

THE BEST QUALITY
EVERY TIME GUARANTEED
BSRM



BANGLADESH'S
NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND

Remove 'NCP advisers' for sake of neutrality

Salahuddin asks govt, says polls its only mandate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna



BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the interim government to remove two of its advisers, whom he claimed are members of the National Citizen Party, for the sake of neutrality.

Addressing a rally in Khulna, he also criticised the government for what he said was giving the country's ports and corridors to foreign powers.

Salahuddin said the interim government was formed with high hopes after the ouster of an autocratic rule in a popular uprising.

"But don't assume we want you to remain in power until the Day of Judgment," he told the rally, saying the current government's only mandate is to organise a free, fair, and neutral national election.

Referring to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, the BNP leader said, "People now call your administration an 'NCP-backed government.' Your government has two representatives of the NCP ... They are not officially members of the NCP, but it is an open secret. If you truly want to uphold neutrality, ask those two to resign. If they refuse, remove them."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

Move to redefine freedom fighter rejected

Advisory council asks for revised draft ordinance

BAHARAM KHAN

The Advisory Council has rejected the Liberation War affairs ministry's proposal to amend the definition of 'freedom fighter' and instructed the ministry to submit a revised proposal in its draft ordinance, according to council sources.

Apart from the definition, the rest of the ministry's draft ordinance -- aimed at amending the National Freedom Fighters' Council Act 2022 -- was accepted during the 28th meeting of the Advisory Council on May 15.

At least four senior government officials with direct knowledge of the matter told The Daily Star that the Advisory Council did not accept the proposed redefinition of freedom fighter.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior official said, "The council said the current definition should remain. The definition proposed by the ministry will not be adopted."

In response to a query, the official clarified, "There will be no separate category called 'associate freedom fighter'. The existing definition will remain unchanged."

Another government source said that due to a lack of consensus at the meeting, the ministry was instructed to revise the proposal in the ordinance and place it before the council again.

Contacted yesterday, Ishrat Chowdhury, secretary of the Liberation War affairs ministry, said, "After the draft ordinance was placed before the Advisory Council, it gave instructions regarding the definition [of freedom fighter]. Once we receive a resolution from the Cabinet, we'll be able to say what changes will be made."

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

3 journos assaulted after covering arson attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Three journalists were assaulted and their cameras snatched after covering an arson attack in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat on Friday, police said.

The injured journalists are Faruk Ahmed Surjo, 41, Lalmonirhat district correspondent of Dainik Bhorer Chetona; Khairul Kabir, 40, district correspondent of Dainik Janobani; and Rabbani Islam, 28, district correspondent of Dainik Gonodatanta.

Locals rescued them and admitted them to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital. Samina Hossain Chowdhury, resident medical officer, said the journalists suffered injuries and their condition was stable.

The attack took place in the Sapti Bazar area

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



Bangladesh opener Parvez Hossain Emon jumps in the air after scoring a record-breaking 53-ball century against United Arab Emirates during the first T20I at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in UAE yesterday.

PHOTO: EMIRATES CRICKET

Opening aid corridors, leasing out ports not this govt's job

Says Tarique

STAR REPORT

Making decisions on a "humanitarian corridor" to Rakhine and leasing out container terminal of Chittagong Port to foreign companies are not the interim government's job, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman last night.



"It seems that the interim government is prioritising providing corridors or handing over port management to foreign entities. We want to make it clear that the government elected by the people will make decisions regarding corridor or leasing out port management."

Tarique was addressing a discussion marking the 8th founding anniversary of Nationalist Democratic Movement (NDM) at a city hotel.

The BNP acting chairman urged the government to announce a clear date for the national election without

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Thousands of BNP leaders and activists from different districts of Khulna and Barishal divisions throng Khulna Metropolitan Circuit House Ground for the party's youth rally yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

MIGRANTS IN MALAYSIA Worker faces deportation after speaking up

PORIMOL PALMA

A Malaysian company has revoked the work permit of a Bangladeshi migrant and threatened to do the same to 60 others on Thursday, a day after the workers talked to Expatriates' Welfare Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul about poor working conditions, several workers have said.

The management of Negeri Sembilan-based Mediceram, which manufactures rubber gloves, called the worker named Nahid Ibrahim and told him that his work permit would be revoked and he would be deported, they said.

