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FORCED DISAPPEARANCE Army to take legal action if any member found complicit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army yesterday said it would take legal action if any of its members are found to have been involved in enforced disappearances.

Colonel Shafiqul Islam, military operations directorate staff colonel of the Army Headquarters, said this at a press briefing at the Officers' Mess in Dhaka Cantonment.

"Some army members are deputed to various agencies that are not directly controlled by the army. Allegations have surfaced against some of them, and an investigation is currently underway. If any of them are found involved [in enforced disappearance], appropriate legal action will follow."

Col Shafiqul further said the army has been assisting the government in addressing enforced disappearances and related investigations, and will continue to do so. "We're willing to provide assistance and

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Rather than stopping at the level crossing as the gateman began lowering the barriers, battery-run rickshaws and a motorcycle sped across, putting themselves at risk of being run over by the train. They became trapped between the two gates just as the train approached. The photo was taken at the Ambagan railgate area in Chattogram city yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

NCP won't run in polls without July Charter: Nahid

STAR REPORT

National Citizen Party (NCP) Convener Nahid Islam yesterday categorically said that his party will not take part in any future election without the implementation of the July Charter.

The NCP leader, who is criticising the interim administration for failing to uphold its promise to issue the July Charter, made this remark while speaking to reporters after paying respect at the grave of "July Martyr" Sajjad Hossain at the Hatikhana graveyard in Nilphamari's Saidpur upazila.



"We have launched the July march to build the country. This march, which started in the northern region, has received a massive response from people. We will soon spread it across the country," Nahid said.

The NCP is observing a month-long nationwide programme titled "Desh Gorte July Podojatra (July March to Build the Nation)", which will take place across all 64 districts of Bangladesh.

He also said that development should not be centred only around Dhaka, but must be planned for the entire country.

"Although the fascist government fell due to the

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'Draft telecom policy worrying'

BNP says its implementation ahead of polls will be inappropriate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday expressed concerns over the BTRC's recently drafted "Telecommunication Network and Licensing Regime Reform Policy 2025", saying that unilaterally enacting such a national policy ahead of the upcoming national election would be inappropriate.

The party said that the draft policy contains certain provisions that would give advantages to large mobile operators, while harming small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

"Such a national-level telecom policy must be formulated with proper caution, transparency and inclusive participation. Since the national election is approaching, decisions should not be made in a hurried manner," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in an emergency press conference at the Chairperson's Office in Gulshan.

Stating that the policy contains serious flaws that could hinder equitable and sustainable development in the telecom sector, Fakhrul called on the government to hold open discussions with all relevant stakeholders – including the small and medium enterprises, technology experts and consumer groups – before finalising the policy.

"BNP, with a constructive mindset, is highlighting the potential weaknesses, ambiguities and certain clauses within this draft that could unduly benefit large mobile network operators (MNOs) – which might harm small and



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Mob snatches two convicts from police station

Cops blame BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A mob attacked the Patgram Police Station in Lalmonirhat on Wednesday night and snatched away two convicts from police custody.

Just hours earlier, the escapees, Belal Hossain and Sohel Rana, were each sentenced to one month in prison by a mobile court on extortion charges.

At least 20 people were injured during the attack, including eight police officers. Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of the station, was among the injured.

According to police, some 200 to 250 individuals stormed the police station compound around 10:30pm on Wednesday. They smashed chairs, tables, and computers and ransacked case files. They also broke windows and doors by hurling bricks at them.

OC Mizanur said, "Six of us received treatment at the Patgram Upazila

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Israeli forces kill 69 Palestinians across Gaza

Say health authorities; 38 of them near an aid distribution site; scores injured

AGENCIES

Hamas is seeking guarantees that a new US ceasefire proposal for Gaza would lead to the offensive's end, a source close to the group said yesterday, as medics said Israeli strikes across the territory had killed scores more people.

Israeli officials said prospects for reaching a ceasefire deal and hostage deal appeared high, nearly 21 months since the offensive began.

On the ground, intensified Israeli strikes, artillery or gunfire across Gaza continued unabated, killing at least 69 people yesterday, civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP, including 38 people waiting for humanitarian aid.

