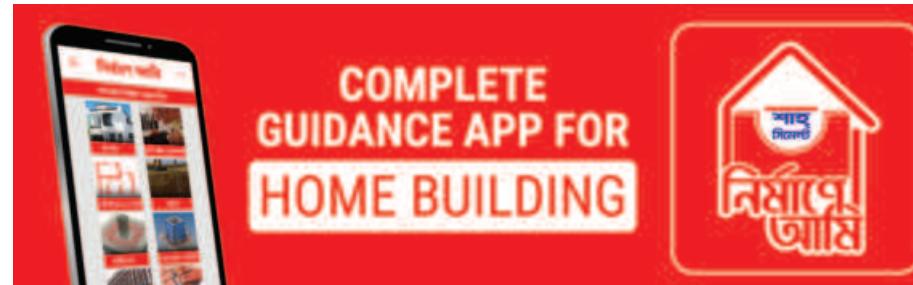




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True democracy guarantees equal rights for all genders

Says Tarique on occasion of Int'l Day of Democracy

BSS, Dhaka



BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday paid tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the establishment of democracy and extended greetings to pro-democracy people worldwide on the occasion of International Day of Democracy today.

In a post on his verified Facebook page, he highlighted the importance of democracy as a universal value and a political system founded on the free expression of people's will.

"True democracy ensures full participation in all aspects of life -- political, economic, social and cultural... Shaheed president Ziaur Rahman, the proclaimer of independence, has restored multiparty democracy after the aggressive grip of the one-party Baksal rule. The core of his timeless philosophy and Bangladeshi nationalism was multiparty democracy."

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MOTHERHOOD IN MONSOON ... A flower seller shields her baby with her scarf and takes shelter under a tree near the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital, as heavy rain lashed the city yesterday afternoon. Even while waiting for the downpour to ease, she checks her flowers to make sure they are fresh for selling later.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Elect women MPs through direct polls

Demands Forum for Women's Political Rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Forum for Women's Political Rights has called for sweeping electoral reforms to ensure women's rightful place in parliament.

At a press conference yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the forum presented a written statement demanding that the 100 reserved seats for women be filled through direct elections starting from the upcoming polls.



"Without women's rightful share, parliament cannot truly be a representative institution of the people."

The statement was presented on behalf of the forum by Sushmita Roy, Professor Samina Luthfa, Taslima Akhtar Lima, and Sadaf Saaz Siddiqui. Mahrukh Mohiuddin and Dr Farah Kabir were also present.

The forum urged that political parties be legally required to nominate a minimum of 33 percent women candidates, with the target gradually raised to 50 percent through amendments to the Representation of the People Order.

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2 men beaten to death over theft allegations

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed over theft allegations in separate mob beating incidents in Gazipur and Feni yesterday.

In Gazipur, local farmer Md Mozammel, 50, was accused of stealing a household item. The incident took place in Dakshingon village of Sanmania union under Kapasia upazila around 7:30am, reports our local correspondent, quoting witnesses.

Severely injured, Mozammel was first taken to Kapasia Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Gazipur Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment around 8:00pm.

The victim's cousin Omar Faruk said, "Around 10-12 people took Mozammel from in front of his house to a neighbouring house, accused him of theft, and beat him with sticks. The attackers had personal

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Police adopt stringent criteria to select OCs

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A new policy has been introduced for selecting officers in-charge of police stations, outlining stringent eligibility criteria for inspectors aspiring to secure the coveted post, widely regarded as a seat of power within the force.

Senior officials say the policy is designed to ensure transparency and merit-based selection for a role that has long been marred by political interference and corruption. An OC commands significant power, with the authority to oversee investigations and manage resources at a police station.

"Only those officers with solid service records, relevant experience and good conduct will make to a list from which OCs will be chosen according to seniority," said an officer involved in drafting the policy.

Approved recently by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Baharul Alam, the new policy stipulates that an officer can hold the post of OC for a maximum of six years.

The move comes around five months before the country is expected to go to the national election in which OCs will play a key role in maintaining law and order.

There are 530 police stations under eight ranges, 110 stations in eight metropolitan police units and 24 railway police stations across the country.

According to the new policy, only those officers who have served as inspectors

for at least three years and completed a police station management course will be considered for inclusion in the list.

Officers above the age of 54 will be ineligible for the post, while those with HSC or higher educational qualifications will be given preference.

Punishment for financial irregularities or moral turpitude



NEW POLICY AT A GLANCE

- Inspectors need 3 years' service, station management course
- Officers above 54 or with record of offences ineligible
- Six-year cap imposed on serving as OC
- Candidates must average 80 marks in ACRs for 5 years
- Preference for HSC or higher educational qualifications

at any point during service will render a police officer ineligible for the position.

If an officer is punished twice or more while serving as an inspector or punished

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Man killed, wife 'raped' in Cox's Bazar Suspect caught by locals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A man was killed, and his wife was allegedly raped in Cox's Bazar town early yesterday.

The incident took place around 12:30am in the Uttarone Residential Area near Kalatali.

The suspect, identified as Birel Chakma, 54, was caught by locals while attempting to flee the scene of the crime and later handed over to police.

Police withheld the name of the murder victim to protect the identity of his wife, who has brought rape allegation against the suspect.

According to Inspector (Investigation) Mohammad Faruk Hossain of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station, both men's families had recently migrated from Rangamati, and they were working as day labourers at

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

India brush aside Pakistan

AFP, Dubai

Spinners led by Kuldeep Yadav helped India thrash Pakistan by seven wickets in the Asia Cup on Sunday as the neighbours met on the cricket pitch for the first time since a military conflict between them in May.

Kuldeep returned figures of 3-18 and along with fellow spinner Axar Patel kept Pakistan down to 127-9 in a key Group A T20 clash in Dubai.

India lost two wickets after a fiery 31 off 13 balls from opener Abhishek Sharma, but skipper Suryakumar Yadav hit an unbeaten 47 to achieve the target with 25 balls to spare.

Suryakumar put on 56 runs with left-hander Tilak Varma, who hit 31 before being bowled by Saim Ayub.

The captain stood firm and hit the winning six as Indian fans celebrated at a stadium, which had lot of empty seats, and the players from both teams went off without handshakes.

India's bowlers set up the dominant win as Axar, who took 2-18, and Kuldeep combined to rattle the opposition batting, which suffered from a lack of partnerships.

Hardik Pandya struck in the first over to dismiss opener Ayub for a golden duck and fellow quick Jasprit Bumrah sent back wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Haris for three.

Sahibzada Farhan, who top-scored with 40, attempted to rebuild the innings along with Fakhar Zaman, who made 17, in a partnership of 39.

Axar broke the stand with his left-arm spin as he got Zaman caught out and in his next over had skipper Salman Agha out for three.



Residents of Char Ashardiya in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila are now living under open skies after the Padma devoured their homesteads. Over the past three weeks, river erosion has claimed more than 100 homes. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Nepal PM vows to meet protesters' anti-graft calls

Terms violence during protests 'criminal acts'; death toll rises to 72

AGENCIES

Nepal's new leader yesterday vowed to follow protesters' demands to "end corruption" as she began work as interim prime minister, after "Gen Z" youth demonstrations ousted her predecessor.



Sushila Karki, the 73-year-old former chief justice, has been tasked with restoring order and addressing protesters' demands for a corruption-free future ahead of elections in six months.

"We have to work according to the thinking of the Gen Z generation," Karki said in her first public comments since taking office on Friday. "What this group is demanding is the end of corruption, good governance and economic equality," she added.

Karki held a minute's silence yesterday

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