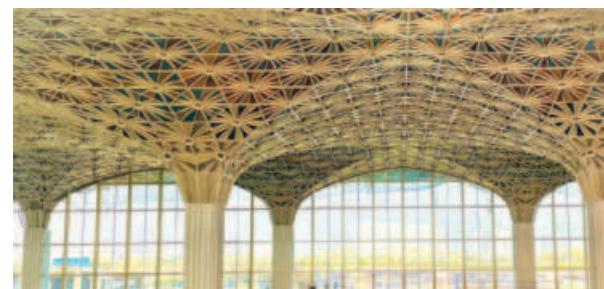




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PHQ gets ICT warrants for 25 former, serving military officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters has received the International Crimes Tribunal's order to execute arrest warrants against 32 people, including 25 serving and retired army officers, accused in two cases related to enforced disappearances and another to killings during the July uprising.

The order arrived on Thursday, Assistant Inspector General (Media) AHM Sahadat Hossaine said yesterday.

He could not confirm whether the arrest warrants had been dispatched to the police stations concerned because yesterday was the weekend.

"It is routine work, and those warrants are supposed to be dispatched by this time," he said.

When asked, AKM Alamgir Jahan, officer-in-charge of Dhaba Cantonment Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday evening that they were yet to receive any arrest warrants issued by the ICT from the Police Headquarters.

In both cases of enforced

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Include proposal of PR system in the referendum Demands Jamaat leader Porwar at a city rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami, calling for a referendum in November to implement the July Charter, has demanded that a proposal for the introduction of a proportional representation (PR) system in the national election be incorporated in the referendum.

"If the people support the PR system in the referendum, all parties must accept it. If the majority reject it, Jamaat-e-Islami will also accept the decision. But the PR system cannot be ignored without seeking the people's opinion," Jamaat Secretary General Md Golam Porwar said while addressing a rally in the capital yesterday.

"We urge the government and the consensus commission to reach an agreement on the PR system before signing the July Charter to fulfill the nation's aspirations."

The rally and subsequent procession were held near the South Gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers as part of the second phase of a simultaneous movement launched by several parties, mainly Islamists. They are demonstrating over a five-point demand, including full implementation of the July Charter and holding the next election under the PR system.

In mid-September, seven political parties, including Jamaat and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, held a three-day joint programme to press home the demands.

The parties also carried out campaigns across the country from October 1 to 9 to drum up support for their demands.

Rallies and processions were also held in all divisional cities yesterday. Marches and submission of memorandums to deputy commissioners are slated for tomorrow.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

BNP starts screening nomination hopefuls

Races to finalise one candidate per seat by month-end as delay fuels frustration

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has launched intensive meetings with hundreds of nomination hopefuls nationwide, aiming to finalise candidates for the next general election by the end of October, party leaders said.

The high command is assessing popularity, organisational strength, and winning prospects in the selection.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir began joint meetings with aspirants last week. The secretary of the respective division is accompanying him.

All hopefuls from each constituency were called together to send them a signal of unity. One-on-one interviews will follow later, insiders said.

Invitations were sent only to those with "strong local acceptance based on surveys and field reports", said BNP Joint Secretary General Syed Emran Saleh Prince.

About 1,500 aspirants are in the race, according to senior leaders.

Standing committee members have met aspirants from Barishal, Cumilla, and Rajshahi, while Fakhrul has held discussions with those from Khulna Division.

Md Moniruzzaman, joint convener of Satkhira BNP and a hopeful for Satkhira 4, said Fakhrul met aspirants from all four constituencies starting October 7.

"It seems that after about two weeks, the seats with single candidates will receive signals," he said.



Since the BNP is a large party, it is normal to have multiple candidates. Those who do not receive the nomination will be offered positions such as district council or upazila chairman to prevent division.

SYED EMRAN SALEH PRINCE
BNP Joint Secretary General

In Kushtia, district Member Secretary Zakir Hossain said he met Fakhrul last Monday as acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his team are checking different matters about the candidates.

From Bagerhat 3, nomination hopeful Kazi Khairuzzaman said, "They told me to work in my area, and I have been doing so accordingly."

Tarique earlier clarified the party's selection philosophy, saying on October 6, "We want to give the party's nomination to someone from each area who understands local problems and has a connection with the people."

