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Skills alone not enough, ethics and discipline key

Army chief urges students, professionals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army Chief General Waker-Uz Zaman yesterday urged students and professionals in engineering and applied sciences to become not only skilled experts but also disciplined and ethical individuals who can contribute meaningfully to national development.

He made the remarks while speaking as chief guest at the closing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Dhaka witnessed congestion in some areas as thousands of Jamaat-e-Islami supporters from all over the country converged on Suhrawardy Udyan for the party's national rally yesterday. According to traffic police, the situation became normal in the evening. The photo was taken in Bangla Motor area in the afternoon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Traffic slows in some spots as Jamaat holds rally

Party deploys volunteers to help manage crowd, traffic flow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka witnessed traffic congestion in some areas yesterday as thousands of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami supporters from all over the country converged on Suhrawardy Udyan for the party's national rally.

Gridlock was reported since morning across major intersections – including Shahbagh, Bangla Motor, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Matsya Bhaban, Kakrail, Paltan and Jatrabari.

Meanwhile, volunteers deployed by Jamaat were seen managing traffic and maintaining order at various points.

Nearly 6,000 volunteers were positioned across 20 locations, each assigned to different divisions and wearing identifying uniforms. Fifteen medical booths were also set up in and around Suhrawardy Udyan, each staffed with two MBBS doctors, multiple beds, emergency medicine and ambulance services.

Volunteers, along with members of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's traffic division, were seen urging rally participants to avoid creating noise disturbances and were helping ensure thoroughfares remained clear.

Buses carrying attendees were parked at various parts of the city, including Manik Mia Avenue, Banani and Motijheel, far from the rally venue.

As it was the weekly holiday, private vehicles and buses were relatively few on the roads.

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GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE

Bodies will be exhumed for autopsy, if needed

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the bodies of those killed in the violence centring a rally in Gopalganj would be exhumed if necessary to conduct post-mortems.

"In some cases, the bodies were taken by the families themselves. So how will post-mortems be done? But if needed, the bodies can be exhumed and examined," he told reporters after visiting the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

In response to questions about alleged pressure to avoid autopsy, Jahangir emphasised the importance of on-ground journalism and thanked media professionals who risked their lives to livestream the events.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to the journalists who broadcast the entire incident live, risking their lives. Those who watched the live coverage won't have such questions. But those who weren't there or didn't cover it live often raise many doubts," he said.

Asked whether the intelligence agencies had failed to prevent the violence, the adviser said, "A high-powered committee has already been formed. It will determine who is responsible."

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‘Misinformation rises 30% in first half of 2025’

Says Rumour Scanner report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Misinformation in Bangladesh's digital and political spheres rose by around 30 percent in the first six months of 2025 compared to the same period last year, according to a report by fact-checking organisation Rumour Scanner.

The organisation identified 1,795 instances of false or misleading information. Of these, 1,125 were entirely fabricated or false, while the remainder were classified as misleading.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus was the most targeted individual during this surge. In the first half of 2025, 112 pieces of disinformation were directed at him, with 88 percent portraying him negatively.

Following a regular meeting of the Advisory Council on May 22, where Prof Yunus expressed thoughts on stepping down due to obstacles to the government's initiatives, Rumour Scanner

JAN–JUN 2025

1,795 false or misleading claims identified

1,125 claims entirely false; rest misleading

Chief adviser most targeted, with 112 false claims

Facebook largest source misinformation (1,661 false claims)

31 Indian media outlets spread 38 false claims about Bangladesh

Communal misinformation still a concern

recorded a spike in misinformation related to the matter. Between May 22 and 25, the organisation fact-checked at least 16 false claims about the attempted resignation, making it the most misinformation-heavy event of the year so far.

The interim government was the subject of 69 false claims, over 90 percent of which carried a hostile tone. Additionally, 68 pieces of misinformation targeted 12 advisers and Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

Law Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul was mentioned in 14 false claims, while Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and LGAD Adviser Asif Mahmud were each named in 11.

Facebook remained the largest source of misinformation, with 1,661 false claims detected between January and June – an average of more than nine per day. In the second quarter alone, misinformation on the platform rose by 22 percent. YouTube

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CHT PEACE ACCORD

Govt working to resolve challenges Says foreign adviser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said the government has identified several challenges in implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord and is working to resolve them.

"We tried to resolve the simpler issues and explored ways to tackle the more complex ones. The main focus was on finding practical solutions," said Touhid, also the convener of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee.

"This was my first meeting with the committee. The discussion was held in a sincere and cordial atmosphere. There's much to learn and understand," he told reporters after the meeting, at the Parbatya Chattagram Unnayan Board Rest House in Rangamati.

The meeting was the first of the CHT Accord Implementation and Monitoring Committee, formed by the current interim government.

It began around 10:30am at the rest house in the Bhedbhedi area of Rangamati town.

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AWAMI LEAGUE TENURE

ACC probing 15yrs of financial irregularities

AT A GLANCE

ACC seeks information on 9 former BB top officials

Asks for records on 11 companies that benefited from loan regularisation

Demands all documents of 9 banks approved during AL tenure

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has launched an investigation into alleged corruption by individuals, financial institutions, industrial groups, and loan defaulters during the Awami League's 15-year tenure, which it claims led to the destruction of the country's financial system.

As part of this move, the commission is examining the role of former top officials of Bangladesh Bank, including three former governors and four former deputy governors, in major irregularities in the financial sector.

In a recent letter signed by ACC Deputy Director Mominul Islam, the commission sought information on various allegations of irregularities in the banking sector over the last 15 years.

"Several teams are working on financial

irregularities. Once the investigation is complete, the assigned committee will submit its report. The findings will be disclosed in due time," ACC Director General (Prevention) and spokesperson Md Akhter Hossain told The Daily Star.

According to ACC sources, information has been sought regarding former BB governors Atiur Rahman, Fazle Kabir, and Abdur Rouf Talukder; former deputy governors SK Sur Chowdhury, SM Moniruzzaman, Abu Hena Mohammad Razee Hassan, and Abu Farah Mohammad Nasser; and former heads of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit Masud Biswas and Kazi Saidur Rahman.

These nine individuals held responsibilities at the central bank at different times during the past 15 years.

The ACC has also requested documents related to the approval of new banks

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Dhaka North City Corporation has dug up nearly one kilometre of Hashem Khan Road in the capital's Rayerbazar to install underground drainage pipes. The work, ongoing for around 16 days without any safety fencing, has been causing significant suffering to locals. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON