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## JULY MUSEUM TIB slams govt move for direct procurement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed concern over the interim government's decision to spend nearly Tk 111 crore through direct procurement for construction and renovation work at the former prime minister's residence, Gono Bhaban, to establish the "July Uprising Memorial Museum".

In a statement signed by its Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, TIB said the decision to bypass existing laws and regulations under the justification of direct purchase goes against the government's commitment to transparency and accountability.

According to media reports, the renovation work -- set to be completed by August 5 -- will be

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## JULY UPRISING ICT trials of several cases may finish by Dec: Tajul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trials of several cases related to crimes against humanity during last year's July uprising could be wrapped up by December, said ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam yesterday.

"The proceedings are progressing well, and we remain hopeful," he told reporters after a court session.

"We are confident the main perpetrators will be brought to justice..." he said.

He said a number of investigation reports related to the uprising are likely to be submitted later this month.

Meanwhile, ICT-2 yesterday directed the jail authorities to produce three accused in a case over

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Speakers at a roundtable, titled "Transforming Policy into Law: Dialogue on Domestic Workers' Rights and Barriers to Implementation", held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Domestic workers deserve dignity, legal protection

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter yesterday called for a respectful definition of "domestic worker" based on workers' preferences and urged their inclusion under labour laws.

She stressed the need for legal protection, health security, safe working environments, proper training, fair wages, and labour-saving technologies to ease domestic workers' burdens.

She made the remarks while speaking as chief guest at a roundtable titled "Transforming Policy into Law: Dialogue on Domestic Workers' Rights and Barriers to Implementation", jointly organised by The Daily Star, ECHO, Shobujer Ovijan Foundation, and Oxfam at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Addressing the use of commonly used terms for househelps, the adviser said words like "bua" and "chhuta bua" should be avoided. The term "bandha bua" for full-time help, which implies servitude, must also be discarded.

"Many domestic workers feel uncomfortable being called 'domestic workers', " she said. "It's important to consult them and choose a respectful title they can proudly identify with."

She said the domestic workers' movement

**Many domestic workers feel uncomfortable being called 'domestic workers'. It's important to consult them and choose a respectful title they can proudly identify with.**

**FARIDA AKHTER**  
Fisheries and Livestock Adviser

**Protecting rights of domestic workers is everyone's responsibility, not just the state. Let's start with our own homes -- issue appointment letters. Let's motivate our buildings and neighbourhoods.**

**AHM SHAFIQUZZAMAN**  
Secretary at Ministry of Labour and Employment

is part of the broader women's movement and that mutual respect between employers and workers -- often both women -- is essential.

She also advocated for the use of technology, such as ready-to-cook food and labour-saving tools, to reduce the burden of domestic work.

Highlighting health concerns, Farida said

domestic workers are citizens with the right to health protection. Many consume "jorda/gul" to suppress hunger due to a lack of timely meals, which causes serious health risks.

Providing nutritious food and proper rest is crucial, she added, stressing the need to design homes with rest facilities for domestic workers.

Abul Hossain, acting coordinator of the Domestic Workers' Rights Network, said although the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, which aims to safeguard their rights and well-being based on ILO Convention 189, was approved in 2015, it has yet to become law a decade later.

He expressed hope that the current interim government, free from political influence, would finalise the legal inclusion of domestic workers under labour law before the next elections.

Razequzzaman Ratan, member of Labour Reform Commission, said recognition, registration, and fair remuneration are key to valuing domestic workers' labour. He urged the immediate inclusion of domestic workers under labour law, as proposed in the commission's recommendations.

Until a law is passed, Ratan said the 2015 policy must be fully implemented. This includes replacing verbal agreements with written contracts and resolving complaints through apartment management or ward committees.

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## 55 pushed in from India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Fifty-five people were pushed into Bangladesh from India through four border points along Sylhet and Sunamganj districts yesterday.

The incidents took place between 4:00am and 12:45pm as the individuals, in five groups, entered the country via four border points -- Noakot, Kalairag, Sreepur, and Tamabil, said Lt Col Md Nazmul Haque, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh 48 Battalion in Sylhet.

The official said patrolling BGB members detained them, and they primarily admitted that they had entered India illegally. He added that the identities of the detainees were being verified, and legal procedures were underway to hand them over to respective police stations for further action.

Of the detainees, 12 are male, 33 are female, and 10 are children.

Quoting the detainees, the BGB official said 12 of them are from Jashore, 23 from Narail, four from Sylhet, 10 from Satkhiria, two from Barishal, and one each from Kushtia, Khulna, Habiganj, and Narsingdi.

Since May 7, over 1,900 individuals, including around 120 Indian nationals and over 200 Rohingyas, have been forcibly pushed into Bangladesh by Indian authorities, according to official data.

This ongoing wave of push-ins comes at a time of strained bilateral relations between the two countries following Bangladesh's political changeover last August and is believed to be the largest of its kind in recent years.

Rights organisations have condemned the practice, saying it violates both bilateral protocols and international law, which require repatriation through legal and formal procedures.

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Rizwan Bin Farouq elected to Duke of Edinburgh's int'l council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businessperson Rizwan Bin Farouq has been elected as the international council (IC) member for the Asia Pacific sub region (South Asia) of Duke of Edinburgh's International Award for the 2025-2028 term.

At present, Farouq, managing director of B2M Technologies Ltd, is the Chairman of Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DEA) Foundation Bangladesh Board of Trustees.

In his new role, Farouq will collaborate with other IC members and work alongside the trustees of Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association to address policy matters and oversee the operational functions of the International Award Foundation, DEA Foundation Bangladesh said in a media release yesterday.

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A bus picks up and drops off passengers at the entrance of the Mohakhali flyover, forcing vehicles behind to wait. Despite earlier warnings through signs, later illegally removed, the practice continues, posing traffic and safety risks.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Trade rivalry behind Sohag murder: police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The brutal killing of scrap metal trader Lal Chand alias Sohag in front of Mitford Hospital stemmed from a conflict over control of the illegal trade of "stolen" aluminium wires -- not any political motive, but business rivalry, police said.

Speaking at a press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday, Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operations) SN Md Nazrul Islam said Sohag had previously operated under the political cover of Haji Selim's nephew, former commissioner Pillu, during the Awami League regime.

"For 17 years, Sohag had been involved in dealing with stolen aluminium wires from the Palli Bidyat network and selling those to factories producing aluminium utensils," he said.

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## EC removes 'boat' symbol from its website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the suspension of the Awami League's registration, the Election Commission yesterday removed the party's polls symbol, "boat," from its website.

As of yesterday, the EC website lists the Awami League as the sixth party under "registered political parties (registration suspended)". While the party's "boat" symbol was still displayed next to its name on Tuesday, it was no longer visible by yesterday morning. The removal comes despite earlier statements from EC officials saying that polls symbols are owned by the commission and that the "boat" symbol would not be removed from the EC list.

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## No alternative to polls for democratic transition: Moyeen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan yesterday said no path outside the electoral process is acceptable for a transition to democracy.

"We want to make one thing very clear -- we believe in democracy. There is only one process for a democratic transition. And what is that process? That process is a free and fair election. Beyond this, we know of no other path -- not in Bangladesh, not anywhere else in the world," he said.

Moyeen made these remarks at a protest rally organised by the Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal at the Jatiya Press Club.

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