

## Prioritise women

FROM PAGE 3  
to take strong measures to protect citizens, particularly women and children. Instead, the law and order situation has further deteriorated. Women and girls are now scared to leave their homes," she added.

"A clear message must be sent that such crimes will not be tolerated. Proper investigations and strict legal consequences are crucial to preventing further violence," said Shaheen Anam.

Meanwhile, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) echoed similar concerns over escalating threats to women's safety.

In a separate statement, the rights organisation highlighted increasing restrictions on women's mobility, despite legal frameworks designed to protect them.

The organisation stressed the need for preventive measures, including legal awareness and self-defence training in school curriculums.

"Empowering women with self-defence skills such as judo and karate is essential. Societal attitudes towards women must change to foster a safer environment," it added.

ASK also urged the government to prioritise survivor support, including legal aid, psychological counselling, and social reintegration programmes.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) also condemned the deteriorating security situation.

"The state of law

and order has reached an unacceptable level, unworthy of any civilised society. This decline is tarnishing the country's global reputation. A surge in rape, bus robberies, sexual abuse, theft, and mugging has plunged the nation into lawlessness," it said in a statement.

BNWLA called for thorough investigations and swift prosecution of perpetrators, urging the home affairs adviser to take immediate action.

## Do not push

FROM PAGE 3  
"Certainly, new political parties can be formed, and we will welcome that. But if a party is formed while in power, people will call it a 'King's Party'. The people will not accept this," he said.

Fakhrul also demanded the withdrawal of cases against BNP leaders and activists.

"The cases have not yet been withdrawn. We still have to go to court and appear in hearings," he said.

Fakhrul accused the Awami League of attempting to erase political opposition. "We have not forgotten the killing of our Alems at Shapla Chattar. We have not forgotten the execution of Jamaat-e-Islami leaders. We have not forgotten the hanging of our leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury. They only wanted democracy and rights," he added.

## Parties resist reforms

FROM PAGE 3

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iltekhuruzzaman, also a member of the National Consensus Commission, said, "From my experience, no long-term reform proposals have been implemented... Elected governments forget their commitments after coming to power."

He also criticised the lack of a dedicated commission for the education sector despite its critical importance.

Badiul Alam Majumder, another member of the National Consensus Commission, said reforms remain stalled because people do not actively demand them.

"If we remain passive despite the sacrifices made for change, no reforms will materialise," he said. "If the structures that breed fascism are not dismantled and fair elections are not ensured, no meaningful change will occur."

Dhaka University Prof Samina Luthfa pointed out that state institutions have become the country's most failing entities and need urgent reforms. She also criticised the lack of

representation of women, marginalised communities, and indigenous groups in the National Consensus Commission.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan said while the interim government has undertaken some reform initiatives, it has not been able to act in certain areas.

"There should be no difference between private and public universities, except in their management systems," he added.

Jatiya Nagarik Committee Joint Convener Sarwar Tushar said previous reform frameworks were not implemented due to a lack of political will.

He urged the government to ensure long-term reforms in line with the July Charter.

Prof Kazi Maruf Islam, who led the research, presented findings on students' perspectives regarding higher education, electoral reform, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the judiciary, public security, and law enforcement, alongside corresponding recommendations.

## Anti-rape

FROM PAGE 3

highway demanding the home adviser's resignation for his failure to curb rising crime. Students marched from the Shaheed Minar premises at noon before taking to the highway, disrupting traffic.

"We can see that law and order has completely collapsed. Those who participated in the July revolution are being attacked," said Arifuzzaman Ujjal, a student of the 47th batch.

In Barishal, students from various schools and colleges staged demonstrations, held rallies, and blocked roads in protest against the surge in sexual violence, reports our local correspondent.

In Patuakhali's Bauphal upazila, students of Bauphal Government College waved red cards, denouncing rising crimes such as robbery, extortion, and murder, and demanding the home adviser's resignation.

Meanwhile, students in Thakurgaon staged a demonstration and blocked roads in the town with similar demands.

Protesters across the country warned that if authorities fail to take action, their movement will intensify in the coming days.



**Hundreds of workers, who failed to travel to Malaysia on a calling visa despite paying recruiting agencies, staged a sit-in at Shahbagh yesterday morning. The protest programme also created traffic congestion on the road.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## BANCAT launches cancer care village



### CITY DESK

The Bangladesh Cancer Aid Trust (BANCAT) has announced the launch of the country's first-ever cancer care village, "Alok Boshoti," said a press release.

The announcement came during the "Philanthropy Conclave 2025 – Fostering a Care Economy", held at a city hotel on Saturday. With support from Mutual Trust Bank, Sajida Foundation, Seven Rings Cement, and Abdur Rahim Memorial Trust, it will offer mental health support and cancer screening. The eco-friendly project will use solar energy and organic farming, aiming to serve over 5,000 patients annually.

Sharmeen S Murshid, adviser to Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, BANCAT Executive Director Nazmus Ahmed Albab, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, MD and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank, and Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, were present at the event.

## 'DEVIL HUNT' 589 more held across country

UNB, Dhaka

The joint forces arrested 589 more people across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday afternoon as part of the "Operation Devil Hunt", according to the Police Headquarters.

Additionally, 954 others, who were either accused or wanted in previous cases, were also arrested.

The joint forces also recovered arms and weapons including one foreign-made pistol, one locally-made pistol, 3 magazines, 12 rounds of ammunition and 250gm of cannabis. The government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order following an attack on "students and people" in Gazipur.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No: 37.03.0409.001.07.04.25.02

Date: 24-02-2025

### e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.cprocure.gov.bd">http://www.cprocure.gov.bd</a> ) for the Procurement of following Goods.		
Tender ID	Description of Goods	Tender opening date & time
1074769	Supply of Other Stationery (Code: 3255105)	25/02/2025 Time: 15.00
1074770	Supply of Raw Materials & Spare Parts (Code: 3256105)	25/02/2025 Time: 15.05
1074771	Supply & Installation of Engineering & Others Machineries (Code: 4112304)	25/02/2025 Time: 15.10
1074772	Supply & Installation of Office Accessories (Code: 4112310)	25/02/2025 Time: 15.15
1074773	Supply & Installation of Teaching & Learning Materials (Code: 4112312)	25/02/2025 Time: 15.20
1074774	Supply & Installation of Furniture (Code: 4112314)	25/02/2025 Time: 15.25

This is online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

 Md Mahbubur Rahman

Principal

Sheikh Hasina Govt. Technical School & College, Amtali, Borguna. Phone - 01711106714

DEATH ANNIVERSARY	
	Today is the 52nd death anniversary of Freedom Fighter <b>Abdur Rob (Boga Mia)</b> Ex-Member of the Constituent Assembly and President of the Pabna District Awami League.
	He is remembered for his Honesty, Sacrifice and dedication for the people and the country. He was always true to his cause and principle which is envinously valued by the people of Pabna and the nation even today.
	He died in a tragic car accident on the February 25, 1973. We pray for his departed soul, eternal peace and Jannat.
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

This online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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