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Fascist forces waiting on govt slip-up

Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any wrong decision by the government could allow fascist forces to be rehabilitated into politics and put the country's democratic journey at serious risk, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

Fascism, extremism and radicalism can raise their heads, he said at a protest rally organised yesterday by the Dhaka District unit of BNP at Sreepur in Ashulia.

Subsequently, he urged the interim government to remain extremely careful.

"I want to draw the attention of the interim government to the fact that the fallen, fugitive, defeated and ousted fascist forces are lurking in the shadows, waiting for an opportunity to return to politics despite the blood

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



NCP Convener Nahid Islam addressing a rally in front of municipality office at Narsingdi town on the last day of party's month-long countrywide march yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: NAHID ISLAM'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Govt turning against those who put it in power

Says Anu Muhammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is oppressing the very groups it relied upon to come to power, including the labourers, women and other minority groups, said former Jahangirnagar professor Anu Muhammad.

The interim government was supposed to create a freer environment for the cultural activists across the country but the communal groups of the country are becoming more powerful nowadays, he said at a seminar titled "The 2024 Uprising and the Cultural Struggle" at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The seminar was organised by Ganatantrik Sangskritik Oikko, an alliance of 31 left-leaning socio-cultural organisations that grew during the uprising last year, to commemorate July 30, 2024, when the cultural activists took to the streets with a musical procession from Zero Point towards Bahadur Shah Park.

Police and military forces attempted to block and disperse the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

PALESTINIAN STATE France, UK, allies push for global recognition

Israeli strikes kill 16 Palestinians, including 13 aid seekers in Gaza

AGENCIES

France and 14 other Western nations called on countries worldwide to move to recognise a Palestinian state, France's top diplomat said yesterday.

The foreign ministers of 15 countries late Tuesday issued a joint statement following a conference in New York, co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, aimed at reviving a two-state solution between Israelis and the Palestinians.

"In New York, together with 14 other countries, France is issuing a collective appeal: we express our desire to recognise the State of Palestine and invite those who have not yet done so to join us," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot wrote on X.

President Emmanuel Macron announced last week he would formally recognise Palestinian statehood in September, provoking strong opposition from Israel and the United States.

France is hoping to build a momentum around the formal recognition of a Palestinian state, reports AFP.

On Tuesday, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the UK will formally

recognise the State of Palestine in September unless Israel takes various "substantive steps", including agreeing to a ceasefire in Gaza.

The secretary-general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Hussein Ibrahim Taha, has welcomed the announcement by Starmer.

In Gaza, Israeli attacks continued with at least 16 Palestinians, including 13 aid seekers, killed since dawn, according to medical sources speaking to Al Jazeera.

Gaza hospitals have recorded four new deaths "due to famine and malnutrition", including one of a child according to the enclave's health ministry.

The total number of people who starved to death during Israel's offensive in Gaza rose to 151, including 89 children, the ministry's statement said on Telegram.

Israel has allowed only 109 aid trucks into the Gaza Strip, but most of them were looted amid escalating security chaos, according to the Gaza media office, Anadolu Agency reports. Four of six airdrops also fell into hazardous zones, it said.

"Today, 109 aid trucks entered Gaza, with the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

EC lists 39 constituencies for redrawing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday published a draft list of 39 constituencies in 14 districts, including Dhaka, for delimitation.

While publishing the primary list, the EC in a notification said that anyone with objections or comments can file appeals to the commission till August 10.

The constituencies are Dhaka 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 19; Panchagarh 1 and 2; Rangpur 3, Sirajganj 1, Sirajganj 2, Satkhira 3, Satkhira 4, Shariatpur 2 and 3; Gazipur 1,2,3,5 and 6; Narayanganj 3, 4, and 5; Sylhet 1 and 3; Brahmanbaria 2 and 3; Cumilla 1, 2, 10 and 11; Noakhali 1, 2, 4, and 5; and Chattogram 7 and 8.

According to the delimitation of constituencies law, the boundaries of Jatiya Sangsad constituencies should be redrawn based on the population distribution from the latest census, while keeping administrative units intact for convenience.

