



Pharma exports keep upward trend alive B4



Kevin Spacey joins cast of conspiracy thriller P8



Berlin warns 'clock ticking' on Kyiv ceasefire ultimatum P5



Once a river flowed here P4

Activities of AL, affiliates banned

EC suspends the party's registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday banned all activities of the Awami League and its associated and affiliated organisations, on allegations of killings, genocide, crimes against humanity, and other grave offences during the July uprising.

Hours later, the Election Commission also suspended the party's registration.

The allegations against the party and its front organisations are specific and have been established by local and international reports, said a home

late last night, clarified that the ban will be applicable to the leaders, activists and members of the Awami League and its front organisations.

"However, the said notification does not diminish the freedom of expression of any other political party or people of free thought. The option to provide logical, constructive, or lawful analysis or opinion about the Awami League, its activities, or various steps taken by the government concerning the party has not been curtailed by the notification," it added.

KEY POINTS OF NOTIFICATION

- ➔ AL established reign of terror, was involved in killings and enforced disappearances during its last tenures
- ➔ Faces allegations of genocide, crimes against humanity, other grave offences to suppress July uprising
- ➔ Cases against leaders and activists pending at ICT and other courts
- ➔ Fugitive leaders from abroad making offensive remarks
- ➔ AL and affiliated bodies trying to instil fear among plaintiffs, witnesses to obstruct trial
- ➔ Govt has evidence they are trying to destabilise the state

ministry notification yesterday evening.

The ministry issued the notification with immediate effect, stating that the government invoked the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009, and the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, to enforce the ban.

All their activities, including any form of publication, publicity on mass media, online and social media, processions, meetings, rallies, and conferences will remain banned until the International Crimes Tribunal completes the trial of the leaders, the notification said.

The government said it has sufficient information and evidence that the Awami League and all its associated, affiliated, and like-minded organisations are engaged in various criminal activities and conspiracies to destabilise the state and make it ineffective.

These activities are similar to those of a terrorist organisation and are aimed at creating fear among the public, it added.

"The people of Bangladesh are breathing a sigh of relief following the ban on the Awami League's activities," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said while speaking at an event organised by Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital yesterday morning.

The government, in a statement issued

NOTIFICATION

The party and its affiliated groups established a reign of terror across the country from January 6, 2009, when the Awami League government was formed, until its removal by the mass uprising of students and the public on August 5, 2024, the notification said.

Various oppressive and violent acts, including attacks, enforced disappearances, murders, torture, and rape were committed against opposition political parties and dissenting individuals in this period, it said.

There are clear allegations against the party and its associated groups of crimes such as enforced disappearances, murders, burning people alive, genocide, unlawful detentions, inhumane torture, looting, arson, and acts of terror, and crimes against humanity to suppress the student public movement from July 15 to August 5, 2024, said the notification.

The notification also mentioned that a significant number of cases against leaders and activists of these organisations remain pending before the International Crimes Tribunal and the country's criminal courts.

Even after August 5, 2024, these organisations allegedly attacked

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Dhaka University students sing the national anthem in unison at the base of the Raju Memorial Sculpture last night, protesting the harassment faced by some demonstrators while singing the anthem during a recent blockade at Shahbagh. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Cops will no longer carry lethal weapons

Says home adviser; committee formed to restructure Rab

- ➔ Regular police personnel must surrender all lethal weapons
- ➔ APBn can still carry lethal weapons due to specialised nature of their duties
- ➔ Relevant police battalions will still use rifles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police personnel, except those in specialised units, will no longer be allowed to carry lethal weapons, in line with a decision made at the meeting of the Advisory Council Committee on Law and Order yesterday.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury disclosed the decision while speaking to reporters at the home ministry following the meeting.

"We have decided that police personnel will no longer be allowed to carry lethal weapons. These weapons must be surrendered. No lethal arms will remain in the hands of the regular police. Such weapons will be carried only by members of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn), as their duties differ somewhat from those of

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'Hasina mastermind of July atrocities'

Says ICT's investigation agency report; former home minister and IGP made co-accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Investigation Agency of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday submitted its probe report against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, bringing five allegations of crimes against humanity during the July uprising.

submitted, identifying Sheikh Hasina as the mastermind and superior commander who ordered these actions," ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told a media briefing hours after receiving the report in the morning.

