



## Hostility towards women 'growing'

Says Mahila Parishad, urges govt to safeguard women's rights

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday urged the government to take stronger action to establish and safeguard women's rights.

It stressed the need not only for state-led initiatives but also for strong political commitment and greater social awareness to ensure women's rights in the country.

The organisation made the call at an event titled "Current Situation of Women's Human Rights: Statement of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad", held at the capital's National Press Club.

In line with this call, it presented a seven-point recommendation.

These included strict state action to stop misogynistic propaganda; ensuring swift justice for all forms of violence against women; taking necessary measures to end mob violence; and initiating steps to restore discipline in educational institutions.

Further recommendations urged guaranteeing media freedom to ensure the accurate presentation and dissemination of information;

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### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (MARCH 2025)

#### TOTAL INCIDENT

442

#### RAPE

163 females, including 125 under 18

#### GANG RAPE

36 females, including 18 under 18

#### ATTEMPTED RAPE

70 females, including 55 under 18



**A CLOSE CALL...** Deciding to cross a busy road amidst moving traffic, pedestrians find themselves in grave danger. Trapped between two moving buses, they somehow managed to slide out from the tight spot, narrowly escaping what could have been a terrible accident. The photo was taken yesterday at Mirpur Technical area in the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Political parties should've been consulted

Says Fakhrul about aid corridor to Rakhine, warns of implications

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday expressed strong reservations regarding the government's decision in principle to provide a humanitarian corridor to Myanmar's conflict-ridden Rakhine state.

Criticising the government's handling of the issue, he said this decision is linked to the country's independence and sovereignty and the future peace and stability of this region.

The decision regarding the humanitarian passage for communication with the Arakan people should have been taken in consultation with all political parties.



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## HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR First get guarantee for Rohingya return

Say foreign policy experts

### PORIMOL PALMA

Dhaka must secure guaranteed security and full commitment from Naypyidaw for Rohingya repatriation before establishing any humanitarian corridor to Myanmar's Rakhine State, said foreign policy analysts.

If any country or humanitarian agency provides aid for Rakhine State, Bangladesh can help supply those to the Arakan Army at the border, said Imtiaz Ahmed, executive director of the Centre for Alternatives.

"And there is no problem with that – but the idea of a humanitarian corridor being discussed is not clear," he said.

On Saturday, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain announced that the interim government has agreed in principle to allow a humanitarian corridor under UN supervision with certain conditions. He did not give further details.

As the UN is proposing such a corridor, it is not clear how it will ensure its security as any such issue will require UN Security Council (UNSC) approval, said Ahmed, also a former professor of international relations at Dhaka

### University.

"Will the UN take any responsibility if the initiative backfires? Will the UN take responsibility if there is any escalation of conflicts in the humanitarian corridor?" Ahmed said.

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Imtiaz Ahmed,  
foreign policy expert

The UN has been seeking a humanitarian corridor to provide aid to the people in Rakhine State, which, according to a UNDP report in November last year, faces imminent threat of acute famine.

Predictions indicated that by March-April 2025, domestic food production

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Rohingyas fleeing Arakan Army persecution

13 lakh refugees now in Bangladesh

### MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Amid escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State, Rohingyas are trespassing into Bangladesh every day, crossing the border allegedly to escape the brutality of Myanmar's rebel group, the Arakan Army (AA).

Rohingya sources said back in Rakhine State, they faced killings, enforced disappearances, torture and forced recruitment into the rebel group as human shields against junta forces and were used as forced labourers for construction works.

Md Mizanur Rahman, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), said, "Currently, a large number of Rohingyas are fleeing from Rakhine State and taking shelter in various refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. Since November 2023 until now, 1.13 lakh Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh. Of them, most arrived since June last."

The RRRC said, "Speaking to the fleeing Rohingyas, we learnt that

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## PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK Crackdown in J&K triggers concerns Troops exchange fire along LoC for fourth night

### AGENCIES

Concerns in Indian-run Kashmir grew yesterday over sweeping detentions in the hunt for the gunmen who carried out a deadly attack last week that New Delhi blames on arch-rival Pakistan.

New Delhi has accused Pakistan of supporting "cross-border terrorism" after gunmen killed 26 people on April 22, the worst attack on civilians in contested Kashmir for a quarter of a century.

Islamabad has denied any role, calling attempts to link Pakistan to the attack "frivolous" and vowing to respond to Indian action.

Relations between the nuclear-armed rivals have plunged to their lowest level in years, sparking worries by analysts of possible military action.

The attack also sparked a huge manhunt for the gunmen in Kashmir, with Indian security forces blowing up nine homes of suspected rebels, as well as detaining nearly 2,000 people for questioning, a senior police official told AFP.

"Punish the guilty, show them no mercy, but don't let innocent people become collateral damage," Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a statement.

Ag Ruhullah, a federal lawmaker from Kashmir, said: "Kashmir and Kashmiris are being given a collective punishment."

Meanwhile, the legislative assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority region, yesterday unanimously passed a resolution denouncing the terrorist attack and resolved to fight resolutely to defeat designs to disturb communal harmony and hinder progress.

## Lightning strikes claim 11 lives

### STAR REPORT

At least 11 people died yesterday after being struck by lightning during thunderstorms in six districts.

Of them, four died in Cumilla, three in Kishoreganj, and one each in Netrakona, Sumangjan, Habiganj, and Shariatpur. Most of the victims were agricultural workers.

In Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila, two farmers, Jewel Bhuiyan, 35, and Nikhil Debnath, 60, were struck by



lightning while harvesting paddy at a field in Korbanpur village, said Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bangra Bazar Police Station.

Meanwhile, in Barura upazila, lightning struck two schoolboys while they were flying kites on a field in Poyagachha village.

Md Jihad, 14, son of Billal Hossain, and Md Fahad, 13, son of Khokon Mia, were sixth-graders at Baraharipur High School.

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Pilgrims gather at the entrance of the Hajj Camp in the capital's Ashkona yesterday afternoon. At the camp, they will complete all immigration formalities before boarding the first hajj flight scheduled to depart for Saudi Arabia from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early today.

## Anisul Huq assaulted on court premises

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Former law minister Anisul Huq was assaulted at the exit of a court in Narayanganj yesterday afternoon allegedly by lawyers.

According to witnesses and journalists, Anisul was being taken to a prison van after a hearing when allegedly some lawyers slapped and punched him.

Earlier, Anisul was produced before the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Moinuddin Kadir for a remand hearing in the murder case of Hafiz Soleiman, who was killed during the July uprising, said Inspector Md Kajum Khan, in-charge of the court police outpost.

The court granted the Criminal Investigation Department a four-day remand to interrogate him, he added.

A witness, requesting anonymity, said some lawyers were chanting slogans demanding death penalty for



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