Israel has recently expanded its military operations in the Gaza Strip, where the offensive has created dire humanitarian conditions and displaced nearly all of the territory's population of more than two million.

In Gaza City, civil defence official Mohammad al-Mughayyir said there were "17 martyrs, the majority of them children and women, and a large number of injuries in an Israeli air strike on the Mustafa Hafez School,

which shelters displaced persons, in the Al-Rimal neighbourhood".

According to medics at Nasser hospital farther south, at least 38 people were killed by Israeli fire en route to an aid distribution site and scores of people were injured.

➔ Hamas seeks ceasefire guarantees

➔ Netanyahu due in Washington on Monday

➔ UN expert asks states to cut trade ties with Israel

Artillery shelling in the northern town of Beit Lahia also killed three people. A strike on Jabalia, also in the north, killed one. Further south, three people were killed in a strike that hit tents housing displaced people in the coastal Al-Mawasi area, Mughayyir said.

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Hijra community rescues girl from attempted rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Members of the Hijra community came to the rescue of an 18-year-old girl during an attempted rape in Rasulpur Char of Barishal City Corporation's Ward-9 on Tuesday.

The victim, an HSC candidate, was reportedly attacked while returning home after shopping.

According to the case filed by her mother with Kotwali Model Police Station the next day, one Md Sohel Chowkidar, who had allegedly been harassing the girl for some time, dragged her to a pond embankment and began sexually assaulting her in an attempt to rape her. When she tried to escape, around five others, believed to be Sohel's associates, joined him in attacking her.

The girl eventually managed to flee and inform her parents. Her father confronted Sohel, but around half an hour later, Sohel and his associates stormed the victim's house, hacked her father, and attempted to assault her again.

Hearing the commotion, members of the local Hijra community rushed to the scene and rescued the injured father and the girl. Sohel at that time managed to flee the scene. They took the victims to a hospital and informed law enforcers.

Later, the Hijra community members tracked Sohel down, detained him and handed him over to the police.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Kabori Hijra, leader of the Barishal Hijra community, said, "We were holding a regional meeting nearby when we heard the screams. Our people rushed to the spot

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Liverpool's Diogo Jota dies in car crash

REUTERS, Madrid

Liverpool's Portuguese forward Diogo Jota and his brother died in a car crash in northwestern Spain early on Thursday, when their Lamborghini veered off the road and burst into flames.

Evidence at the crash site suggested Jota's car suffered a burst tyre while overtaking, police said. The vehicle then flipped over and ended up in the central reservation. The crash occurred around 00:30 a.m. (2230 GMT) in the province of Zamora.



Tributes to the 28-year-old poured in from national leaders, football presidents, his teammates and clubs, while in Liverpool, devastated fans wept and laid flowers outside Anfield stadium for a man who weeks earlier had celebrated winning the Premier League with the team.

Jota had married his partner of 10 years Rute Cardoso on June 22,

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THE SKY TURNS COBALT

A flock of Grey-headed Swamphens takes off in unison, scattering across the wetlands of Tanguar Haor. Native to South Asia, these striking birds are known for their bright red beaks, vivid plumage, and large feet that help them navigate marshes and floating vegetation. Found across Bangladesh's wetlands, they thrive in shallow lakes, swamps, and rice fields, feeding on shoots, roots, leaves, and small animals like snails. Though clumsy on land, they are powerful fliers when startled, often lifting off in large, noisy flocks like this one. Despite their adaptability, their survival depends on the health of these fragile wetlands.

PHOTO: MOSABBER HOSSAIN RIBON

2 KNA men killed in army raid

ISPR says 1 suspect held, arms recovered

STAR REPORT

Two members of the Kuki-Chin National Army (KNA), including a commander, were killed during an operation by army personnel in Bandarban's Ruma upazila in the early hours of yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

The operation took place around 5:00am in the remote forested areas between Mualpi Para and Pali Prangsa Para under Ward 7 of Paindu union – more specifically near the source of the Taingdang (stream) jhiri at the foot of the Naitong hill.

One of the deceased was identified as KNA commander Puting, alias Doli. The other was primarily believed to be a member of the KNA's armed unit, in which Puting held the post of a "major", read the press release.

According to the ISPR, while conducting a search operation based on specific information at the aforementioned location, the army

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