Hasina is currently in India, where she fled following the fall of the Awami

"The Investigation Agency has obtained telephonic conversations where Sheikh Hasina clearly instructed all state forces to use deadly weapons, helicopters, drones, and APCs, to annihilate protesters who were peacefully demonstrating for legitimate rights. The report contains many recorded evidences of these instructions."

ICT Chief Prosecutor TAJUL ISLAM

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were named co-accused in the report.

"A series of crimes against humanity were committed across the country - including killings, injuries caused by gunfire, and the inhumane act of burning bodies. After a thorough investigation into these allegations, a report has been

League-led government. Asaduzzaman Khan is also absconding, while ex-IGP Al-Mamun is in jail.

The former prime minister is already facing two other cases filed with the ICT - one over alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings during the 15.5-year-long AL rule, and the other over killings during the 2013

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People travel on the roof and on the locomotive of a train, disregarding rules and risking their own lives. The trains on Dhaka-Narayanganj route usually remain packed in the morning. The photo of this Dhaka-bound train was taken at Gendaria station yesterday morning. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Remittance crosses \$25b this fiscal year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Remittance inflow in the first ten months and eleven days of this fiscal year surpassed \$25 billion, breaking all previous records.

Between July last year and May 11 this year, Bangladesh received \$25.45 billion in remittances, up 28 percent year-on-year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

The previous record was \$24.77 billion, which came in fiscal 2020-21.

The surge in money sent home by Bangladeshi expatriates is being credited to a cocktail of factors, such as a narrowing gap between official and informal exchange rates, a clampdown on money laundering and a renewed sense of patriotism among people living abroad.

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WE ARE DEEPLY GRIEVED

Mrs. Nurun Nahar Gias BSc (Hons) (DU) MSc (DU) EMBA (AIUB); Wife Of: Prof. Dr. ASM Giasuddin MSc (DU) PhD (London) PGD (London) MPH (SUB, BD) Emeritus MNYAS (USA), Founder Director & Senior Consultant of Laboratory Medicine, Impulse Hospital, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208; Second Daughter Of: Late Mr. Bazal Ahmed (Founder/First Managing Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd /UCBL, Dhaka, Bangladesh; died on 18 January 2025 at 8:00 pm in ICU at Anwer Khan Modern Medical College Hospital, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1207. Due to severe neurological disease, she had been suffering from various health complications for some time. She obtained her BSc (Hons) and MSc in Statistics in 1977 and 1978/79 respectively from Dhaka University. After marriage on 01 August 1978, she went to London, UK with her husband and started her working life in Sonali Bank (London Branch). Afterwards she went to Nigeria and then to Libya with family and there, she pursued her profession as Mathematics teacher at Secondary School and Higher Secondary College for many years. After returning to Bangladesh in 2000, she joined **Scholastica School & College, Dhaka** as a teacher of Mathematics and performed the responsibility of Academic Supervisor (Senior Section) of the college for many years. At that time, pursuing the course regularly, she obtained the degree of EMBA in April 2010 from American International University Bangladesh (AIUB), Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Since then, she carried out the responsibility as 'Senior Academic Supervisor and Head of Senior Section' at Scholastica School & College, Uttara, Dhaka effectively until she had neurological health problem. She hailed from Daulatpur, Fatiksari, Chittagong. Her husband Prof. Dr. ASM Giasuddin hails from East Syedpur, Sitakund, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Presently, the family lives at Mohakhali DOHS, Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh.

We earnestly request you all to pray to Almighty Allah for eternal peace of her departed soul in heaven.

Prof. Dr. ASM Giasuddin (Husband), Prof. Dr. Rubayat Sheikh Giasuddin (1st son) & his wife Dr. Nafisa Tabassum, Engr. Mr. Shafaat Sheikh Giasuddin (2nd son) & his wife Mrs. Farzana Sultana, Inaya (1st Grand Daughter), Zaina (2nd Grand Daughter), Kiyan (1st Grandson) & Farzan (2nd Grandson).