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Repeal Special Powers Act

Rights groups demand after model's detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts and various rights groups called for the repeal of the Special Powers Act following the detention of model and Miss Bangladesh Foundation Chairperson Meghna Alam.

The Gonojantrik Odhikar Committee yesterday strongly condemned the detention of Meghna under the Act, calling it a fascist and authoritarian move.

The group demanded her immediate release and urged the government to scrap the 50-year-old law.

In a statement issued yesterday, the organisation's member Prof Anu Muhammad said no repressive law, including the Special Powers Act, should exist in the post-uprising Bangladesh.

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PROF ANU MUHAMMAD

Meghna's detention saga unfolded when she went live on her Facebook page on Wednesday, saying that individuals identifying themselves as law enforcers from Bhatara Police Station were trying to break into her flat without a warrant.

A visibly distressed Meghna is heard in the video requesting the men "carrying firearms" to leave and telling them that she would go to the police station.

The 12-minute footage shows the individuals breaking into her flat and forcibly taking her phone. The video and some of her previous posts were removed

SEE PAGE 8 COL 7



With hopes for a bright future, men, women, and children offer flowers at Ramna Lake in the capital yesterday on the occasion of Phul Biju, marking the first day of the three-day Baisabi festival, the largest religious and social celebration of the indigenous communities.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Adani plant supplying at half capacity

Load-shedding expected from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India's Adani plant is supplying power through one of its units due to technical glitches, a development that can increase load-shedding, said officials from the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) and the Power Grid Bangladesh.

On April 8, the first of the power plant's two 800-megawatt (MW) units shut operation and the second

one stopped operation on early Saturday at around 12:45am, said ABM Baduuzzaman, deputy manager (public relations) at the PGCB.

However, from 6:15 pm yesterday, electricity from unit 1 began to be added to the main grid, he said.

PGCB data shows that after the disconnection of the Adani plant, the power generation shortage stood at

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

**Military needs extensive reforms
Demand retired army officers**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Retired army officers have called for extensive reforms in the military to ensure that the armed forces and intelligence agencies cannot be abused for political gains in the future.

Speaking at an event yesterday, they also demanded that the authorities concerned take steps to punish the army officials who were involved

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1



With iron rods protruding from the ground, drivers must exercise extreme caution while passing this dangerous stretch of Atish Dipankar Road near the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station. For the past two months, underground sewerage works remained unfinished, turning this road hazardous. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Israel expands Gaza offensive

Takes over major corridor, completing encirclement of Rafah

AFP, Gaza City

Israel yesterday announced that its military had completed the takeover of a new corridor in southern Gaza, advancing its efforts to seize large parts of the war-battered Palestinian territory.

The military also announced a sweeping evacuation order for tens of thousands of residents of Khan Yunis and surrounding areas in southern Gaza ahead of a planned strike after projectiles were fired from there earlier in the day.

The seizure of the "Morag axis" came while Hamas expected "real progress" towards a ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza, an official from the group told AFP, with senior leaders from the Palestinian movement scheduled to hold talks with Egyptian mediators in Cairo later yesterday.

"The IDF (military) has now completed its takeover of the Morag axis, which crosses Gaza in northern Gaza as well – in Beit Hanoun and other neighbourhoods – residents are evacuating, the area is being taken over and the security zone is

being expanded, including in the Netzarim corridor," he added.

Since a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas collapsed in mid-March, Israel's renewed offensive in Gaza has displaced hundreds of thousands of people while the military has seized large areas of the war-battered territory.

Top Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have repeatedly said that the ongoing assault aims to pressure Hamas into freeing the remaining 58 hostages held in Gaza.

Hamas said the offensive not only "kills defenceless civilians but also makes the fate of the occupation's prisoners (hostages) uncertain".

In a separate announcement, the military ordered residents of Khan Yunis and surrounding areas to evacuate after the air force intercepted three projectiles fired from south Gaza earlier in the day.

"IDF troops are operating with significant force in the area, and will strike with intensity on any location from which rockets are launched," the military said on X.

- Israel army issues evacuation order for Khan Yunis residents
- Minister says Israel to expand offensive 'throughout most of Gaza'
- Hamas delegation reaches Cairo for truce talks

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