

Separate SC secretariat nearing completion
Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday said the long-awaited move to establish a separate Supreme Court secretariat is nearing completion to ensure judicial autonomy.

“We are now moving towards ending dual administration over postings, transfers, and discipline of lower court judges. This will enshrine true autonomy, a long overdue structural correction,” he said while addressing a regional seminar on “Judicial Independence and Efficiency in Bangladesh” in Barishal.

Marking the first anniversary of his reform roadmap, the chief justice

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Multiple slow-moving vans plying the Dhaka-Aricha highway in direct violation of traffic rules. One van is carrying bags of grain, while the other two are loaded with steel rods protruding from the front and back, posing risk of an accident at any moment. The photo was taken recently in the Hemayetpur area of Savar upazila.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Climate disruptions threatening women’s health: study
Experts propose three intervention packages

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With extreme climate events like floods and cyclones, and chronic stressors such as salinity intrusion and water scarcity affecting women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), experts have proposed three climate-resilient intervention packages.

The Climate Change and Health Promotion Unit (CCHPU) of the Health Ministry, along with Ipas Bangladesh, developed the packages based on findings from two recent studies.

The proposed interventions focus on community-based, facility-based, and shelter-based approaches.

The findings and packages were presented yesterday at a programme titled “Dissemination on Impact of Climate Change on Women’s and Girls’ SRHR: Developing Critical Evidence and Designing Intervention Strategy and Package to Overcome Challenges in Bangladesh” at the DGHS auditorium in Dhaka. At the event, researchers shared the results of two qualitative studies conducted by Ipas Bangladesh with Naripokkho.

The studies, based on interviews with community health workers, SRHR and climate experts, and women aged 15-49, were carried out between July 2020 and June 2021 in Dakop upazila of Khulna, and between August 2024 and May 2025 in Belkuchi of Sirajganj, Nikli of Kishoreganj, and two Dhaka slums in Mirpur and Lalbagh.

The research noted that entrenched gender inequality, economic dependency, and limited autonomy make women and girls vulnerable, and these disadvantages are worsened by climate change.

Barriers such as restricted mobility, financial

Barriers such as restricted mobility, financial dependency, and poor access to services limit women’s and girls’ ability to seek sexual and reproductive health and rights care, particularly during climate disruptions.

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Ensure women, youth participation in politics

Speakers urge parties at CGS discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties must ensure greater participation of women and youths in the political process, including nominations in the upcoming national election, for the country’s progress, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They noted that although women and youths have been active in various movements, their decision-making roles within parties remain minimal.

The discussion, “Inclusive Politics: Women and Youth’s Pathways to Leadership,” was organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) in partnership with the Netherlands Embassy at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies in Dhaka.

Speakers said youth involvement is vital for building future leadership, while women’s involvement is essential for their political empowerment.

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said, “The ball is in the court of political parties to ensure inclusivity.”

Investing more in women, ending their deprivation, and creating more opportunities for them are imperative for the country’s progress, said Badiul, also a member of National Consensus Commission.

Netherlands Ambassador to Bangladesh Joris van Bommel

said, “Inclusive politics is part of a mature democracy.”

Saying Bangladesh is passing through a “time of transition”, he called for inclusivity, genuine dialogue, and removing barriers to youth participation.

He said genuine dialogue that incorporates diverse voices – including youths, women, and marginalised groups – will help Bangladesh move forward.

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BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR
Member, National Consensus Commission

Former ambassador Nasim Ferdous said political parties must not only include more women but also uphold their dignity, which is crucial for their advancement.

She suggested strengthening various leadership training programmes for the youth to create future leaders.

Prof Tania Haque of Women and Gender Studies at Dhaka University said a “hegemonic muscular power” is creating a barrier to women’s political participation.

Hema Chakma, a member of Dhaka University Central Students’ Union, said character assassination and cyberbullying are obstacles for women to get involved in politics.

National Citizen Party Joint Convener Khaled Saifullah echoed her, saying there has been a “smear campaign” against young political leaders and activists to belittle them.

Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Rashna Imam said bullying and character assassination against women continue due to a lack of strict law enforcement.

She said the lack of family support is also holding women back from political participation.

Former lawmaker Nazmul Haque Prodhan, Jatiya Party General Secretary Shameem Haider Patwary, Gonoforum Acting President Subrata Chowdhury, and Gono Odhikar Parishad General Secretary Rashed Khan also spoke, among others.

Tarique to return within weeks to lead BNP: Zahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member AZM Zahid Hossain yesterday said Tarique Rahman, the party’s acting chairman, will return to Bangladesh within weeks to lead BNP’s election process and the “final stage of restoring democracy”.

He was speaking to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Responding to a question on the party’s election strategy, Zahid said BNP leaders and activists are actively campaigning across the country with Tarique Rahman’s 31-point programme.



Seek Interpol red notices against S Alam, 2 brothers
Court asks ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to issue a red alert through Interpol against S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam and his two brothers in a case filed over acquiring Tk 104.20 crore by corrupt means. The two brothers are Abdus Samad and Mohammad Abdullah Hasan.

ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Munabil Haq submitted an application to Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge’s Court in this regard.

He said S Alam and his two brothers created a fake company named AM Trading, through which they prepared and used forged documents. They allegedly misappropriated Tk 104.20 crore in the name of loans. They also laundered and transferred this amount, converting it into Tk 340 crore, in favour of S Alam Super Edible Oil.

Akhter files case in New York

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NCP Member Secretary Akhter Hossen has filed a case following the egg attack on him in New York, allegedly by individuals affiliated with the Awami League.

Akhter confirmed the information in a video message posted on his Facebook profile yesterday.

He said the case was lodged at a police station near the airport in New York. The decision to file the case was made following consultations with New York police, he added.

The incident occurred at the John F Kennedy International Airport on Monday, when NCP leaders Akhter and Dr Tasnim Jara reached the US to attend the United Nations General Assembly.



While children play inside Kalabagan Shishu Park, trash collectors dump and sort waste on the street outside before moving it to a garbage depot next to the field, exposing them to foul odour and pollution in one of the capital’s few leisure spaces.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DURGA PUJA
Police on highest alert to ensure security: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies have taken comprehensive measures across the country so that Hindu devotees can celebrate Durga Puja in a peaceful and secure environment, said Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam yesterday.

He, however, admitted that a few incidents of idol vandalism had been reported during the preparatory phase of the festival.

“We took immediate action in those cases, and in some instances, cases have already been filed. We are not neglecting anything – whenever such incidents occur, prompt measures are taken,” said the IGP while speaking to reporters after visiting a puja mandap in Old Dhaka’s Banglabazar area.

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