



# Invisible foes now showing their faces

Says Tarique, urges party unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging unity among party rank and file to tackle the upcoming challenges, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said many previously invisible enemies or opponents are gradually becoming visible.

“Seven or eight months ago, I told you that we would have to fight against unseen forces. Do you now understand why I said that? Today, that is proving to be true. Many of those once-invisible forces, enemies, or opponents are now becoming visible,” Tarique said at a programme yesterday, without elaborating.



He was speaking virtually at a training workshop titled “31 Point Framework for State Reform and Public Engagement,” attended by party members from Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, and Gaibandha.

“If we are not united, and if anyone among us engages in actions not endorsed by the public, then action must be taken against them. They must be removed. We cannot maintain ties with such individuals,” he said.

Tarique stressed that public support is the BNP’s greatest strength and the key measure of its success.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



**Demanding arrears, workers who collect household waste for the Dhaka North City Corporation staged a protest on Progati Sarani yesterday by dumping garbage onto the road at Notunbazar. With heaps of garbage blocking the city thoroughfare, there was slow traffic in the area and the adjacent areas all afternoon.**

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## 27th death anniversary of Shazneen today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 27th death anniversary of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman.

On this day in 1998, 15-year-old Shazneen was raped and brutally murdered in a premeditated manner at her home in Gulshan. At the time, Shazneen was a grade-IX student of Scholastica School.

She was the daughter of late Latifur Rahman, former chairman of Transcom Group, and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Cops get whole set of new uniforms

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) has issued a comprehensive new dress code titled Police Dress Rules, 2025, detailing rank-wise uniforms and accessories for all Bangladesh Police members.

The rules were published through a gazette yesterday, repealing the previous dress code of 2004.



According to the gazette, the new official police monogram features the national flower, the Shapla (water lily), resting on water and encircled by paddy and wheat, with three jute leaves at the top. The word “Police” in Bangla appears beneath the emblem.

### WORKING UNIFORM

Police officers will now wear iron-coloured shirts and coffee-coloured trousers, with separate summer (half-sleeve) and winter (full-sleeve) versions. Shirts must include six buttons, shoulder straps, and pleated pockets. Trousers will be tailored with waistband pleats and utility pockets, with the hem style varying by rank, according to the gazette.

Headress rules specify dark blue peak caps with embroidered silver oak leaves for senior officers and blue berets or UN-style field caps for others. All caps and berets will bear rank-specific badges.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Gaza a ‘land of desperation’

Says UN as ‘manmade hunger’ spreads in the tiny Palestinian territory; 26 killed in air strikes

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday warned that Gaza was facing deepening hunger 50 days into a total Israeli blockade on all aid entering the war-ravaged Palestinian territory.

“Gaza has become a land of desperation,” Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA, said on X.

“Hunger is spreading and deepening, deliberate and manmade.”

After 18 months of devastating war and an Israeli blockade on aid since March 2, the UN has warned of a dire humanitarian situation for the 2.4 million inhabitants of the Palestinian territory.

Israel has accused the Palestinian militant group of diverting aid, which Hamas denies.

The heads of 12 major aid organisations warned last Thursday that “famine is not just a risk, but likely rapidly unfolding in almost all parts” of the territory.

“You can see a clear tendency towards total disaster,” Jens Laerke, spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency OCHA told reporters in Geneva Tuesday.

“It is true that right now is probably the worst humanitarian situation we have seen throughout the war in Gaza.”

In his post on X, Lazzarini questioned “how much longer until hollow words of condemnation will translate into action to lift the siege, resume a ceasefire and save whatever is left of humanity?”

The UNRWA chief decried that two million people in Gaza, most of them women and children, “are undergoing collective punishment”.

“The wounded, sick and elderly are deprived of medical supplies and care,” he said, even as humanitarian organisations like UNRWA have thousands of trucks waiting with supplies that risk expiring.

“Humanitarian aid is being used as a bargaining chip and a weapon of war,” he charged.

“The siege must be lifted, supplies must flow in, the hostages must be released, the ceasefire must resume.”

Meanwhile, Gaza’s civil defence agency said that a spate of Israeli air strikes since dawn killed at least 25 people across the Hamas-run territory.

“The total number of Palestinians killed in Israeli air strikes since dawn today has risen to 25,” Mohammad Mughayyir, a senior official with the civil defence agency told AFP.

