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Four DIGs sent on forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four Deputy Inspectors General (DIGs) of police, who had previously served as superintendents of police (SPs) and additional DIGs during the 2014 and 2018 national elections, were sent into forced retirement yesterday in “public interest”.

The government announced the decision in four separate notifications signed by Nasimul Gani, senior secretary of the home ministry’s Public Security Division.

The officials are Nisharul Arif of the Anti-Terrorism Unit, Abdul Quddus Amin of River Police, and Azad Mia and Amena Begum of Highway Police.

According to the notifications, the officers have been sent into retirement under Section 45 of the Government Service Act, 2018.

According to this section, “The government may, at any time after the completion of 25 (twenty-five) years of service of a government servant, retire him from service if it thinks necessary in the public interest, without showing any reason.”

Nisharul Arif was posted as the additional DIG of Rajshahi range during the 2018 election, while Amena Begum was the SP of Narsingdi district.

Azad Mia was the SP of Cox’s Bazar

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Illegal electricity connections from streetlights are being used to charge battery-powered rickshaws in the capital's Tejgaon area, resulting in wasted public resources and potential safety hazards. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Govt deviating from its goal to some extent

Says Tarique, urges early election to help restore stability

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the interim government is deviating from its goal “to some extent” and stressed for an early election to restore stability in the country.

“They are probably deviating from their goal to some extent in some cases. Confusion is being created from the various statements coming from different persons. Confusion is being created in different areas. Naturally, when there is instability in politics, confusion will be created,” he said while addressing a training workshop virtually.



The workshop titled, “31-point proposal to repair the state structures and public engagement”, was organised by the Dhaka Bar Unit of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum at Dhaka Bar Lawyers Association Auditorium in the city.

“If we cannot ensure political stability, then no matter how many reforms we announce, no matter how many policies we adopt, none of them will be successful,” he added.

He said some people are questioning whether an election will solve all problems.

“In this regard, we can think that since a stable situation will return after the election and reform works will gradually begin, the severity or intensity of the problems will gradually begin to ease,” he added.

“We think it will be possible to gradually bring the country back from the brink of destruction [if an election is held early],” he said.

Pointing to those who demand and argue for holding the local government elections first before the national election, he asked them to consider the present reality, as instability is everywhere in the country.

“If we look around, we can see instability. There is instability everywhere,” said the BNP acting chairman.

He said the main responsibility of this interim government is to help the people of the country by providing them the platform to make decisions. “This should be their main goal,” he added.

Double cases for single victim baffle families

Such cases raise concern over potential misuse of legal system, warns an expert

JULY UPRISING KILLINGS

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In at least seven instances, two separate murder cases have been filed over the death of one July uprising victim, with conflicting information, and different accused and witnesses.

The families of some of the victims are unaware of the identities of the people who filed the additional First Information Reports (FIRs).

Besides concerns over potential misuse of the legal system to harass people for personal benefits, these cases will call the credibility of investigations into question, an expert has warned.

Police said they were aware of such cases and a set of instructions for these cases would be issued upon consultation with legal experts.

One of these cases was filed over the death of Monir Hossain, 28, who was shot in the Bashtala area of Dhaka’s Bhatara on July 19 last year during the quota reform protests, which later intensified into a mass uprising.

After the fall of the Awami League government, Monir’s brother Parvej Forazy filed a murder case with a Dhaka court on September 29, accusing ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 25 others. The court directed Bhatara Police Station to register it as an FIR.

However, on October 24, Fahad Badsha, claiming to be Monir’s cousin, filed another murder case with the court against 218 people, including Hasina. The court again directed Bhatara police to register the FIR.

FIR details show that both cases contained contradictory descriptions and listed different individuals as witnesses.

Parvej told The Daily Star, “We don’t know anyone named Fahad Badsha. I have no cousin by that name.”

He added that while he filed a case for justice, others might be filing cases for ulterior motives like harassing people or gaining personal benefits.

The Daily Star contacted Fahad over

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Noab urges govt to cut tax, VAT on newspapers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper owners have urged the government to help the newspaper industry overcome the difficulties it is facing due to the current economic crisis.

They said the sector is suffering multiple problems, from increased cost of newsprint to falling advertisement revenue and circulation. Under the circumstances, it has become tough for the newspaper industry to survive.

To help the sector withstand the challenges, newspaper owners yesterday demanded the government to reduce import duty, value added tax and corporate taxes on newspapers.

In a budget proposal for the fiscal year of 2025-26, Newspaper Owners’ Association of Bangladesh proposed reducing the import tax from the current 5 percent to 2 percent and lowering VAT to 5 percent from 15 percent.

Additionally, it urged the government to reduce the corporate tax, considering the newspaper industry as a service.

“The newspaper

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Hasina told Nitor docs not to treat protesters

Claims ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina told Nitor doctors neither to treat those injured in the July uprising nor to release those who were hospitalised, said Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam at the International Crimes Tribunal.

