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CA urges SSF to rise above politics

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called upon Special Security Force personnel to uphold professionalism and rise above political ideologies.

"In providing security to state-declared VIPs, the issues of characteristic strength, improved discipline, honesty, responsibility and human values must be seriously considered along with professional skills, and you should work with professionalism above all political ideologies," he told SSF personnel at an event arranged at CA's office on the occasion of the SSF's 39th founding anniversary.

Prof Yunus instructed the SSF personnel to reduce public sufferings as much as possible while imposing various restrictions for the

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus among the members of Special Security Force at CA's office on the occasion of the SSF's 39th founding anniversary yesterday.

ABDUCTION CASE ICT sends former Rab official to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday sent former Rab officer Rear Admiral (retd) Muhammad Sohail to jail showing him arrested in a case filed in connection with the abduction, torture and confinement of a student in 2012.

The three-member, ICT-1 led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order and set September 15 for submitting probe report in the case.

Rab allegedly picked up Golam Mortuza Mahin from Rajshahi from Dhanmondi area. He was released from Rab detention centre after 47 days where he was tortured. Rab later showed him arrested in a false case

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Gulshan house ready for Tarique's return



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was around 1:00pm yesterday at 196 Gulshan Avenue in the capital. The white-coloured house stood behind tall trees, freshly painted and newly renovated.

Shortly after ringing the doorbell, a police officer stepped out from the main gate. After checking identity, he said, "No one is allowed to enter. This house has been prepared for Tarique Rahman."

The house has been prepared for BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, who is expected to return to the country soon after 17 long years.

According to BNP leaders, the two-story house next to Khaleda Zia's current home "Feroza" has been fully renovated and decorated.

The house, built on 32 kathas of land and given to Khaleda Zia by the government in 1981, is now being prepared for her elder son Tarique, party sources said.

A BNP standing committee member, seeking anonymity, said the house had been used by a

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Barguna slips deeper into dengue crisis

Public hospital overwhelmed as patients flood in

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Despite efforts by the health department and local administration, the dengue situation in Barguna continues to worsen.

Barguna General Hospital is overwhelmed, with patients being treated on floors, in corridors, and even beside nurse stations due to a severe bed shortage.

According to Dr Tajkia Siddikah, resident medical officer of the hospital, 58 new dengue patients were admitted in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

According to DGHS, 30 people have died from dengue and 6,466 have been hospitalised across the country this year as of Tuesday. Of them, 2,048 cases are from Barguna.

Currently, 233 patients are undergoing treatment in the district.

Although the government recently appointed 10 doctors and 10 nurses to the hospital, only five doctors and one nurse have joined so far. Out of 58 sanctioned doctor posts, only 15 are filled, creating a

critical manpower shortage.

"Dengue cannot be controlled through treatment alone. We must destroy Aedes mosquito breeding grounds," said Dr Mohammad Abul Fattah, the district's civil surgeon.

The hospital has allocated a 50-bed facility for dengue patients, but it is currently treating over 200. Many patients are being treated on

Dengue cannot be controlled through treatment alone. We must destroy Aedes mosquito breeding grounds.

Dr Mohammad Abul Fattah
District's civil surgeon

the floor, with relatives staying nearby.

During a visit on Tuesday afternoon, patients were seen lying in hallways, behind nurse desks, and on staircases. Some beds were shared by multiple patients, along with their family members.

Several patients, including Ali Hossain and his son, said they had to go to private clinics for tests and had not received any food from the

hospital since admission. Others echoed similar complaints.

While a few beds have mosquito nets, most patients lying on the floors or in corridors remain unprotected. "There's no way to set up mosquito nets in the corridors," one patient said.

Hospital Superintendent Dr Rezaunur Rahman acknowledged the challenges. "With over 600 patients in a 250-bed hospital, it's difficult to provide meals or services to all."

According to the civil surgeon's office, all six upazilas in Barguna have reported dengue cases, with Patharghata recording the second-highest number at 77.

Based on WHO data, 36 neighbourhoods have been identified as clusters with more than 10 cases each.

The most affected areas include Lakurtala, Sadar Road, Monsatala, College Road, Gaurichanna, Char Colony, Kachpatti, Town Hall, Thana Para, DKP Road, and Khejurtala.

WHY IS BARGUNA A HOTSPOT?
Prof Kabirul Bashar, entomologist and professor at Jahangirnagar University, said, "We predicted

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UNDP pledges \$18.5m to support fair election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Development Programme has announced \$18.53 million in support of a project aimed at ensuring a fair and democratic process in the upcoming 13th national parliamentary election.

Election Commission Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed shared this information yesterday to the reporters at the EC's headquarter in the capital.

Earlier around 3:00pm, the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh and UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of development partners' cooperation under the UNDP implemented project "The BALLOT".

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, UNDP Resident Representative Stefan Liller, and Australian High Commissioner Susan Ryle were present at the event.

Susan Ryle said, "Australia and Bangladesh are close friends and partners, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Bangladesh as it moves towards free, fair, and democratic elections."

"Recently, we invited five officials from the Reform Commission to Australia so they could receive training and gain insights into different processes of voter registration and the issuance of national identity cards. Today, we are pleased to contribute nearly \$2 million in direct support to the Bangladesh Election Commission's 'The BALLOT' project," she added.

"This project, implemented in partnership with the UN, UNDP, UNESCO, and UN Women, will help ensure transparency, increased participation, and sustainable institutional reform as Bangladesh transitions toward an elected government. We are proud to play a small part at this important moment in Bangladesh's history," she also said.

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Two bus helpers blocked two lanes of traffic on a busy road in Gulistan during a quarrel over which of their buses nearby passengers would board. The altercation halted vehicles behind them, though traffic in other lanes continued. A traffic police officer intervened and broke up the scuffle when it turned physical.

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