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No scope to change election time frame

Says law adviser

BSS, Dhaka  
The 13th national parliamentary election will be held by February next year as scheduled, with no possibility of changing the time frame, said Law Adviser Dr Asif Nazrul yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at the ministry, he said the government remains firmly committed to holding the election in February.

"This is the position repeatedly emphasised by our chief adviser. The Election Commission has been instructed accordingly, and all necessary measures are being taken," he added.

On questions regarding some parties, including the

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Speakers at a roundtable, titled "Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Road to COP30", jointly organised by UN Women and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## JULY UPRISING

Police open fired on journos in Sylhet, killing Abu Torab

His peer tells ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Sylhet-based photojournalist yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that police opened fire on journalists during the July uprising, despite his pleas not to shoot, leaving Abu Torab wounded.

Torab later died from his injuries.

MD Mohid Hossain said the incident took place on July 19, 2024, when journalists were covering a procession in Sylhet. The procession was part of a BNP nationwide programme protesting the killing of students and people at Madhuban Point.

Both he and Torab, who was Sylhet correspondent of the Daily Naya Diganta, were present there.

"Without any provocation, police opened fire from behind the procession. They also began firing at us," said Mohid, who works for a local daily.

He was testifying as a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her top aides.

"I raised my hands and shouted at ADC Dastogir, saying, 'Brother, we are journalists, please do not fire at us.' But police continued firing. Suddenly, Abu

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## Women's voices must shape COP30 policies

Speakers tell UN Women, Star discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to prioritise women's full participation in climate decision-making and address gaps in climate finance.

They also emphasised the importance of intersectionality, ensuring that policies consider the diverse experiences of women, including those from indigenous communities and women with disabilities.

The event, titled "Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Road to COP30", was jointly organised by UN Women and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

UN Women Deputy Representative Navanita Sinha, in her welcome speech, said this is a significant year for gender equality and women's rights.

"We are marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing



### RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure women's participation in climate decisions

Close gaps in climate finance for women

Apply intersectionality in policies

Strengthen Gender Action Plan implementation

Promote cross-sector collaboration on gender, climate

Platform for Action, the most comprehensive framework for advancing women's rights.

Over these three decades, there have been important gains in some areas, but overall progress has not been as fast or comprehensive as we had hoped," she said.

Sinha said the year is

also pivotal for climate action, as preparations for COP30 advance. COP29 delivered several milestones, including the endorsement of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the extension of its ten-year commitment to a Gender Action Plan.

However, significant gaps remain, particularly in climate finance, access to technology, and gender-responsive adaptation and mitigation strategies, Sinha said.

"Recognising this, the work towards COP30 becomes especially important. That is why we organised today's discussion -- to advocate for stronger gender commitments and ensure our collective voice contributes meaningfully to the process," she said.

UN Women Programme Specialist Dilruba Haider highlighted the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP),

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Army to remain on mobile duty

Says home adviser; navy and air force to assist in polls security

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

Home Adviser  
Lt Gen (retd) Md  
Jahangir  
Alam  
Chowdhury

yesterday said the army, navy, and air force will be deployed to assist in ensuring security during the upcoming national election.

Speaking to reporters in Sylhet after a meeting with administration officials and law enforcement agencies, the adviser said 4,000 police personnel have already completed training, while another batch is undergoing training and a third will begin training soon.

He emphasised the role of Ansar in election duty, adding that their deployment to

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## July Charter likely to be finalised this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission is expected to finalise the July Charter within this week. Alongside this, the commission will provide the government with recommendations on how to implement the charter, based on opinions from political parties and experts.

At a meeting with 17 political parties yesterday afternoon, the commission informed them of the process and sought their views on how they wanted the charter to be implemented, Professor Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, told The Daily Star.

"It could be sent to political parties by the end of this week. Written opinions from the parties on the implementation process have been requested. These, along with expert advice, will be used to prepare recommendations for the government. The recommendations will later be formally presented to the interim government," he said.

Last Sunday, the commission held an informal meeting with eight political parties, where proposals for implementing the charter included a public assembly, referendum, constitutional reform sessions, presidential decree, or ordinances.

Yesterday, parties expressed varied opinions. Some



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US reiterates support for govt, EC ahead of polls

Charge d'Affaires calls on CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tracey Ann Jacobson, US Chargé d'Affaires to Bangladesh, yesterday reaffirmed Washington's support for the interim government and the Election Commission in holding a free and fair national election early next year.

Speaking with reporters after a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the EC's headquarters in the capital, she said the purpose of her visit was "to listen, to learn, and to understand".

"We support the interim government led by Professor Yunus and the Election Commission in charting a pathway to free and fair elections. We hope those elections will happen in an atmosphere of peace and security and will lead to a successful democratic government that will represent the aspirations and dreams of the Bangladeshi people," she said.

The one-hour meeting, attended by David Moo, political chief at the US embassy, and Political Specialist Firoze Ahmed, started at 2:30pm yesterday.

After the meeting, Jacobson said, "Since there



AMM Nasir Uddin



Tracey Ann Jacobson

## Physiotherapy overlooked in health system

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although physiotherapy is a vital part of health services worldwide, it has not been given due importance in Bangladesh's health system, depriving many patients, said experts and professionals yesterday.

Speakers said the number of physiotherapists is very low compared to the country's population and urged the government to take steps to produce an adequate number of such professionals.

They made the remarks at a discussion titled "Why Incorporating Physiotherapists is Important for the Development of Health Services", organised by the Alliance for Health Reform Bangladesh at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Ahamadullah Hill Galeb, a clinical physiotherapist at BRB Hospital, said physiotherapists play an important role in comprehensive health services.

However, in Bangladesh, physiotherapy is often provided by medical technologists with only a diploma in this sector, depriving patients of proper care, he said.

There are only about 6,000 physiotherapists with a five-year university approved degree, with around 780 graduates entering the field each year, he also said, adding, "It is not possible to provide proper service with such few numbers."

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As the sun dips below the horizon, two fishermen set out on their boat across the tranquil waters of Itna Haor in Kishoreganj. The evening casts a golden glow over the haor, where many locals rely on fishing for their livelihood, working from dusk into the night.

ACC to sue Putul, 35 others over Tk 448cr graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to file a case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, Saima Wazed Putul, along with 35 others, on charges of collecting bribes in the name of donations under the banner of Shuchona Foundation and embezzling Tk 448 crore.

ACC Director General Md Akhter Hossain informed journalists about the approval of the case yesterday.

According to the ACC complaint, Putul and the other accused established a paper-based entity named Shuchona Foundation and obtained registration from the NGO Affairs Bureau and the Department of Social Services.

Later, they collected bribes from various

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