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Some displaying 'arrogance of power without being in power'
Says Jamaat ameer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Some individuals are "displaying the arrogance of power without being in power" and weaving conspiracies ahead of the upcoming election, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said yesterday.

"You may tear down posters on the road, but you cannot tear down the ones in the heart," he said, condemning attacks on political campaigns.

Speaking at the Khulna divisional rally of the like-minded eight parties at Shibbari intersection in the afternoon, he criticised those who "cling to the 1972 Constitution". He accused them of attempting to undermine the legacy of the late president Ziaur Rahman.

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People attend a divisional rally organised by Jamaat-e-Islami and seven like-minded parties at the Shibbari intersection in Khulna city yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Country sees sharp rise in HIV cases

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The country witnessed the highest ever year-on-year rise in new HIV cases over the last one year since 2000, a new document shows, raising serious public health concerns.

Some 1,891 new cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) were recorded from November last year to October this year, which is 453 more than the preceding year.

The rise in cases came even though the number of HIV tests fell by around two lakh compared to the preceding year, according to the HIV/AIDS Situation Report 2025 published yesterday.

The country logged 254 deaths from HIV infections during the November-October period, down from 326 in the preceding year.

Experts and officials suggested expanding HIV testing and treatment services, strengthening coordination between government and community-based organisations, and increasing community-level awareness about HIV.

The National AIDS/STD Control Programme of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) revealed the data at an event at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital auditorium, marking World AIDS Day yesterday.

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HIV attacks the body's immune system, weakening its ability to fight infections and diseases, and if left untreated, can lead to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

In Bangladesh, the first HIV case was detected in 1989. The total number of HIV-positive cases stood at 14,313 till this year. Of them, 2,666 died.

Health officials said around 18 percent of those potentially living

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Ships carrying hundreds of tourists set sail for the St Martin's Island from Cox's Bazar yesterday morning, marking the start of the tourist season after months of restrictions.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PM, not the president, to pick IGP

Revised police commission draft law says home ministry to keep promotion, transfer authority

BAHARAM KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The revised draft of the Police Commission Ordinance 2025 has dropped the clause that allowed the commission to recommend a three-member panel for the appointment of the inspector general of police (IGP).

The earlier draft had also given the commission authority over promotions, postings and accountability, but several of those functions have now been curtailed.

This means the powers of promotions and postings will remain with the home ministry as before, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

The changes were finalised at a special meeting at the home ministry yesterday, attended by Home Adviser Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul, Food Adviser Ali Imam Majumder, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan, special assistant to the chief adviser Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, along with the cabinet secretary, principal secretary and home secretary.

The meeting followed Saturday's directive from the special advisory council to resubmit the ordinance in a more detailed and revised form.

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12 parties sign children's rights manifesto

BNP, Jamaat, NCP among those backing UNICEF's roadmap for safer, healthier childhoods

NILIMA JAHAN

Twelve political parties yesterday endorsed a child rights manifesto outlining 10 non-negotiable commitments co-created by children and young people and supported by UNICEF ahead of the 2026 national election.

The signing ceremony at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar came amid growing calls for stronger protection of children's rights.

Representatives from the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, Jatiya Party, Amar Bangladesh Party, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Gano Forum, Ganosamhati Andolon, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Khelafat Majlis, and Nagorik Oikya agreed to the roadmap aimed at improving children's nutrition, safety, education, health, and overall wellbeing.

The manifesto outlines practical steps to address the country's most urgent child rights challenges: strengthening education, skills, nutrition, and primary healthcare; creating safer communities free from violence and hazardous child labour; tackling child poverty; improving coordination and monitoring across government; and confronting the growing climate threats to children's futures.

It calls for a child-focused budget, urging the government to prioritise social sector allocations and gradually raise spending to 5 percent of GDP for both education and primary healthcare, as recommended globally.

Bangladesh currently spends less than 2 percent of GDP on education and 1 percent on health, among the lowest globally, with nearly half of allocated funds going unutilised.

According to the manifesto, evidence shows

MANIFESTO GOALS

- Strengthening education, skills, nutrition efforts, and primary healthcare
- Creating communities free from violence, hazardous child labour
- Tackling child poverty, improving coordination and monitoring
- Confronting growing climate threats to children's futures

that every dollar spent on child protection yields ninefold social and economic returns, underscoring the urgency of aligning national budgets with these priorities.

By signing, the parties pledged to embed these commitments in policies and election agendas and act on them if elected. Verified national data underpins each commitment, showing where the rights and wellbeing of Bangladesh's nearly 35 percent child population are most vulnerable.

The Manifesto outlines clear, achievable changes for children today that will drive human capital development and result in a stronger Bangladesh tomorrow," said Rana Flowers, UNICEF representative in Bangladesh. "Unlike other manifestos, these commitments

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ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন



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সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের এলাকায় সম্পত্তি কর্পোরেশনের অনুমতি ব্যক্তি বিভিন্ন স্থানে ব্যানার, ফেস্টুল, পোস্টার এবং ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন স্থাপনায় বিজ্ঞাপন, সাইনবোর্ড ও নির্বাচনী প্রচারণার প্রচারণত ইত্যাদি স্থাপন করা হয়েছে। যা 'দেওয়াল লিখন ও পোস্টার লাগানো (নিয়ন্ত্রণ) আইন, ২০১২' এর পরিপন্থী।

একটি পরিচ্ছন্ন ও সুন্দর নগরী গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকার অনুমতিবিহীন সকল ব্যানার, ফেস্টুল, পোস্টার, বিজ্ঞাপন, সাইনবোর্ড ও নির্বাচনী প্রচারণত ইত্যাদি স্ব-উদ্যোগে অপসারণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভিন্ন সংগঠন/ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে অনুরোধ করা হলো। অন্যথায় সংশ্লিষ্ট সংগঠন/ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে প্রয়োজনীয় আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

আদেশক্রমে

কর্তৃপক্ষ

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