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Govt urges Meta to act against violence-inciting content

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) has urged Meta to take urgent action to prevent the misuse of its platforms to incite violence and destabilise society amid ongoing political unrest in Bangladesh.

In a letter sent on Friday to senior Meta officials, including those responsible for Facebook, the regulator said the country is passing through a critical period marked by violence following a mass uprising.

"We write to you during a critical period in Bangladesh, where ongoing political unrest has led to widespread violence and instability," the letter said.

It said that following the uprising — in which over 1,400 students reportedly died and thousands were injured — Bangladesh is undergoing a fragile political transition, with an interim government

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Fishermen unload fresh hilsa at Fishery Ghat on the Karnaphuli in Chattogram city yesterday. Sold through auction at the ghat, the fish will then reach consumers via retailers. Depending on size and quality, hilsa is currently trading at Tk 15,000 to Tk 30,000 per maund in the wholesale market.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

7 held over mob killing of RMG worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested seven people in connection with the killing of Dipu Chandra Das by a mob in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh, the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said yesterday.

The arrestees are Md Limon Sarkar, 19; Md Tarek Hossain, 19; Md Manik Mia, 20; Ershad Ali, 39; Nijum Uddin, 20; Alamgir Hossain, 38; and Md Miraj Hossain Akon, 46.

Rab-14 arrested the suspects during raids carried out at different locations, the statement said.

Dipu, 27, a garment worker, was beaten to death by the mob on Thursday night over allegations of "hurting religious sentiments".

Citing a factory official, Mymensingh district police's Additional Superintendent, Abdullah Al Mamun said a group of workers started beating Dipu inside the factory over allegations of "derogatory remarks about Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH)" around 8:00pm.

Factory sources said the attackers dragged Dipu out of the factory, after which local residents also joined the assault, killing him on the spot. They later set his body on fire, leaving it partially burnt.

BNP blames the govt inaction for spate of attacks

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has blamed the interim government for a spate of attacks, vandalism and arson across the country, alleging that a section within the administration is seeking to destabilise Bangladesh ahead of the upcoming election.

Party leaders pointed to a series of violent incidents, including attacks on the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, the Indian Assistant High Commission and its staff residences, the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, and damage to the Udichi office.

They said these incidents have raised serious questions about the effectiveness and impartiality of law enforcement agencies.

"The government cannot ignore these incidents, which are clearly part of a wider attempt to destabilise the country," a senior leader said during a Standing Committee meeting held on Friday night. Acting chairman Tarique Rahman presided over the meeting virtually from London at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

BNP leaders warned that such violence could plunge the country into chaos and ultimately benefit the Awami League. They also said the killing of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi, a July uprising frontliner, is being used to sabotage the election environment. Hadi,

convener of Inqilab Moncho, was an aspiring independent candidate for the Dhaka-8 seat.

According to the BNP, a group is deliberately creating "chaos" to prevent the national election from being held in February. "There are forces working to disturb the election, and it is vital that the government responds with the necessary strength to ensure a peaceful election process," another senior leader said.

The Standing Committee discussed how the deteriorating law and order situation could derail the country's democratic transition, expressing concern that the government's failure to act decisively is fuelling unrest.

"It seems that some sections are deliberately trying to worsen the situation in the lead-up to Tarique Rahman's return to Bangladesh," said one Standing Committee member, adding that Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's commitment to holding the election in February is being obstructed by those seeking to delay the process.

BNP Standing Committee member Mirza Abbas, at a party meeting in Dhaka, questioned the motive behind the violence ahead of Tarique's return.

"Our leader Tarique Rahman announced that he would be coming to Bangladesh... After that announcement, a murder took place, followed by a series of incidents one

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Dredgers lift sand from the Bangshi river in Savar's Nayyerhat area. According to locals, a group of influential people has been operating an illegal sand business for years by occupying a section of the river, harming the ecosystem and narrowing the waterway. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Celebrating empathy and kindness

Valerie Ann Taylor, Moralogy Foundation receive Shomman Kindness Awards



STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Shomman Kindness Award, while The Moralogy Foundation of Japan received the Shomman Kindness Lifetime Achievement Award.

The awards were presented by the Shomman Foundation at the "International Congress on Kindness, Moral Values and Its Impacts on Happiness," held at a hotel in the capital.

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Abolish NTMC, take surveillance power away from home ministry

Say 94 citizens in a joint statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of 94 citizens yesterday called for the complete abolition of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) and urged the interim government to approve the draft Telecommunication (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 without placing surveillance powers to home ministry.

In a joint statement, the signatories said Bangladesh is currently undergoing a process of justice, reform and elections, which includes reforms of laws and policies.

However, despite stakeholder participation in drafting new ordinances and amending existing laws, public opinions are being consistently ignored.

In line with the aspirations of the July uprising, the interim government had published the draft Bangladesh Telecommunication (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, proposing the permanent removal of the government's power to shut down the internet and major reforms to the existing surveillance framework.

The proposals reflected public demands for safeguards against abuse of power, the statement said.

The citizens referred to longstanding allegations of human rights violations, unlawful and unchecked surveillance and enforced disappearances linked to the NTMC.

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Khaleda stable, remains in ICU

Says BNP media cell

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia remains in stable condition in the intensive care unit of Evercare Hospital in Dhaka, where she has been receiving treatment for the last 27 days, the BNP media cell said last night.

Dr AZM Zahid Hossain, personal physician of the former prime minister, said a small medical procedure was successfully carried out on Khaleda on Friday.

She is now receiving treatment in a Critical Care Unit cabin with ICU facilities, under the supervision of a medical

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