



Speakers at a roundtable, titled 'Shock Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action', at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Prioritise pre-disaster cash aid in flood-prone areas

Speakers say this will help reduce losses and damages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is crucial to identify the actual beneficiaries for pre-disaster cash support to reduce the loss and damage from natural calamities like floods, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They also called for changes to key government policy instruments to expand the scope of pre-disaster relief initiatives based on forecast warnings.

The roundtable, titled "Shock Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action", was organised by CARE, Concern Worldwide, Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), Eco Social Development Organisation (ESDO), Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB), Peoples Oriented Program Implementation (POPI), and the SKS Foundation, along with The Daily Star.

It was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

At the event, discussants shared findings from a pilot project titled

"Scaling up Forecast-based Action and Learning in Bangladesh (SUFAL II)," which showed that timely pre-disaster cash support helped households in some flood-prone districts last year protect valuable assets like livestock, poultry, and agricultural infrastructure.

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humanitarian and resilient futures programme at CARE Bangladesh, said the main objective of SUFAL was to help people in flood-prone areas prepare ahead of disasters to reduce losses and damages.

However, he noted that there are certain challenges in the government's policy guidelines when implementing such anticipatory action.

In his presentation, Fazley Elahi Mahmud, a consultant on social protection, poverty reduction, and livelihood development, said the SUFAL project was based on forecasts from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

He pointed out that while the government has at least five relevant social safety net schemes, the Gratuitous Relief (GR) scheme under the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry is best suited for pre-disaster cash support.

He recommended amending the Humanitarian Assistance Programme Implementation Guidelines (2012-2013), which currently state that "humanitarian aid will be provided 'during and immediately after' a disaster," and restrict GR cash assistance to only "post-disaster" situations.

AKM Shahriar, project field

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## Army warns against mob violence, 1 held 3 Svechchhasebak Dal men get bail over assault on ex-CEC

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Army has arrested one person for his alleged involvement in the mob violence in front of the residence of former Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda on June 22.

The arrested person was identified as Md Hanif and he was handed over to police after his arrest on June 23, reports BSS citing an ISPR press release yesterday.

"Bangladesh Army is committed to protecting law and order and it will continue all necessary action to check any repetition of mob violence in the country," the release said.

The ISPR release said the army launched the drive against the perpetrators of mob violence as the incident came to the knowledge of the army camp concerned. In continuation of the drive the army arrested one person on charge of his involvement with the violence.

Drive is going on to identify others involved in the incident and arrest them, the ISPR release said.

In another development, a Dhaka court yesterday

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## Ishraque, Asif lock horns over mayoral deadlock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Ishraque Hossain has once again accused the government of violating the constitution by not administering his oath as the elected mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation.

He claimed a series of recent incidents were "orchestrated to divert attention" from this issue.

Speaking at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Ishraque said, "In a private TV interview, Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud alleged that I am being instigated by a senior BNP leader and described me as 'misguided'. Such remarks are offensive -- not just to me but to the voters who elected me."

He demanded an unconditional public apology from the adviser.

Referring to Asif's claim that a BNP leader from Cumilla had given him financial and logistical support for the movement, Ishraque said, "If he has any evidence, he should present it to the nation. Otherwise, he must apologise."



He also warned against any retaliation against DSCC officials and employees involved in the protest, saying such actions would escalate demonstrations beyond Nagar Bhaban and onto the streets.

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Ishraque said he had no intention of assuming mayoral duties under the current regime. "Our party leadership chose to uphold the court verdict against the illegal mayor as a symbol of the rule of law. The oath was meant to be just a formality -- the final step in that process," he said.

He alleged the interim government's obstruction of the oath-taking revealed its lack of neutrality.

On the recent violence at Nagar Bhaban, he blamed a group of corrupt officials allegedly close to the local government adviser. "Some claim BNP affiliation, but they hold no party post. Many were involved in corruption during the tenures of pro-Awami League mayors."

## Over 90% women work at informal sector: study

UNB, Dhaka

Over 90 percent of working women in Bangladesh are employed in the informal sector, which was particularly hard hit during the pandemic, a new study has found.

The findings were shared at a seminar titled "Strengthening Systems for Pandemic Preparedness among Working Women Living in Informal Settlements in Urban Bangladesh" yesterday.

It was jointly organised by icddr,b, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and SickKids, Canada, with funding support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

The event, held at the icddr,b in Dhaka, brought together key stakeholders to discuss the Women RISE study findings and their policy implications.

Led by Dr Sohana Shafique, the study assessed the experiences of working women in informal settlements and factories in Dhaka and Gazipur before and during the pandemic.

"I believe the results of this study will help all of us to prepare for any impending pandemic. We should be

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A couple loads newly bought plants and flowers from the National Tree Fair 2025 into the boot of their car. The fair, which was inaugurated by the chief adviser yesterday, will continue till July 24 at the field next to Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Govt firm on ending culture of abuse: Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has said the interim government is determined to end the culture of abuse.

"Indeed, the three elements of the interim government's mandate -- trying the abusers under the previous regime, reforms, and elections -- all aim to transform Bangladesh into a country in which all its citizens can live in security and dignity," he said.

The chief adviser made the remarks in a message marking UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture being observed today.

"Today, we stand in solidarity with all victims of torture, past and present. We recognise their suffering, we commit to justice, and we vow: never again," Prof Yunus said.

"Let this day mark a turning point -- for Bangladesh, and for all nations striving to reclaim



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## ICT replaces counsel for Hasina in contempt case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday removed Advocate Md Aminul Ghani Tito as defence counsel for Sheikh Hasina in a contempt of court case filed against her.

The tribunal's decision came amid criticism over Aminul's appointment, following the resurfacing of a Facebook post he made on August 5 last year in which he called for Hasina's execution.

Advocate Md Amir Hossain has replaced Aminul Ghani, as per the ICT's prosecution. The tribunal passed the order on Tuesday regarding this matter.

Amir Hossain confirmed to The Daily Star that he received the appointment letter yesterday.

He previously served as the Special Public Prosecutor of Dhaka's Special Judge Court 8 for around 14 and a half years during the Awami League tenure.

The tribunal also deferred yesterday's scheduled hearing to July 2. Senior Supreme Court lawyer

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