

Keep AC  
temperature  
at 25°C  
Govt issues circular

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday asked all to keep the minimum temperature level of air conditioners at public and private offices and households at 25 degrees Celsius as part of its power-saving campaign during the upcoming summer.

According to a Cabinet Division circular, the electricity demand will largely increase this year as the summer will coincide with the month of Ramadan and irrigation season.

"The (increased) demand could be controlled through using AC thermostat at a fixed temperature," the circular read.

ESCAPE OF  
MILITANTSFormer DMP  
DC cleared of  
charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jasim Uddin, former deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Prosecution Division, has been cleared of departmental charges related to negligence in duty following the 2022 escape of two convicted militants from court premises.

A home ministry notification issued yesterday, signed by Senior Secretary Nasimul Ghani, stated that Jasim was relieved of charges after reviewing the allegations, his written response, statements from both parties, the investigation report, and other relevant documents.



Hemayet Fakir, 60, spreads bay leaves (tejpata) for drying in front of his home. Collected from trees in various villages, he sells the dried leaves to grocery stores in Barishal for Tk 120 per kg, earning between Tk 10,000 and 15,000 each month. The photo was taken in Rasulpur area of the city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Death penalty may hinder

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see a scenario where, years later, another regime overthrows these proceedings?" she asked.

Referencing the protracted struggle for justice following the 1971 Liberation War, she said, "One major reason justice was not fully served is our failure as a state to uphold international legal standards. If we want to break from past practices, we must reconsider whether capital punishment is the best course of action."

Meanwhile, Rashtra Ima said key amendments were made to the ICT Act, particularly in evidence admission, to align it with global norms.

However, she said, "One crucial issue remains unaddressed -- the presence of the death penalty. Neither the interim government nor public discussions have

confronted this reality." She said unless Bangladesh abolishes or imposes a moratorium on the death penalty, the UN and European Union will not provide crucial evidence or legal support.

"During the Awami League's tenure, the ICT process faced widespread criticism. To avoid a repeat, we need international cooperation," she said. "The UN has made it clear they will not share evidence if trials could result in execution."

She also cautioned against rushing the judicial process, pointing to past mistakes.

"The previous government tried to complete war crimes trials within two or three years, leading to significant procedural flaws. We must not repeat that."

**'JUSTICE MUST REFLECT PEOPLE'S DEMANDS'**  
Despite concerns from legal

experts, Jatiya Nagarik Committee member secretary Akhter Hossen said those responsible for the July killings must face the highest penalty under Bangladesh's laws.

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