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Cops sans lethal weapons may be ineffective

Say ex-police officials, expert

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The government has decided to remove lethal weapons from the hands of regular police personnel, a move that has sparked concern among former officials and expert who warn that disarming the force without adequate alternatives could undermine its ability to maintain order and respond to armed threats.

Nurul Huda, a former inspector general of police, said that while reducing reliance on deadly firearms is a welcome goal, a blanket disarmament may not be practical.

"If by 'lethal weapons' we mean weapons capable of causing death, then technically all weapons fall under that category," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"If the police are not equipped with weapons, how are they supposed to exercise the necessary application of force—one of the core components of their lawful authority?"

Nurul Huda noted that effective supervision and control are crucial for responsible use.

"Perhaps the use of lethal weapons by a civil force like the police can be gradually minimised and limited to specific situations.

"But without proper training frameworks, implementing a disarmament policy would face serious

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Human hauliers, locally known as legunas, are parked occupying along a stretch of Indra Road in the capital's Farmgate area, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and disrupting vehicular movement. The photo was taken around 11:30am yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

BU VC, pro-VC, treasurer removed

RU Prof Toufiq Alam appointed interim VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday removed Barisal University Vice Chancellor Prof Shuchita Sharmin, Pro-VC Prof Golam Rabbani, and Treasurer Prof Mamun Or Rashid amid ongoing student protests.

The Secondary and Higher Education Division issued separate notifications in this regard, signed by Senior Assistant Secretary ASM Kashem.

In another notification, Prof Mohammad Toufiq Alam of Rajshahi University was appointed as the interim vice chancellor of BU.

The move comes amid student protests since early this month demanding the removal of the VC over alleged irregularities and administrative mismanagement.

Shuchita Sharmin, a professor of development studies at Dhaka University, was appointed as the first female VC of Barisal University on September 23 last year.

7-year-old found dead at Lakshmipur madrasa

Police say there were injury marks on his body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police yesterday evening recovered the body of a 7-year-old boy from a madrasa in the Uttar Temuhuni area of Lakshmipur.

Sanim Hossain was a student at Al-Mu'in Islami Academy.

Family members and police said the boy was tortured earlier in the day and there were injury marks on his neck and other parts of the body.

Family members allege that Sanim died after being beaten up by his teacher Mahmudur Rahman. They added that madrasa authorities tried to establish that the boy hanged himself in a toilet.

Abdul Manna, officer-in-charge Lakshmipur Sadar Model Police Station, said the body was found in a room.

Sanim was the son of grocery store

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Committed to truce with India: Pakistan

Vows to respond to aggression; Modi reiterates tough stance during border air base visit

AGENCIES

Pakistan said yesterday that it remains committed to the truce with India, agreed after four days of intense military fighting last week, but vowed to respond to any future aggression by New Delhi with full resolve.

The comments from Islamabad came in response to an address to the nation by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, in which he warned Pakistan that New Delhi would target "terrorist hideouts" across the border again if there were new attacks on India, without being deterred by "nuclear blackmail".

The nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours fired missiles and drones targeting each other's military installations after India said it struck

"terrorist infrastructure" sites in Pakistan and Pakistani Kashmir on last Wednesday in retaliation for an attack on Hindu tourists in Indian Kashmir that killed 26 men.

Pakistan said the targets were all civilian and denies Indian accusations that it was behind the Kashmir attack.

Pakistan's military said yesterday the dead in the attacks comprised 40 civilians and 11 of its armed forces. India has said at least five military personnel and 16 civilians died.

It was the worst fighting between the two nations in nearly three decades and they agreed to a ceasefire on Saturday, following diplomacy and pressure from the United States, reports Reuters.

The Pakistani foreign ministry said

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Ban on AL 'without due process'

Says India; CA press secretary says wounds caused by AL fresh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India has said the ban on the Awami League was imposed "without due process" and termed it a "concerning development".

At the weekly media briefing in New Delhi yesterday, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said that India is "concerned at the curtailment of democratic freedom and of shrinking political space in Bangladesh".

