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# EC will carry out its own reforms: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said reforms that are urgent before the next election and within the Election Commission's jurisdiction will be implemented by the EC itself.

He said this while talking to reporters following a meeting with Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Susan Ryle at the EC.

"Some reforms, which are beyond the Election Commission's control and involve political issues, will be addressed through the National Consensus Commission."

The CEC added that the meeting discussed preparations for the 13th national election and to what extent the EC will be able to implement the recommendations of the Electoral Reform Commission.

On March 17, the EC objected to 10 key reform proposals, including those on the separate authority

**"Some reforms, which are beyond the Election Commission's control and involve political issues, will be addressed through the National Consensus Commission."**

CEC AMM Nasir Uddin

for delimitation of constituencies, the timing of local government polls and the national election, and probes against election commissioners.

In a letter to Prof Ali Riaz, co-chairman of National Consensus Commission, the EC raised the objection to the Electoral Reform Commission's proposal on authorising a parliamentary committee to investigate failures of election commissioners.

Additionally, the EC opposed the proposed Election

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Farmhands remove defective grains from a pile of harvested Boro paddy using the traditional winnowing method -- tossing the grains into the wind. With the looming threat of rain, farmers are accelerating harvest and post-harvest activities to protect their yields. The photo was taken in West Bilpabla area in Khulna recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Pakistan FM postpones Dhaka trip

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has postponed his scheduled visit to Bangladesh on April 27-28.

"Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan is unable to undertake the visit to Bangladesh on 27-28 April 2025," said

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## 'Vladimir, STOP!'

Trump tells Putin after a 'massive' Russian missile attack on Kyiv kills at least 10, injures more than 90

AFP, Kyiv

Donald Trump yesterday called on Vladimir Putin to halt attacks on Ukraine, in a rare rebuke of the Russian leader after Moscow fired a barrage of missiles and drones at Kyiv, killing at least 10 in the deadliest attack on the capital in months.

The direct appeal to Putin came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged his allies to put Russia under more pressure to halt its invasion.



The Ukrainian leader cut short a trip to South Africa to deal with the aftermath of the deadly strikes, the latest in a wave of large-scale Russian aerial attacks that have killed dozens of civilians.

"I am not happy with the Russian strikes on KYIV," Trump said on social media.

"Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP!" he said. "Lets get the Peace Deal DONE!"

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## People must get back their voting rights

Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman

has urged party leaders and activists to restore people's voting rights at any cost, saying that the sacrifices made over the past 15 years must not be allowed to go in vain.

"Voting rights must be established in Bangladesh. Through the establishment of democracy and voting rights, we must ensure the economic freedom of the people," said Tarique.

He made the remarks while virtually addressing training workshops for party activists on its 31-point proposals for state reform.



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## Asif apologises for his father's contractor's licence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain,

adviser to the IGRD and sports ministries, has issued a public apology after it was revealed that his father had obtained a contractor's licence.

He made the apology on his



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PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

**PHANTOM OF THE SEA ...** A leopard eel, also known as honeycomb moray or "chitah bagh machh" in Bangladesh, was recently spotted off Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal -- a rare sighting, as little is known about their presence here. With their black-and-white patterned bodies, these eels glide through coral reefs like living art. Despite their sharp teeth and fierce look, they're shy hunters, hiding in crevices and coming out at night to catch fish and crustaceans. Their constant jaw movement, often mistaken as aggression, is simply how they breathe. Growing up to 10 feet long, they're popular among divers but best admired from a distance. In the reef's quiet corners, the leopard eel is a beautiful reminder of the wild beneath the waves.

## Ensure transparency to regain public trust

Experts tell doctors about engagements with pharmas, diagnostic centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors must ensure transparency in their engagements with pharmaceutical companies and diagnostic centres to regain public trust and restore the image of the profession, senior physicians and officials said yesterday.

They stressed that beyond legal safeguards, genuine public confidence is essential for doctors' safety, and that the healthcare system must remain free from politicisation for the greater good.

The remarks were made during a discussion held to mark Doctors' Week at Bangladesh Medical University (BMU), organised by 11 doctors' associations.

BMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Shahinul Alam said that politicisation remains a major challenge within the country's healthcare system, warning that the sector will continue to lag behind unless politics is kept at bay.

He added that doctors must align their own demands with those of the public so that citizens will advocate on their behalf, noting that physicians are often unfairly blamed for systemic failures.

"We won't be able to show our faces to society unless we strengthen

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## Meghna Alam denied bail in extortion case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court rejected the bail petition of model and Miss Bangladesh Foundation Chairperson Meghna Alam in an extortion case yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Masuma Rahman turned down the plea, filed by Barrister Sadman Sakib on behalf of Meghna, upon hearing arguments from both sides.

In the petition, lawyer Sadman sought bail on the grounds that no specific allegation was brought against Meghna.

She was implicated in the case filed with Dhanmondi Police Station for "harassment", argued her lawyer, adding that as a woman, she should be granted bail.

The prosecution opposed the petition, saying she should not be granted bail because the charges

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১৩৮তম বন্দর দিবস

সকল দেশী- বিদেশী অংশীজন, বন্দর ব্যবহারকারী এবং তত্ত্বাবধায়ককে

শ্রীশ্রী অর্চনা

শ্রীভিনন্দন

যে আকাঙ্ক্ষা নিয়ে ছাত্র-জনতার গণমুক্ত্যচলন হয়েছে তার প্রতিফলন খটেছে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরের সব কার্যক্রমে। সেবা কার্যক্রমে এসেছে গতি। ভেঙে দেওয়া হয়েছে বন্দর ঘিরে গড়ে ওঠা সব সিঁড়িকোট। ফিরে এসেছে শৃঙ্খলা, নিশ্চিত হয়েছে স্বচ্ছতা ও জবাবদিহিতা। অংশীজনদের অংশগ্রহণে বৈশ্বা সরিখে বন্দর হয়ে উঠছে সত্যিকারের জনবান্ধব প্রতিষ্ঠান।

মাতারবাড়ি গাভীর সম্মুখবন্দর নির্মাণে চুক্তি হয়েছে চলতি মাসে। বে টার্মিনালের ডিপপি সরকারি অনুমোদন পেয়েছে একই বিশ্ব ব্যাংকের সাথে ঋণচুক্তি সম্পন্ন হয়েছে। সহসাই তরু হবে প্রকল্পের মাইলপথের কাজ।

বন্দরের অবিদ্যৎ সক্ষমতা ও কার্যকারিতা অব্যাহত রাখতে আইকার সহযোগিতায় পোর্ট স্ট্র্যাটেজি প্রশমনের কার্যক্রম হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে। উদ্যোগ নেওয়া হয়েছে পোর্ট সিস্টেম উইকো, ই-পেমেন্ট, ওয়ান স্টপ সার্ভিস চালু ও ট্যারিফ পুনর্নির্ধারণে। চালু হয়েছে ডিজিটাল গেট পাস সিস্টেম।

অভ্যুত্থানের আকাঙ্ক্ষাকে ধারণ করে স্বচ্ছতা ও নামাযতের ভিত্তিতে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরকে আরও বেশি জনবান্ধব করতে কাজ করছে কর্তৃপক্ষ।