

Resign from govt

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president of the party, said to maintain neutrality, the two advisers, who were former student leaders, must step down immediately.

"If they do not resign, we will announce a strict programme in coordination with other political parties and pro revolution forces," he declared.

He criticised the interim government for what he called an imbalance in representation, saying, "This is a people's government, yet instead of fulfilling public aspirations, it is favouring a particular political party. This raises doubts and suspicions."

He warned that if the government fails to meet public expectations, people will stand against it as well.

The party also criticised the remarks made by US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, who, during a media interview in Delhi, said the Trump administration is "deeply concerned" about the situation in

Minority

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Bangladesh, particularly regarding Islamic terrorism and the persecution of minorities.

Gono Odhikar Parishad dismissed these claims, asserting that no such

issues exist in the country.

Calling for meaningful reforms, the party emphasised the need to restructure the Advisory Council under the chief adviser's leadership, as it currently includes controversial figures. They cited a High Court ruling, stressing that elections must be held under a caretaker government to ensure fairness.

The group reiterated its demands for trials for genocide, state reforms, and a clear roadmap forward.

"We agree with the chief adviser's statement that state reforms are needed before the December elections. However, achieving this requires national consensus. Unfortunately, the advisers' statements are only deepening national divisions," they said.

The US Senator also called on Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain at the State Guest House Padma yesterday, where both sides emphasised the need to further strengthen trade relations and security cooperation between the two nations.

Govt employees

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An additional secretary from the ministry said extended holidays help ease travel challenges for people returning to their hometowns for Eid. If April 3 is declared a holiday, employees could potentially enjoy a nine-day break from March 28 to April 5.

Government officials may not take casual leave between holidays, as it would be considered an extension of the break, but they can apply for earned leave.

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Should DC offices stay? Stop promoting

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They also discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to deepen bilateral relations. Senator Peters inquired about the reform initiatives and plans for holding free and fair elections.

Prof Yunus said elections could be held in December if political parties agree to a limited set of reforms. However, if they seek a broader package, the polls may take place a few months later.

"The election will be free and fair, with celebrations on election day, just as we have seen in the past," he said.

The chief adviser also said political parties will sign a July Charter once they reach an agreement on the proposed reforms.

Peters appreciated the reform agenda of the government, saying the US looks forward to a smooth democratic transition in Bangladesh.

The US Senator also called on Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain at the State Guest House Padma yesterday, where both sides emphasised the need to further strengthen trade relations and security cooperation between the two nations.

Speakers also stressed the need for an inclusive governance system, with Raushan Ara from Naripokkho emphasising the importance of diverse representation across gender, profession, age, and ethnicity in local government committees.

Responding to journalists' questions, the Governance Advocacy Forum acknowledged the role of political parties in implementing these reforms.

They urged the government to engage with political parties more effectively and reduce dependence on bureaucracy to accelerate reform decisions.

"Decentralisation will only work if elected representatives are genuinely empowered to make decisions and implement policies," they

added.

The event, moderated by Kaniz Fatema, deputy executive director of WAVE Foundation, was attended by experts including Firoz Nurun Nabi Jugol, programme director of Democracywatch, Mohammad Mohsin Kabir, programme manager of Manusher Jonno Foundation, as well as representatives from the media, civil society, youth groups, and marginalised communities.

Enact practical

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It also recommended increasing fines and compensation mentioned in Section 250.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court could issue a practice direction under Chapter IIIB of the High Court Division Rules.

If a complaint is brought before a Magistrate's Court under Section 200 of the CrPC, in which the majority of the accused individuals are not explicitly linked to the alleged incident, the magistrate should ensure a proper investigation before taking cognisance of the case.

To prevent real culprits from being spared due to collusion with the police, the commission proposed forming a high-powered task force in every division to oversee such matters.

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"Decentralisation will only work if elected representatives are genuinely empowered to make decisions and implement policies," they

added.

Khalid shared this information during a press briefing at the conference room of the ministry.

Regarding the refund of air ticket costs for Umrah pilgrims, the adviser said Biman is refunding ticketed pilgrims who are unable to travel due to visa issues as per regulations. Other airlines, including Saudia, have also been requested to refund fares to those affected.

He further informed that the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has assigned over 400 Saudi Umrah companies to coordinate Umrah operations with agencies from various countries. Each company has a specific quota for Umrah pilgrims annually. Once a company reaches its quota, visa issuance through that company is temporarily halted.

Khalid said that upon learning about the visa issue, the ministry promptly contacted the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka. Initially, a verbal request was made to maintain the visa issuance process, followed by a formal letter (DO letter) urging the continuation of Umrah visa issuance.

He added that Bangladesh's Hajj counsellor in Jeddah is in regular communication with relevant officials of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to ensure that ticketed pilgrims can perform Umrah during Ramadan.

It's in high

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Salvador Carballo Lopez, director of Education for South Asia at the British Council, shared key findings from the report. He revealed that in the 2022-23 academic year, approximately 2,145 Bangladeshi students were studying for UK higher education qualifications in Bangladesh.

However, this number

remains relatively low compared to countries like India and Sri Lanka, which have around 15,000 and 54,000 UK TNE students, respectively.

The University of London is the largest UK TNE provider in Bangladesh, accounting for about 75 percent of all UK TNE students in the country. These students are primarily enrolled as "distance learning" students, although the university's TNE model operates differently from other distance learning institutions.

Mother

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raping his 12-year-old granddaughter in Jashore's Manirampur upazila.

The accused is Lutfar Rahman Gazi, 60.

