



## Work together, or our sovereignty will be at stake

Cautions army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday said that Bangladesh's sovereignty will be in jeopardy if people do not set aside their differences and stop slinging mud at each other.

"I am warning you. If you cannot forget your differences and work together, if you engage in mudslinging and fighting, the independence and sovereignty of this country and nation will be at stake," he said.

"I am telling you today, otherwise you would say that I did not warn you. This country belongs to all of us. We all want to live in peace and harmony. We do not want conflicts or fights. We are working towards that goal," he added.

The army chief was speaking at an event at Raowa Club in the capital, marking the National Martyred Army Day. The day was observed commemorating the sacrifice of army officers who were brutally killed during the carnage at the Pilkhana headquarters of the then Bangladesh Rifles in 2009.

Speaking on the occasion, General Waker stressed the need for remaining united despite differences in opinion or ideology.

"At the end of the day, we need to stay united keeping in mind the welfare of our country and nation. Only then, the country would progress and go in the right direction. Otherwise, we will plunge into more problems. We don't want to head in that direction," he said.

"I have no other desire. My only desire is that I want to see this country

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Don't attack army; inspire and offer constructive advice

Free, fair, inclusive election by December

Law and order deteriorating due to divisions

Many police officers not performing due to legal proceedings

Pilkhana atrocity committed by then-BDR personnel

Don't undermine law enforcement, intelligence agencies

Don't undermine judicial process regarding Pilkhana trial

Want to see Bangladesh in a beautiful place, and go back to cantonment



A mother touches the grave of a Bangladesh Army officer who was killed during the BDR mutiny in Pilkhana on February 25-26, 2009. Yesterday was the 16th anniversary of the carnage. The photo was taken at the Banani Military Graveyard.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## BDR MUTINY Bangladesh committed to ensuring justice: Yunus

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus paid glowing tributes to martyred army officers in the Pilkhana carnage on National Martyred Army Day.

"On this day, I remember the glorious sons of the soil, the martyred army officers with a heavy heart and pay homage to them. I also pray for the eternal peace of

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## Govt procurement under monopolistic control

Finds TIB after analysing e-GP data from 2012 to 2015

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 17 percent of all government tenders had only one bidder in the last 12 years, found a study by Transparency International Bangladesh.

This means the government contracts were awarded without any competitive price bidding among several contenders, which is in violation of the government procurement policy.

TIB, which analysed the data of 52,837 contractors of the government's e-GP portal from 2012 to 2025, found that a further 27 percent of all bids had between two and three bidders.

Over 44 percent of all tenders were

floated by the government under the "limited tendering method".

The limited tendering method can be deployed when the goods, services or works are only available from a limited number of suppliers.

Since the launch of the e-GP system in 2011, a total of Tk 596,921 crore has been spent through the platform. The top 10 contracting ministries account for about 92 percent of the total spending.

Analysing the top 10 contracting ministries, the report found that the top 5 percent of contractors were awarded 61.31 percent of the total money spent.

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## 82 senior cops made OSD for 'role in polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a rare administrative decision, the government has made 82 senior police officers Officers on Special Duty (OSD), including an additional inspector general of police, who served during the 2018 national election.

The officials include additional IG Abdul Alim Mahmud, 13 deputy inspectors general (DIGs), 49 additional DIGs, and 19 Superintendents of Police (SPs), according to three separate notifications issued by the Public Security Division of the Home Ministry's Police-1 branch yesterday.

However, the official orders did not specify the reason behind the decision.

Sources at the home ministry and Police Headquarters confirmed that all 82 officers had been involved in election

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