

BANNING PARTY ACTIVITIES Govt amends anti-terror law

Amendments pave way for penalising AL

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The interim government is set to bring the curtain down on the Awami League as a functioning political party.

The advisory council in a meeting yesterday approved an ordinance to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act-2009 so that it can ban all the activities of any entity.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus presided over the meeting at his official residence, Jamuna. The law ministry later published the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025.

The government is expected to issue a circular banning the Awami League's activities anytime now.

The election commissioners would then sit to decide whether to revoke the party's registration and bar it from elections.

The 2009 Act allows the banning of an entity, but does not contain any provision regarding the prohibition of an entity's activities.

After the latest amendment, section 18 (1) now authorises the government to "ban all activities of any entity".

The amended section 20 reads, "[The government] will ban publishing or printing any press statement by or on behalf of that entity, or organising any sort of publicity on mass media, online, social media or other media, procession, rally, gathering or press conference, or giving a public speech."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Parties
welcome
ban on AL
activities

Demand swift trials of
its leaders, aides

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties have welcomed the interim government's decision to ban all activities of the Awami League under the Anti-Terrorism Act until the trial of the party and its leaders is completed.

They also called for the prompt prosecution of all fallen autocrats and their aides.

The interim government, led by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, made the decision to ban all activities of Awami League on Saturday night, following three days of protests demanding a ban on the party for 15 years of fascist rule.

Parties and organisations that participated in the demonstrations include the National Citizen Party

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Exhausted after harvesting paddy under the scorching sun, a woman drinks water to quench her thirst while another stands beside her for her turn in a field in the Dhamura area of Uzirpur, Barishal.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

WHAT THEY SAY



"We are pleased that, albeit delayed, the interim government decided last night [Saturday night] to ban the activities of the fascist party Awami League and all organisations affiliated with it, in the interest of swiftly prosecuting those involved with the fascist regime for crimes against humanity and ensuring an unhindered trial process."

Mirza Fakhrul Islam
Alamgir,
BNP secretary general



"Our heartfelt demand has been partially fulfilled through the banning of Awami League's activities. But it has not yet been fully realised ... We have repeatedly met with the families of the martyrs. They do not seek financial assistance from the government. Instead, they want swift justice against Sheikh Hasina and her accomplices."

Shafiqur Rahman,
ameer of
Jamaat-e-Islami



"The priority should have been bringing those involved in mass killing to justice, not banning the political activities of Awami League. The politics of a party does not end simply because it is banned. We saw it in the case of Jamaat-e-Islami... I will not be surprised if the party becomes even more influential, like Jamaat have become."

Anu Muhammad,
former economics
professor at JU



"The future legal interpretation of this decision [of banning Awami League] is quite uncertain, because in our country, the law tends to operate according to the preferences of those in power. That's the reality we're witnessing. This is how the law functions here. So, when it comes to the future, it is really difficult to say how things will unfold."

Jyotirmoy Barua,
Supreme Court lawyer

LICENCE TO FLY: FINAL PART

Pilots faked flying records

CAAB inquiry finds, regulator yet to take action

ZYMA ISLAM

One pilot flew only half the hours required to be certified. Another signed off on his own Airline Transport Pilot Licence—the highest level of aviation certification. A third falsified flight records, while a fourth became a "check pilot" for an aircraft he had never flown.

The paper trail shows that the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has long been aware of all this, yet all four individuals still retain their pilot licences.

One of them is currently a pilot with Biman Bangladesh Airlines, while another is employed as a check pilot at Sky Capital Airlines. A third was previously employed at US Bangla Airlines and the employment status of the other individual is unclear, according to documents and sources.

The findings by an internal inquiry by CAAB's safety department raise concerns about aviation safety and may invite scrutiny by international aviation watchdogs such as ICAO or the Federal Aviation Administration, aviation experts say.

Less than half qualified

On March 19, 2023, Abdur Rahman Akand, a graduate of the Bangladesh Air Force Academy, got the Airline Transport Pilot Licence, the most advanced pilot certification.

CAAB documents show that he had 26 hours and 5 minutes of flying as a pilot-in-command unsupervised, and logged 128 hours and 30 minutes of flying as a pilot-in-command under supervision.

According to aviation rules, a person must log 250 flying hours, of which 70 hours have to be unsupervised, while the rest of the hours can be flown under supervision. If the candidate has not logged 70 hours of unsupervised flying, they would need to fly 500 hours as a pilot-in-command under supervision.

But before being certified as an ATPL, Akand flew only 154.35 hours – less than

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

TRUMP TARIFFS
Lower tariffs,
higher import
of US goods
on the cards
Action plan to be
dispatched in days

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh will propose lowering the import tariff for certain American goods and increasing the volume of imports of some items as part of the efforts to narrow the trade gap with the US, which elicited a fresh 37 percent reciprocal tariff from the Trump administration.

The import trend of some goods from the US suggests there is room for more.

For instance, in 2023, Bangladesh imported cotton worth \$2.22 billion from all over the world, with the US accounting for just \$336.52 million, according to a primary document seen by The Daily Star that is under preparation to assist the government.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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