



'Entire system has become one of occupation'

Alleges Fakhruul

STAR REPORT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir yesterday cited rampant corruption as one of the main reasons behind the country's political crisis.



"The entire state system has become one of occupation," he said during a seminar at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Fakhruul alleged that bureaucrats are controlling everything. He said in some cases even the advisers have become helpless.

"A teacher from a small town has to come to Dhaka to solve a problem, which should not have been necessary. The system is responsible for this. If the teacher

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Amid the drizzle, she stood on wet pavement, clutching a red bucket brimming with flowers -- her small frame against a crowd under umbrellas. The little flower seller, curious and calm, watched as a group of young activists gathered at Central Shaheed Minar, demanding immediate amendments to the tobacco control law yesterday afternoon. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BGB-BSF CONFERENCE Push-ins, border killings to figure high

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

The continuous push-ins by Indian authorities from different border points despite repeated protests by Bangladesh will top the agenda of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in the upcoming 56th director general-level conference.

Border killings, drug and arms smuggling, and other cross-border crimes will also feature in the discussions by Bangladesh.

A high-level delegation of the Border Security Force (BSF) led by its Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to attend the four-day conference.



BGB will be represented by its DG Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui.

According to a BSF statement, India's priorities will include curbing trans-border crimes, preventing attacks on its personnel allegedly by Bangladeshis and constructing a single-row fence along the frontier.

The talks come at a time of strained diplomatic ties following Bangladesh's political changeover in August last year.

The last round of DG-level talks was held in New Delhi from February 17 to 20 this year.

Representatives of various border-related agencies would also join the delegations, said Home Affairs Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

"BGB will give priority to the interest of the country and its people in this conference," he told reporters at the secretariat recently.

Between May 7 and August 15, India pushed in 2,196 people through different border points, according to government data.

The push-ins took place in 24 border districts, with Sylhet seeing the highest numbers: 575 people from Moulvibazar and 254 from Sylhet.

India maintains those pushed in are Bangladeshis but

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'Will step down if asked to follow govt orders'

Says CEC AMM Nasir Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the Election Commission prepares for the next general elections, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday said he would step down from his position if he's asked to act under government orders.

He made the remarks at a time when there's barely six months left ahead of the upcoming 13th national

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Hunger in Gaza 'beyond imagination'

Says doctor on the ground a day after UN declares famine; Israeli strikes kill 37 more

AGENCIES

Not long after US surgeon Mohammed Adeel Khaleel arrived at a Gaza City hospital in early August, a 17-year-old was brought in with gunshot wounds to both legs and one hand, sustained when he went to collect food at an aid site.

In the emergency room, Khaleel said he noted the ribs protruding from the teen's emaciated torso, an indication of

severe malnutrition. When doctors at Al-Ahli Hospital stabilised the patient, he raised his heavily bandaged hand and pointed to his empty mouth, Khaleel said.

"The level of hunger is really what's heartbreaking. You know, we saw malnutrition before, back in November, already starting to happen. But now the level is just, it's beyond imagination,"

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Four bodies recovered from Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

River police recovered four bodies, including that of a woman and a child, from the Buriganga river in Old Dhaka yesterday.

The victims are one child, aged between 4-5, two females, one aged around 25 and other 30, and a male, about 40, said police.

The identities of the deceased are yet to be confirmed, said police adding that two of the bodies -- a

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An outdoor exhibition organised by Mayer Daak titled "Memories of Disappearance" at the capital's Manik Mia Avenue showcases works of photographer Mosfiqur Rahman Johan that highlight the pain and suffering of families of victims of enforced disappearance. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Star INTERVIEW

Education for Rohingyas in peril as global aid dries up

Warns UNICEF representative Rana Flowers

PORIMOL PALMA

Shrinking international aid has cast uncertainty over schooling for thousands of Rohingya children in refugee camps, jeopardising years of progress, warns Rana Flowers, UNICEF representative to Bangladesh.

She has also expressed grave concerns over recent violent protests by a section of teaching volunteers over their dismissal, describing them as a "direct risk to education and safety of children" at the camps.

"We are witnessing a dangerous convergence of challenges... Both factors threaten to undo years of progress made in bringing learning and hope to Rohingya boys and girls," Flowers said in an interview with The Daily Star recently.

The Trump administration has already significantly reduced aid, while other donors have been slow to fund programmes for Rohingyas. The total funding requirement is \$934 million for this year but only \$338 million has been received so far.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, \$72

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'I too might be pushed into Bangladesh'

Amartya Sen jibes amid language row in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen has voiced concern over "linguistic intolerance" in various states of India, especially against Bangla speakers who are suspected of being undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants.

Referring to Indian media reports that Bangla-speaking individuals were being pushed into Bangladesh, he quipped, saying there is a possibility that he might be sent back to Dhaka, where his family has roots.

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