



GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE ‘Army acted to save lives, not in support of any party’ Says Army HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army troops intervened in the Gopalganj incident solely to protect lives that were under threat, and not in support of any political party, the Army Headquarters said yesterday.

“The incident in Gopalganj was unfortunate, and any loss of life is deeply saddening. But the army acted only after lives were at risk,” Brig Gen Nazim-ud-Daula, director of Military Operations Directorate (MOD), said at a press briefing in Dhaka cantonment.

Regarding the use of force, he said, “A high-level investigation committee, headed by a retired judge, has already been formed to determine what happened, why it happened, and who was responsible.

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A father walking across the Shahbagh intersection with a child covered by a towel during yesterday's pouring rain. A group of demonstrators, in the background, under the banner of “July Warriors” blocked the intersection demanding the finalisation of the July Charter, causing traffic jams on key thoroughfares. Many, including patients, had to get off their vehicles and walk to their destinations.

PURBACHAL PLOTS Charges framed against Hasina, Joy, Putul

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Charges were framed against 28 people, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and daughter Saima Wazed Putul, yesterday in six cases filed over alleged irregularities in plot allocation under the Purbachal New Town project.

Other accused include Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, her daughters, British MP Tulip Siddiq and Azmina Siddiq, and several current and former officials of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works and Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

After a brief hearing, Judge Abdullah Al Mamun of Dhaka Special Judge's Court-5 framed charges

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Govt moves to revise essential drug list, price

Sparks debate as 18-member taskforce
formed without industry voices

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and
JAGARAN CHAKMA

After nearly a decade-long pause, the health ministry has launched a significant initiative to revise the national list of essential medicines and fix their prices to improve their accessibility and affordability.

An 18-member taskforce has been constituted to draw up the list and develop a procedure for setting prices of other medicines. The objective is to balance affordability for the public with fair profit margins for drug manufacturers. In doing so, the taskforce will assess the effectiveness, safety, and necessity of medicines, guided by recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

While the initiative is underpinned by strong public health goals, its formation

has triggered criticism from industry leaders. The exclusion of pharmaceutical manufacturers from the taskforce has raised concerns about the practicality and sustainability of the initiative.

Industry stakeholders argue that crafting a pricing framework without the involvement of those who produce and distribute the medicines could prove counterproductive and even detrimental to the supply chain.

The taskforce is led by Prof Md Shahinul Alam, vice chancellor of Bangladesh Medical University. According to a health ministry circular issued on July 24, the taskforce must submit its report by August 20. The circular also states that the committee may induct new members if deemed necessary.

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22 held over ‘secret meeting’ of AL men Major in army custody for ‘involvement’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 22 people, including several leaders and activists of the Awami League and banned Chhatra League, following a “secret meeting” at the KB Convention Centre near the capital's Bashundhara Residential area on July 8.

A major is also in custody of the army for his alleged involvement in the meeting.

The information came to light at a press briefing held at the Army Headquarters yesterday.

Responding to a related query, Col Shafiqul Islam, colonel staff at the Military Operations Directorate, said, “We are aware of Major Sadikul Haque's alleged involvement. An

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Rights abuses still persist

Says HRW reviewing interim
govt's records after one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus is falling behind on its promise to improve human rights in Bangladesh a year after mass protests ousted the authoritarian regime of Sheikh Hasina, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said.

“The hope of the thousands who braved lethal violence a year ago when they opposed Sheikh Hasina's abusive rule to build a rights-respecting democracy remains unfulfilled,” said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at HRW, in a statement on Wednesday.

While some of the fear and repression that marked the Awami League's 15-year rule and abuses such as widespread enforced disappearances appear to have ended, the interim government has resorted to arbitrary detentions targeting political rivals and failed to carry out meaningful reforms.

“The interim government appears stuck, juggling an unreformed security sector, sometimes violent religious hardliners, and political groups that seem more focused on extracting vengeance on Hasina's supporters than

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India must stop expulsion of Indian Muslims, Rohingyas Says Fortify Rights

STAR REPORT

The Indian government must immediately end its unlawful campaign of expulsion against Indian Muslim citizens and Rohingya refugees, said Fortify Rights.

The move comes as the Indian authorities in recent months have been arbitrarily arresting, detaining, torturing and coercively removing members of Muslim minorities – including those with valid documentation or citizenship – as well as Rohingya refugees as part of its intensified “illegal immigrant” verification campaign.

“These actions not only violate international human rights law but deepen the dangerous marginalisation of Muslims and refugees in India,” said John Quinley, director at Fortify Rights, in a statement yesterday.

Since the Indian home ministry issued a directive in May mandating all states and union territories to verify the credentials of individuals suspected to be “illegal immigrants”, mass raids and forced expulsions of Indian

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A peacock pansy spreads its glorious wings while resting on a flower in Chattogram's Banskhali tea garden. Known for its vivid eyespots and seasonal forms, this butterfly is common across South and Southeast Asia. Its population is stable and often spotted in grasslands, gardens, and tea estates. Active year-round, it feeds on nectar and lays eggs on various host plants. While caterpillars favour low-lying herbs, adults bask in the sun, using their colourful wing patterns to ward off predators. As both pollinator and prey, the peacock pansy plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance.

PHOTO: KAMOL DAS

Gaza aid delivery is ‘far from sufficient’: UN

Israeli strikes kill 34 Palestinians,
including 15 aid seekers

AGENCIES

The United Nations' humanitarian agency has said that the conditions for delivering aid into Gaza were “far from sufficient” to meet the immense needs of its “desperate, hungry people”.

OCHA also said fuel deliveries were nowhere near what is needed to keep health, emergency, water and telecommunications services running in the besieged Palestinian territory.

This week, Israel launched daily pauses in its military operations in some parts of the Gaza Strip and opened secure routes to enable UN agencies and other aid groups to distribute food in the densely populated territory of more than two million, reports AFP.

“While the UN and its partners are taking advantage of any opportunity to support people in need during the unilateral tactical pauses, the conditions for the delivery of aid and supplies are far from

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Myanmar forms interim govt before election Coup leader remains acting president, military chief

REUTERS

Myanmar's military yesterday nominally transferred power to a civilian-led interim government ahead of a planned December election, with the junta chief remaining in charge of the war-torn country in his other role as acting president.

An announcement in state media said a decree that granted power

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BB lowers target of private credit growth B1



Dengue deaths, and infections double in July P3

জনসচেতনতামূলক বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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➤ রেজিস্টার্ড চিকিৎসক এর ব্যবস্থাপন ক্রান্তি এন্টিবায়োটিক বিক্রয় দলনীয় অপরাধ।

➤ ঔষধ ক্রয়ের সময় মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিখ দেখে নিন। মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ ঔষধ ক্রয়, বিক্রয় ও ব্যবহার থেকে বিরত থাকুন।