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Govt may not be able to publish 'July Charter' Says Salahuddin

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed doubts whether the interim government will be able to publish the "July Charter".

He said, "Work on the July Charter has been going on for a long time. But with their slow pace, I don't know whether they will be able to publish it. On February 12, we submitted a draft charter on behalf of our party. A few days ago, they asked for a refined version, and we submitted that too. Even so, they have still been unable to publish it."

He made the remarks at a seminar titled "The Day of Turning Point of Mass Uprising," organised by Chhatra Dal yesterday at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University.

Salahuddin said, "May this day be a tradition and pride for all of us, which is our prayer. We have fought for 17 years for democratic and constitutional rights. The fall of fascism happened through



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Man out on bail after 30 years in jail without trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

After spending more than three decades in prison without trial or sentencing, 65-year-old Konu Mia walked out of Habiganj District Jail yesterday morning.

A resident of Singhagram village in Lakhai upazila, Konu Mia was released on bail around 10:30am following a court order issued the previous day.

His release was confirmed by MA Majid, a lawyer with the Habiganj District Legal Aid Office.

Konu had been in prison for 30 years, two months, and 19 days in connection with the 1995 murder of his mother, Major Bibi.

On May 25, 1995, he had allegedly attacked his mother with a spade while she was asleep, after which villagers detained him and handed him over to police.

Locals and family members said that at the time of the incident, he was reportedly suffering from mental illness.

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After this newspaper published a photo of illegal shops at Patenga beach in May this year, the authorities demolished the structures. However, this photo taken yesterday shows the illegal shops are back.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



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875 killed near Gaza aid sites in 6 weeks

Says UN rights office; one in 10 children malnourished

AGENCIES

The UN rights office said yesterday it had recorded at least 875 killings within the past six weeks at aid points in Gaza run by the US and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and convoys run by other relief groups, including the United Nations.

The majority of those killed were in the vicinity of Gaza Humanitarian Foundation sites, while the remaining 201 were killed on the routes of other aid convoys, reports Reuters.

The GHF uses private US security and logistics companies to get supplies into Gaza, largely bypassing a UN-led system that Israel alleges has let Hamas-led fighters loot aid shipments intended for civilians. Hamas denies the allegation.

The UNRWA, meanwhile, warned yesterday that one in ten children screened in clinics run by the United Nations refugee agency in Gaza is malnourished.

"Our health teams are confirming that malnutrition rates are increasing in Gaza, especially since the siege was tightened more than four months ago on the second of March," UNRWA's Director of Communications, Juliette Touma, told reporters in Geneva via a

video link from Amman, Jordan. EU aid chief Hadja Lahbib said yesterday that Israel has taken some positive steps but is not yet fully implementing an agreement with the European Union to increase humanitarian aid supplies in Gaza.

- 11 Palestinians killed in Israeli shelling, air strikes
- EU says Israel not yet fully implementing aid deal
- Israel strikes tanks in Syria's Sweida: report

Egypt's foreign minister said on Monday that the flow of aid into Gaza has not increased despite an agreement last week between Israel and the European Union that should have had that result.

In the ground, at least 11 Palestinians were killed by Israeli attacks across Gaza since dawn, sources in Gaza hospitals

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PARTY REGISTRATIONS NCP, 143 others failed to meet EC criteria

EC gives them 15 days to submit documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party, along with 143 others, failed to pass the preliminary scrutiny of the Election Commission for registration.

The EC yesterday granted the new parties an additional 15 days to submit required documents and information.

After initial screening, EC officials said none of the parties managed to meet the requirements.

Speaking to reporters yesterday afternoon, EC Additional Secretary KM Ali Newaz said, "...We found minor deficiencies in the applications of all 144 parties.

"In the first phase, letters will be sent to 62 parties. The rest will be contacted in the next phases. The parties must address the issues within 15 days."

The EC opened registration for new political parties on March 10. The initial deadline was April 20. Following the requests from 46 parties, including NCP, the commission extended the deadline to June 22.

A total of 144 parties sought registration during this time.

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Martian rock that crash landed in Sahara listed for \$2m

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A huge and "incredibly rare" chunk of Mars that crashed landed in the Sahara will go on sale for nearly \$2m at auction.

Sotheby's in New York is selling the 55-pound rock, named NWA 16788, for upwards of \$1.6m, which it says is the largest piece of Mars on Earth.

The reddish brown Martian rock travelled 140 million miles to Earth before it was found by a meteorite hunter in Niger in 2023, according to the auction house.

The rock is about 70 percent larger than the next largest piece of Mars found on Earth and represents nearly 7 percent of all Martian material currently on the planet, Sotheby's said.

"This Martian meteorite is the largest piece of Mars we have ever found by a long shot," Cassandra Hatton, vice chairman for science and natural history at Sotheby's, told Fortune.

Hatton said the rock was sent off for testing to a specialised lab, which found it to be an "olivine-micrometeoritic shergottite," a type of rock formed from the slow cooling of magma.

It is also a rare find. There are only 400 Martian meteorites out of the more than 77,000 officially recognised meteorites found on Earth, Sotheby's says.

DEFYING TRANSFER ORDERS 14 NBR officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has suspended 14 more officials of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for defying transfer orders and allegedly tearing up their transfer letters in public.

The action comes after the government recently sent four senior NBR officials into retirement in "public interest" and suspended the commissioner of the Chattogram Custom House.

In separate notifications issued yesterday, the suspensions were made effective immediately.

The suspended officials include three additional commissioners: Hasan Muhammad Tarek Rekabd, Mirza Ashiq Rana, and Sifat-e-Mariam; six joint commissioners of taxes: Shahadat Jamil, Masuma Khatun, Murad Ahmed, Mohammad Morshed Uddin Khan, Monalisa Shahreen Sushmita, and Md Ashraful Alam Prodhan; three deputy commissioners: Mohammad Shihabul Islam, Nusrat Jahan Shomi, and Imam Tauhid Hasan Shakil; and two revenue officials: Sobuj Mia and Shafiqul Bosh.

Of them, Rikabdar and Rana were the president and vice-president of the NBR Reform Unity Council, a platform of tax and customs officials, which staged the recent protests that disrupted exports and imports by enforcing a countrywide shutdown on June 28 and 29 to press home a set of demands.

Their demands included the removal of the NBR chairman, inclusion of their representatives in a tax reform panel formed by the NBR, and an end to what they termed "vengeful transfers".

According to the notifications, the officials not only

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A seller sorting bottle gourds in a basket floating on a waterlogged street at Karwan Bazar. A shower inundated the kitchen market in the capital with filthy water yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'No proof of communal violence'

Police reject minority groups' claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday said it found no evidence to support the recent allegations, made by two minority organisations, of communal violence.

Citing a statement by the Bangladesh Police, the chief adviser's press wing in a statement said, "Bangladesh Police are investigating each reported incident with utmost diligence and seriousness, following the facts wherever they lead."

"So far, no evidence of communal violence has been found; only individual acts of aggression. Rest assured, the police remain committed to safeguarding the safety and security of all citizens, institutions, and religious establishments in Bangladesh."

On July 10, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad (Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council) and the Minority Unity Alliance at a press conference said 27 individuals were killed in communal attacks between January and June this year. They also claimed that 2,442 incidents of communal violence occurred

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