During his three-day visit to Malaysia from May 13-16, he met the Mediceram workers and held meetings with three Malaysian ministers to discuss how the Southeast Asian country can reopen its labour market for Bangladeshis and address the problems facing the workers.

Amid reports of irregularities

in overseas recruitment, Malaysia suspended hiring Bangladeshi workers in May last year.

Requesting anonymity, a worker of the gloves factory said, "We were shocked when we heard that Nahid would be deported and protested. Then, the management said it has a list of 60 of us who would be deported."

Nearly 200 workers then began a strike on Friday, he said, requesting not to be named for fear of backlash.

In an email to Prof Asif's Private Secretary Sarwoer Alam, Nahid wrote, "The company followed me and heard what I said about labour issues with our adviser. All of a sudden, they called me to the office and said I would be deported."

The email was also sent to the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

Nahid went to Malaysia under a three-year contract and his visa expired in August this year. He spent

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

28 more pushed in from India

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained 28 individuals after they were pushed in by India's Border Security Force (BSF) through the Thakurgaon and Panchagarh borders early yesterday.

In Thakurgaon, 17 were detained by BGB personnel at the Chapsar border in Haripur upazila in the morning, said Lt Col Abdullah Al Muin Hasan, commanding officer of Dinajpur BGB 42 Battalion.

The group had two men, 11 women, and four children, he said.

According to the BGB official, BSF forcibly sent them into Bangladesh.

Of the 17, five are from Jashore, one from Jhenidah, one from Patuakhali, five from Khagrachhari, one from Barishal, and four from Narail, he claimed.

Lt Col Hasan said the BGB lodged a protest during a flag meeting with BSF officials in the afternoon. However, BSF representatives denied any involvement in push in, he said.

Meanwhile, in

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Follow the protocol, don't push people in Home adviser urges India

A CORRESPONDENT, SATKHIRA

Bangladesh does not carry out push-ins like India and remains committed to resolving such border issues through diplomatic means, Home Adviser Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday.



He made the comments while speaking to reporters after inaugurating a floating border outpost at the confluence of the Raimangal river and Boyesing canal in Satkhira's Shyamnagar.

The adviser said Bangladesh believes diplomacy can prevent the push-in of individuals identified as Bangladeshis through different border points by India.

"Bangladesh always adheres to international laws and protocols," he added.

Jahangir said the issue has already been raised with Indian authorities through the foreign ministry. Diplomatic efforts are currently underway, led by Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain and Khalilur Rahman, the chief adviser's high representative for the Rohingya issue.

"We have informed India that if any Bangladeshi is found staying in India illegally, they should be returned through the appropriate channels. Similarly, if there are any Indian nationals residing in Bangladesh without legal permission, we will repatriate them through the proper procedures."

"India has been urged to follow established protocols instead of conducting push-ins," the adviser said.

Jahangir said an attempted push-in occurred on Friday along the Brahmanbaria border, which was successfully resisted by the Border Guard Bangladesh with the help of Ansar and local residents. "If people in the border areas

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Emon's record ton hands Tigers 27-run win over UAE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parvez Hossain Emon scored the fastest T20I century by a Bangladeshi and only the second T20I century for the country as the Tigers beat UAE by 27 runs in the first match of a two-match series at the Sharjah International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Emon reached his century off 53 ball, beating Tamim Iqbal's record of 60-ball 100 which the former captain had scored during a 103-run knock against Oman in the 2016 T20I World Cup. Emon, who hit nine sixes and five fours during a whirlwind knock, also broke the record for most sixes by a Bangladeshi batter, beating Rishad Hossain's (7) effort.

Although Emon fell in the next ball following reaching the landmark during the last over of the innings, he had made sure Bangladesh got enough ammunition to challenge the hosts. Eventually Bangladesh managed to reach 191 for seven, adding 88 runs in the last 10 overs after being asked to bat first.

Aside from Emon, only four other batters reached double-digit scores, with the second-highest contribution coming from extras (21).

Jawadullah returned the best figures for the hosts, scalping four wickets for 21 in his four overs.

UAE gave Bangladesh a run for their money, with captain Mohammad Wasim's 39-ball 54, Rahul Chopra's 22 ball 35 and 42 off 21 balls taking the match down to the wire.

As long as the big-hitting Asif was at the crease, UAE

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3