He said this yesterday after a judge of the tribunal asked about the post-mortem reports and death certificates of those killed during the uprising.

Prosecutor Shahidul Islam said that hospital authorities often failed to provide documents. In several cases, no post mortem was done because of pressure from the administration.

Tajul said death certificates of gunned down protesters falsely stated that the cause of death was suffocation or something else because the doctors were forced to lie.

The judge asked, “Isn’t a post-mortem an important document?”

Tajul replied that crimes against humanity were so rampant in July that hospitals struggled to treat patients, and the deceased had to be buried quickly. In that situation, the authorities

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

\$29m spent to prop up ‘radical left communist’ in Bangladesh: Trump

STAR REPORT

US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his outrage over USAID’s spending, accusing the agency of funnelling \$29 million to prop up a “radical left communist” in Bangladesh.

Speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington on Saturday, Trump fumed, “\$29 million goes to strengthen the political landscape and help them out so that they can vote for a radical left communist in Bangladesh. You’ve got to see who they supported!”

It was the second straight day of blistering attacks on the USAID grant, after his fiery remarks at the White House Governors Working Session on Friday.

Trump claimed the \$29 million fund landed with an obscure firm that he said was “a little outfit” with just two employees.

“They got \$29 million. A cheque! Imagine scraping by with \$10,000 here, \$10,000 there – and bam, \$29 million from the US government,” he said.

“Two people! They’re very happy. Very

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Members of 8 bodies head to China today

Reps from BNP, Students Against Discrimination, Nagorik Committee among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 22 member delegation from eight political parties, including leaders from BNP, its affiliated organisations, and like-minded parties, is leaving for China tonight at the invitation of China’s ruling Communist Party.

BNP Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan will lead the delegation.

The 13-day trip will also be joined by four representatives from Students Against Discrimination and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, said sources.

The delegation will visit various government and private institutions and join seminars, according to a press release issued by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday.

The Daily Star has learnt that five leaders from the BNP and its affiliated organisations are in the delegation. They are BNP’s Legal

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

EC preparing to announce schedule for Dec polls

Says Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is making preparations to announce the election schedule and hold the polls in December this year.

“The government has said that elections will be held between December and June 2026. We are preparing for the election targeting December,” Election Commissioner Anwarul Islam Sarker told reporters at his office yesterday.

A reporter then pointed out that the Local Government Reform Commission in its report mentioned that local polls can be held within June this year and

those elections can be held under the same election schedule in order to save time and cost.

Anwarul replied that he was not aware of the report, adding, “This is not currently under consideration, but we will think about it if needed.”

He refrained from commenting when asked about the political parties’ disagreements over whether the local government elections should be held before the national election.

The EC’s work on election related procurement and updating the voter list

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Country risks civil war if trial of AL is delayed

Says Nagorik Committee convener

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Convener of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee Nasir Uddin Patwary yesterday warned that the people may be compelled to take matters into their own hands if the interim government delays or remains silent on the trial of Awami League.

“If Bangladesh moves toward such a situation, we think there is a risk of a civil war breaking out in the country,” said Nasir.

He made the remarks while addressing a discussion programme at the Jatiya Press Club on the Fact-Finding Report titled ‘Human Rights Violations and Abuses Related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh: Its Anatomy, Responsibility, and Trial.’

Criticising the advisory council, Nasir labelled its members “thick-skinned”.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন পিএলসি
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
কলসেন্টার-১৬৪৯৬
জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

আপনার রান্নার কাজ শেষ হয়ে থাকলে
একুনি গ্যাসের চুলটি নিভিয়ে ফেলুন

জরুরি গ্যাস শাট-ডাউন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা ম্যাস ট্রানজিট কোম্পানি লিমিটেড-এর আওতাধীন এমআরটি লাইন-১ এর ভূগর্ভস্থ স্টেশন (নন্দা) এর এলাইনমেন্ট হতে তিতাস গ্যাসের বিদ্যমান গ্যাস পাইপলাইন স্থানান্তর কাজের জন্য আগামী ২৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ রোজ মঙ্গলবার সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে রাত ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত মোট ১৩ (তেরো) ঘন্টা বারিধারা ডিপ্লোমেটিক জোন এর রোড নং-১১,১২,১৩,১৪ এলাকা, বারিধারা নিউ ডিওএইচএস এলাকা, জগন্নাথপুর, নন্দা, কালাচাঁদপুর, লিচুবাগান, জোয়ারসাহারা, কুড়াতলি হতে সমগ্র বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকা (৩০০ ফিট পর্যন্ত) ও যুক্তরাষ্ট্র দূতাবাসের উত্তর-পূর্ব পাশ হতে কুড়িল বিশ্বরোড পর্যন্ত বিদ্যমান সকল শ্রেণীর গ্রাহকের গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে। এছাড়া, আশেপাশের এলাকায় গ্যাসের স্বল্পচাপ বিরাজ করতে পারে।

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