BNP Vice Chairman Abdul Awal Mintoo said the party is close to finalising half of its candidates. "In about 150 of the 300 seats, the party has no difficulty selecting a single candidate. But choosing nominees for the rest is more complicated."

"In some constituencies where there is more than one strong candidate, senior leaders are talking with them."

"Tarique Rahman is privately speaking with local leaders to ensure better coordination in the field. We hope to finish all meetings with aspirants within this month," he added.

To prevent internal rivalry, the BNP leadership assured alternative positions to those not selected.

"Since the BNP is a large party, it is normal to have multiple candidates. Those

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

New species of 'sword dragon' found in UK



AFP, London

A skeleton found on Britain's Jurassic Coast has been identified as a new species of ichthyosaur, a type of prehistoric marine reptile that once ruled the seas, scientists said yesterday.

Comparable in size to a dolphin, the ichthyosaur has been named *Xiphodracon goldencapensis*, or the "Sword Dragon of Dorset", after the English county where the near-complete skeleton was discovered.

It is "the only known example of its kind in existence and helps to fill an important gap in the evolutionary fossil record of ichthyosaurs", the University of Manchester said.

Ichthyosaur expert Dean Lomax, an honorary research fellow at the university, led the three-strong team of paleontologists who carried out the analysis.



Residents suffer greatly navigating the Sarat Chandra Chakraborty Road in Armanitola, Old Dhaka, yesterday when only a brief spell of rain completely flooded the road plagued by poor drainage.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Trump says no reason to meet Xi, threatens tariffs in new rift

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to hike tariffs on Chinese exports and cancel a meeting with President Xi Jinping in a broadside against Beijing that sent markets and relations between the world's largest economies into a spiral.

Trump, due to meet Xi in about three weeks in South Korea, complained on social media about what he characterised as China's plans to hold the global economy hostage after China dramatically expanded its rare earth element export controls on Thursday. China dominates the market for such elements, which are essential to tech manufacturing.

Trump said there was no reason to hold the meeting with Xi that he had previously announced. Beijing had never confirmed the meeting between the leaders.

The remarks signaled the biggest rupture in relations in four months and immediately raised questions about whether an economic détente between Beijing and Washington -- the world's biggest factory and its biggest consumer -- can survive.

Trump, a Republican who has wielded tariffs paid by US importers against friends and foes, said on Friday that he was weighing a "massive" increase in such levies on Chinese-made goods.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Mother, daughter found dead at home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A woman and her daughter were killed, allegedly by burglars, at their house in Ramganj upazila of Lakshmipur on Thursday night.

The criminals also looted 30 bhorti of gold jewellery from the home, Ramganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdul Bari told The Daily Star yesterday.

The deceased are Julekha Begum, 55, wife of businessman Mizanur Rahman, and their daughter Tanha Akhter Mim, 18, a college student, of Paschim Srirampur village in Chandpur union, said the OC.

According to police and locals, Mizanur is a well-known businessman at Sonapur Bazar. He, along with his son Forhad, was at the bazar when the incident occurred.

Mizanur said he called his wife's mobile phone several times in the evening but found it switched off. Around 9:00pm, Forhad returned home and found the doors open.

He went upstairs and found their throat-slitted bodies in a room. Later, neighbours informed the police.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (Raipur Circle) Jamilul Haque said the filing of a case was underway.

Seven die as quakes strike Philippines

AFP, Mati

Two powerful quakes struck off the southern Philippines on Friday, killing at least seven people and triggering tsunami warnings.

The biggest of the quakes, with a magnitude of 7.4, hit about 20km off Manay town in the Mindanao region just before 10:00am (0100 GMT), according to the United States Geological Survey.

An aftershock with a magnitude of 6.7 rocked the same area almost 10 hours later, one of scores that followed the morning quake.

Both came 11 days after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake killed 75 people and injured more than 1,200 in Cebu province in the central Philippines, according to official data.

Three miners tunnelling for gold were killed when a shaft collapsed in the mountains west of Manay during the larger quake, rescue official Kent Simeon of Pantukan town told AFP.

One miner was pulled out alive and several others were injured in the remote hamlet of Gumayan, he said.

"Some tunnels collapsed, but the miners managed to get out," Simeon said.