

They have come from different parts of the country and some even brought children with them.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (HED)
NOAKHALI DIVISION, hed.noakhali.gov.bd

Memo No. 45.02.2075.261.00.000.25-09

Date : 16/02/2025

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1076587	Works	02/03/2025 17:00 PM	03/03/2025 12:10 PM

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01	1075912	Internal Carrying Under PDSD, Chattogram Zone (2nd Phase), BPDB, Chattogram. (RDPP Package No- WD-39, Lot-4)	Date: 23/02/2025 Time: 12:00	Date: 16/03/2025 Time: 12:30	Date: 17/03/2025 Time: 11:00

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'Some cops, judges patronising killers' Alleges Sarjis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj



Jatiya Nagorik Committee chief organiser Sarjis Alam yesterday alleged that certain police officers and judges are patronising criminals in exchange for benefits.

Speaking at a discussion titled "Your Vision of a New Bangladesh" in Sonargaon yesterday, he claimed that numerous allegations have surfaced regarding political groups that once opposed fascism but are now protecting these individuals in return for money and power.

He said some police officers and judges continue to provide cover for these criminals in exchange for various favours.

Addressing the upcoming elections, he said it must be the most transparent election in Bangladesh's history. He said if one party were to win all 300 seats while others secured none, they would accept it, provided the election upheld the spirit of the revolution.

However, he warned that if any force attempted to manipulate votes or influence polling centres, see page 4 col 8

OPERATION DEVIL HUNT 389 more arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces have arrested 389 more people across the country as part of the Operation Devil Hunt in the last 24 hours until yesterday afternoon, according to the Police Headquarters.

This brings the total number of arrests under the operation to 4,790 as of yesterday afternoon.

Besides, 751 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested during the same period.

During the drive, law enforcers recovered a local pipe gun and a machete.

The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order following the attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

Analysing reports from some districts, this newspaper found that the arrestees are mostly members of the Awami League and its associate bodies. Many are accused in cases filed after the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

In Dhaka, police arrested four leaders of Awami League and Chhatra League, the now-banned student wing of AL, in cases filed over attacks during the July uprising.