"The ban on the Awami League without due process is a concerning development. There is a method of doing things in a democracy. As a democracy, India is naturally concerned

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26 journos sued for attempted murder

11 others also accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Thirty-seven individuals, including at least 26 journalists, have been sued in Chattogram on charges of attempted murder.

Pro-BNP lawyer Rezaul Islam yesterday filed the case with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Bakar Siddique, who directed the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate the incident and submit a report.

Additionally, 70 to 80 unidentified individuals have been named in the case.

The journalists are Chattogram Union of Journalists (CUJ) President Reaz Hyder Chowdhury, General Secretary Sabur Shuvo, Joint Secretary Omar Faruk, Daily Samakal reporter Abdullah Al Mamun, Dainik Amader Somoy's Chattogram bureau in-charge Hamid Ullah, Channel 24 reporter Rony Dutta and cameraman Shafiq Ahmed Sajib, Jugantor Chattogram bureau chief Shahidullah Shahriar and photojournalist Rajesh Chakrabarty, Prothom Alo photojournalist Jewel Shil, Kalbela's Chattogram bureau chief Saidul Islam, Jai Jai Din reporter Khorshed Alam Shamim, Azadi reporter Shuklal Das, Newsnow's Partha Pratim Nandy, Chattogram Pratidin Editor Hossain Towfiq Ittekkhar, Bdnews24.com reporter Utam Sen Gupta, Dhakapost.com reporter Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Purba Desh sub-editor Shafiqul Islam, and several others including Pradip Shil, Ujjal Kanti Dhar, Komol Das, Ranjit Kumar Shil, Bishu Roy Chowdhury, Sowrav Bhattacharya,

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In the scorching summer heat, low-income individuals queued up on Abdul Gani Road in the capital yesterday to buy rice and flour from an OMS truck at subsidised prices.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Magura child rape, murder case verdict on May 17

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

A Magura court yesterday set May 17 for delivering the verdict in the case filed over the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl.

The trial proceedings were completed within 21 days of charges being framed.

Judge M Zahid Hasan of Magura Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal passed the order after arguments from the prosecution and the defence concluded, said Public Prosecutor Monirul Islam Mukul.

All four accused were present in court.

Given the gravity of the case, the home ministry appointed Ehsanul Haque Shomaji, a lawyer ranked as an attorney general, as a special prosecutor.

After the hearing, Shomaji told reporters, "The confessional statements, medical reports, and witness testimonies have provided undeniable proof against the accused. We expect the court will impose the highest penalty. This verdict should serve as a precedent, deterring such crimes in the future."

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Congratulations!

Pioneer Insurance Company Limited Unanimously Elects

Mr. Zakir Ahmed Khan as Chairman

Mr. Zakir Ahmed Khan, a former Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh, was unanimously elected as Chairman of Pioneer Insurance Company Limited, in the 245th meeting of the Board of Directors held on 11 May 2025, for the year 2025 - 2026.

He carries with him vast experience and expertise gathered from home and abroad. Currently, he is serving as Chairman of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).

Mr. Khan earned his BA (Hons) and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Dhaka in 1967 and 1968 respectively. He studied Development Economics and Development Administration as a Hubert Humphrey North-South Fellow at the Colorado State University, USA. He also obtained a Master of Business Administration from Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium.

Before joining the Government Service in 1970, he briefly worked as a Research Associate in the Bureau of Economic Research and Institute of Education and Research and also a Lecturer in Economics, University of Dhaka. Additionally, he worked as a part time Lecturer in the Department of Finance, University of Dhaka.

Mr. Khan retired in February 2009 from the World Bank as an Alternate Executive Director representing Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka. He served as Finance Secretary and Secretary of the Internal Resources Division and Chairman of the National Board of Revenue for about five years. Throughout his career in the govt. service he held various senior level positions in Ministries of Establishment, Finance, Energy, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Commerce and Cabinet Division. He also briefly worked with several UN organisations. Following his retirement he has been associated with a number of reputed private sector organisations as Independent Director.

He contributed a number of articles on public policy and public sector financial management to a number of national and international journals. He also delivered several keynote presentations on public sector reforms and financial management in seminars and workshops at home and abroad.

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