Nine people were killed and several others

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Israeli probe into aid workers’ killings not enough: PRC



1,864 killed in Gaza since Israeli military resumed offensive on March 18

## Rab files 2 cases over Barishal ‘gunfight’

Deceased, injured among accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Barishal

Rab yesterday filed two cases over Monday’s “gunfight” during an anti-drug drive in Barishal that left one man dead and a teen injured.

Rab 8 Senior Warrant Officer Sheikh Riazul Islam filed the cases with Agailjhara Police Station in the afternoon, said Officer-in-Charge Oliul Islam.

Each case names two individuals and accuses 12 unidentified others. The deceased and the injured in the incident are the named accused, the OC added.

One case accuses them of obstructing government duties, attacking law enforcers, and initiating the gunfight. The other case was filed for possessing drugs.

On Monday evening, Siam Molla, 18, a college student from Baheer Hat in Uzirpur upazila, was killed, and Rakib Molla, 17, an SSC examinee from the same area, was injured in the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## ATROCITIES IN CHANKHARPUL ICT prosecutors to press charges on May 25

Ex-DMP chief, 7 others among suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday fixed May 25 for the prosecutors to press charges against former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman and seven other police personnel.

They are accused of killing six people in the capital’s Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The investigators submitted the probe report to the prosecutors on April 20.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam yesterday requested four weeks to review the probe report before formally pressing charges.

The tribunal then granted time until May 25.

According to the investigation agency, the seven other accused are Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, former DMP joint commissioner; Shah Alam Mohammad Akhtarul Islam, former additional deputy commissioner; Mohammad Imrul, former assistant commissioner (Ramna DMP); Arshad Hossain, former inspector of Shahbagh Police Station; and constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam.

Prosecutor Tajul previously said that Habibur and several others gave the orders while the rest directly participated in the killing of six protesters.

Four accused – Arshad, Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul – are currently in custody and were produced before the tribunal yesterday.

“In this specific incident, evidence suggests that only policemen were involved. If evidence emerges suggesting that civilians or political activists were involved as well, separate charges will be pressed,” Tajul told reporters.

Incidents of crimes against humanity occurred in Chankharpool area and investigations are going on, he said.

## Gunmen kill 24 tourists in India’s J&K

AFP, Srinagar

At least 24 people were killed in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) when gunmen opened fire on tourists yesterday, a senior police officer told AFP, with authorities calling it the worst attack on civilians in years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi decried the “heinous act” in the summer retreat of Pahalgam, pledging the attackers “will be brought to justice”.

A tour guide told AFP he reached the scene after hearing gunfire and transported some of the wounded away on horseback.

“I saw a few men lying on the ground looking like they were dead,” said Waheed, who gave only one name. The attack targeted tourists in Pahalgam, which lies about 90 kilometres (55 miles) by road from the key city of Srinagar.

The senior police officer in the region, speaking on condition of anonymity, described a massacre in which at least 24 people had been killed.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but rebels in the Muslim-majority region have waged an insurgency since 1989.

They are seeking independence or a merger with Pakistan – which controls a smaller part of the Kashmir region and, like India, claims it in full.

The killings comes a day after Modi met with US Vice President JD Vance, who is on a four-day tour of India.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that “the attack is much larger than anything we’ve seen directed at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



**Family members of 22-year-old Arman Hossain Pappu were inconsolable when his body arrived at their Tejgaon Begunbari home from the hospital yesterday. The night before, he was stabbed to death allegedly by muggers near Tejgaon BG Press. He had been working at an online shop and studying electrical engineering at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute. The only son in the family, Arman, was supposed to get married this Friday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## ACC moves to bring back Hasina, family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission has initiated the official process to bring back deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and six of her family members. Hasina fled the country in the face of a mass uprising last year, and is currently in India.

Briefing reporters about the move yesterday, ACC Commissioner (enquiry) Brig Gen (retd) Hafiz Ahsan Farid said, “Our process involves sending a formal request to the home ministry, which will then communicate with the foreign ministry. Through diplomatic channels, letters will be dispatched to the relevant Bangladeshi embassies or high commissions abroad, which will forward them to their counterparts in the respective host countries.”

He added that the process to repatriate accused individuals living abroad has already begun.

Asked about British lawmaker Tulip Siddiq, daughter of Hasina’s younger sister Sheikh Rehana,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6