The EC publishes a preliminary list of redrawn constituencies, and voters

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

EXTORTION CASES 70 filed on average each month: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 70 extortion cases were filed on average every month in the capital in the first six months this year, according to crime statistics shared by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

At least 33 robbery, 248 mugging, 121 murder, and 1,068 theft cases were recorded with 50 police stations in Dhaka.

On average, this amounts to over 20 murders, five robberies, and 41 muggings per month, Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media), told a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.

Despite the figures, the DMP official claimed that the overall law and order situation in the city remains under control.

To increase public safety, the DMP has beefed up patrols and checkpoints. In the last 24 hours alone, 441 patrol teams were deployed across the city -- 259 in the daytime and 221 at night. These included 221 foot patrols and 27 motor patrols. Checkpoints were also set up in key and strategic locations.

A special drive in the same period led to the arrest of 186 people accused of various crimes, including robbery, theft, and drug dealing. Others who have arrest warrants against them are among the arrestees.

A DB team from Wari arrested five members of a phone-snatching gang and recovered 123 stolen mobile phones from their possession.

Two members of the notorious "Kobzi-kata" gang in

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6



A Palestinian boy injured while seeking humanitarian aid at the Rafah corridor was carried into a field hospital in the Mawasi area of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

It's time for this govt to declare its exit plan: Debapriya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economist Debapriya Bhattacharya yesterday said the time has come for the interim government to announce its exit strategy, clearly outlining what it hopes to achieve before leaving office and what it will leave behind for the next administration.

"It is time for this government to present its end-of-task report... with the remaining time it has, it must state what it aims to achieve before its exit," said Debapriya, a public policy analyst and distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Debapriya made the remarks at a seminar organised by a platform named "Democracy Dias" in the capital's Gulshan area.

"This should be conveyed through an address to the nation -- not just about the election date, but also about the expectations with which this government came to power, how it is fulfilling

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

SC acquits Mobarak of war crimes charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has acquitted a condemned convict in a case filed over crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Yesterday, the apex court overturned the 2014 death sentence of Md Mobarak Hossain, originally handed down by the International Crimes Tribunal-1, clearing the way for his release from jail.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed, delivered the judgment after hearing an appeal filed by Mobarak, challenging the ICT-1 verdict.

The full text of the Supreme Court's verdict is yet to be released.

On May 27 this year, the apex court acquitted Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam of similar charges. Azharul was released from jail the following day.

Mobarak's lawyer, Barrister Imran A Siddiq, told The Daily Star that his client would be released from jail custody once an advance order from the SC reaches the authorities of Kashimpur jail.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

Farabi gets bail in Avijit murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Shafiur Rahman Farabi, who was sentenced to life in prison by the trial court in a case over the killing of writer-blogger Avijit Roy.

The bench of Justice Md Zakir Hossain and Justice KM Rasheduzzaman Raja passed the order following Farabi's appeal, his lawyer Muhammad Huzzatul Imran Khan told The Daily Star.

Imran said there was no legal bar now for his client's release from jail.

Senior lawyer SM Shahjahan, accompanied by Huzzatul Imran, appeared for Farabi, while Deputy Attorney General Imran Khan Himu represented the state during the hearing.

A group of assailants attacked US-based Bangladeshi writer-blogger Avijit and his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya with sharp weapons near Dhaka University's TSC when the couple was walking out of Amar Ekushey Book Fair on

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6

BNP-NCP clash leaves several injured in Muradnagar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A clash erupted between supporters of NCP and BNP during a rally protesting an alleged conspiracy targeting LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud in Cumilla's Muradnagar yesterday.

The incident occurred at Allah Chattar in Muradnagar Sadar union, where supporters of Asif Mahmud and the Nationalist Citizen Party gathered for their demonstration.

Witnesses said as the rally commenced, BNP activists from a nearby market began hurling brick chunks and stones, sparking a chase and counter-chase between the two groups.

Several NCP supporters were injured. "As soon as we began our rally, BNP men attacked us with brick chunks. I was beaten and sustained head injury," said Shekhar, member of Muradnagar Sadar union parishad.

"BNP activists targeted us without provocation. Our supporters were scattered as the violence escalated," said Minazul Haque, a participant of the rally.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 6