Police said Lutfar first raped the girl around a month ago. Then he raped her again on Monday.

Later, the victim shared the incident with her family members.

A case was filed by the victim's aunt, said OC Noor Mohammad Gazi of Manirampur Police Station.

In Panchagrah, a local court sent a madrasa teacher to jail yesterday for sodoming his student.

Rezwan Parvez, 22, sodomised the 11-year-old student early Sunday, according to case statement.

Later, police arrested the accused following a case filed by the victim's father, said OC Sohel Rana of Debiganj Police Station.

In Kurigram, police yesterday detained a man for raping a 50-year-old intellectually disabled woman in Nageshwari area.

The accused, Babar Ali, 30, raped the woman when she went to the riverbank yesterday afternoon.

The process of filing a case was ongoing, said Nageshwari Police Station's OC Rezaul Karim Reza last night.

Furthermore, two men were sent to jail yesterday in Munshiganj and Gazipur on charges of molesting two children.

In Munshiganj, Md Yasin, 45, allegedly molested a six-year-old girl near her home in Gazaria upazila on Monday.

Locals rescued the girl as she screamed, but Yasin managed to flee.

Later, her father filed a case, leading to Yasin's arrest, said Mohammad Anwar Alam, OC of Gazaria Police Station.

In Gazipur, Shankar Chandra Shil, 50, a salon owner, was accused of molesting an eight-year-old girl in Pubail.

The child's mother later filed a case, and police arrested Shankar the same night, said SM Amirul Islam, OC of Pubail Police Station.

Should DC offices stay? Stop promoting

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Speakers called upon government agencies like Rajuk and city corporations to swiftly implement area-based action plans for establishing essential civic facilities such as schools, hospitals, parks, and playgrounds as outlined in the DAP.

Professor Adil Mohammed Khan, president of BIP, said while significant constitutional reforms took place following the July Uprising, no substantial reforms have been made to urban planning, construction laws, or environmental policies to ensure sustainable and inclusive development.

"Instead, vested groups have persistently spread misinformation about the DAP," he said.

The review committees formed after previous DAP ultimately weakened their implementation, prioritising business interests over the public good, he alleged.

Prof Khan highlighted that the uncertainty with DAP has discouraged property owners from constructing buildings, as professionals in the sector advised clients against proceeding with designs aligned with the new regulations.

He also pointed out the alarming modifications in the proposed building

HC questions legality

FROM PAGE 3

bookings, the adviser added.

Khalid shared this information during a press briefing at the conference room of the ministry.

Regarding the refund of air ticket costs for Umrah pilgrims, the adviser said Biman is refunding ticketed pilgrims who are unable to travel due to visa issues as per regulations. Other airlines, including Saudia, have also been requested to refund fares to those affected.

She argued that the notification contradicts the constitutional definition of political parties and the Election Reform Commission's recommendations.

According to the EC

law, a political party must have committees in at

least 22 districts and 100 upazilas for registration. However, the three hill districts have only 20 upazilas, preventing hill communities from forming political or regional parties despite their interest.

As a result, the current law, under which the notification was issued, deprives the hill population of the right to establish political parties, the lawyer added.

Deputy Attorney General Golam Rahman Bhuiyan represented the state during the hearing.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ref No: BCB/Media Rights / 2025/155

Date: 19th March, 2025

Zimbabwe Team's Tour of Bangladesh 2025 Worldwide Media Rights

Ref No: BCB/Media Rights / 2025/155

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the TV Broadcasters or Marketing Agents for acquiring the following Media Rights of Zimbabwe Team's Tour of Bangladesh 2025 comprising of 02 Tests to be held from 20th of April 2025 to 2nd of May 2025.

- 01. Satellite TV Channel Rights.
- 02. Digital OTT (Over-the-Top) Rights.
- 03. DTH (Direct-to-Home) Rights.

Area of Rights :

A detailed EOI document has been developed incorporating all necessary EOI details and documents for acquiring the above-mentioned Media Rights of Zimbabwe Team's Tour of Bangladesh 2025 involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men).

Eligibility Criteria:

- a) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, Online Betting shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- b) Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process.
- c) The Broadcaster/ TV Channel must be in operation (on air) for at least 03 (Three) years.
- d) Marketing agents must have the capability and reasonable experience in marketing of Worldwide Media Rights.

EOI Document Purchasing Procedure :

- a) Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document from BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department) on payment of the Non-Refundable fees of BDT 50,000 (Fifty Thousand Taka Only) in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Cash or for the Overseas participants USD 500 (Five Hundred US Dollar only) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name : Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank : Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT : SCBLBDDX). Please send your request for the EOI Document (Soft copy or printed version) along with the evidence of Bank Transfer / Payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com.
- b) The details of the EOI process, Tentative Tour Itinerary, Bank Guarantee Format etc. are set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 20th of March 2025 to 06th of April 2025 during working hours (10.00 AM to 5.00 PM except Friday & Public Holidays in Bangladesh).

EOI Submission Procedure :

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 7th of April 2025 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board.

The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:

01. Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.
02. Updated auditor's report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).
03. Bank Solvency Certificate along with bank Statement.
04. Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.
05. Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
06. In case of Consortium, notarized consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board

Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information as "Price Sensitive Information" of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 829th meeting held at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 18 March, 2025 adopted the audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the year ended 31 December, 2024 and took the following decisions with regard to the forthcoming 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Bank and other related issues:-

Date and time of 42nd AGM : 12 May 2025
Venue : Digital Platform

Dividend recommended for the year 2024 : 17.50% Stock and 17.50% cash