



Rights groups condemn attacks on media, culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of international and regional human rights and digital rights organisations yesterday condemned the December 19 attacks on the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star and Chhayanaut.

The incidents pose a “grave escalation” against freedom of expression and democratic participation in Bangladesh.

In a joint statement, Access Now, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Human Rights Watch, International Truth and Justice Project, Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka and Tech Global Institute said the violent attacks posed a serious threat to independent journalism, cultural life and civic space.

The signatories also expressed particular alarm over the erosion of the rule of law ahead of the 2026 national election.

They highlighted the killing of Sharif Osman Hadi, an aspiring independent candidate from Dhaka 8, and reports that Dipu Chandra Das was beaten to death and burned in Mymensingh following allegations of “derogatory remarks” about religion.

Journalists and staff were trapped inside the burning premises, facing grave risks to their lives.

The temporary suspension of both print and online editions marked an “unprecedented disruption” to Bangladesh’s media landscape.

Significantly, the statement criticised the state’s failure

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Workers preparing a stage in the capital’s 300 Feet area to hold a reception for BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman. He is expected to address party leaders, activists, and supporters.

PHOTO: PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tarique to register as voter Dec 27

Says Salahuddin after BNP delegation meets CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman is slated to register as a voter on December 27, shortly after returning to Bangladesh from London on December 25.

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed confirmed the development after meeting Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the latter’s office.

Talking to reporters, he said that December 26 is a Friday, and Tarique will complete all formalities related to voter registration and obtaining his national ID on December 27.

EC officials said Tarique has not registered as a voter, but he may do so if the Election Commission permits.

The official explained that under

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Electric three-wheelers must be regulated

Say speakers at CPD event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the large number of electric three-wheelers (E3Ws) already plying the streets and providing livelihoods for thousands, experts and officials yesterday said the only option is to integrate them into the public transport



system under strict regulations.

They were speaking at a dissemination programme of the study titled “Integrating Electric Three-Wheelers into the Urban Transport Network: Challenges and Way Forward”, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at its Dhanmondi office.

CPD Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem and Programme Associate Khalid Mahmud carried out the study.

Citing media reports, Mahmud, who also presented their study findings, said that 40 to 60 lakh E3Ws are in operation across the country and nearly 90 percent of them are locally made.

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‘Alarming’ medicine shortages in Gaza

Says the enclave’s health ministry citing Israeli restrictions

AGENCIES

Gaza’s ministry of health has appealed for increased drug, medical consumables and laboratory supplies, warning of severe shortages after more than two years of Israel’s genocidal war against the Palestinian people in Gaza and a crippling blockade.

The ministry said on Sunday evening that the shortages were making it difficult to provide diagnostic and treatment services.

Doctors in the war-ravaged Palestinian territory have long warned that they are struggling to save lives because Israel is not allowing the most essential medical supplies in.

During Israel’s genocidal war, which has spanned more than two years, nearly all of Gaza’s hospitals and healthcare facilities were attacked, with at least 125 health facilities damaged, including 34 hospitals, reports Al Jazeera online.

“The number of items completely out of stock on the essential medicines list has reached 321, representing a 52 percent shortage,” the health ministry said in a statement.

“The number of items completely out of stock on the medical consumables list has reached 710, representing a 71 percent shortage. The shortage rate for laboratory tests and blood bank supplies has reached 59 percent,” it added.

The most critical drug shortages are



Essential drug shortage hits 321 items, a 52pc gap

Shortage of lab, blood supplies hits 59pc

Israel demolishes residential building in Jerusalem

in emergency services, particularly life-saving intravenous solutions, intravenous antibiotics, and pain killers, the ministry said.

32 citizens demand justice for Hadi

Call for probe into attacks on Star, Prothom Alo, Chhayanaut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-two eminent citizens yesterday demanded the immediate arrest of the killers of Sharif Osman Hadi and credible investigations into the recent attacks on media outlets and cultural organisations.

In a joint statement, the signatories expressed deep indignation over the killing of Hadi, spokesman for Inquilab Monch, and what they described as “pre-planned” attacks on Prothom Alo, The Daily Star, Chhayanaut and Udichi.

They warned that such incidents threaten the electoral environment ahead of the next parliamentary polls.

“We observe with deepest indignation, surprise and concern that the interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus had promised to gift the nation a participatory, festive and transparent election,” the statement said.

On December 12, a day after the election schedule was announced, Hadi, an independent candidate for Dhaka-8, was shot in the capital’s Bijoy Nagar area, in what the statement described as a “barbaric attack”.

Referring to police reports that the main accused in the murder had managed to flee abroad, the citizens

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NCP labour wing leader shot in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The divisional convener of Sramik Shakti, the labour wing of the National Citizen Party, was shot in Khulna yesterday.

Mohammad Motaleb Sikder, 42, is undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital and is currently out of danger. Doctors confirmed that the bullet did not penetrate his head.

According to police and NCP leaders, Motaleb was shot around 11:30am at a rented house near Al-Aqsa Mosque under Sonadanga Police Station in the city.

Locals said the house was rented in November by a man and a woman, who introduced themselves as husband and wife. They said Sikder regularly visited the house.

Confirming the incident, Sonadanga Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that a bullet grazed Sikder’s skull, leaving him injured.

Khulna Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner (South) Md Tajul Islam said police found the house locked when they arrived

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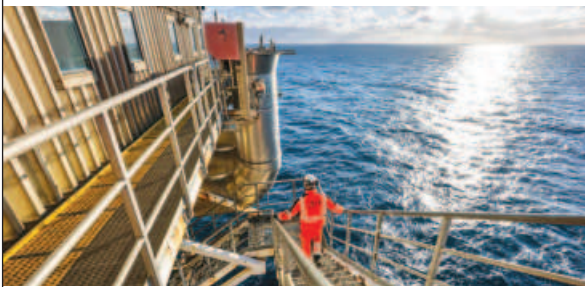
An investigator works at the scene where Lieutenant General Fanil Sarvarov, head of the Russian General Staff’s army operational training directorate, was reportedly killed in a car bomb in Moscow, Russia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

CO2 soon to be buried under North Sea oil platform

AFP, Esbjerg

In the North Sea where Denmark once drilled for oil, imported European carbon dioxide will soon be buried under the seabed in a carbon capture and storage (CCS) project nearing completion.



CCS technology is one of the tools approved by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to curb global warming, especially for reducing the CO2 footprint of industries like cement and steel that are difficult to decarbonise.

But the technology is complex and costly. Led by British chemicals giant Ineos, the Greensand project 170 kilometres (105 miles) off the Danish coast consists of a deep, empty reservoir beneath a small, wind-swept oil platform in the North Sea.

In its first phase due to begin in the next few months, Greensand is slated to store 400,000 tonnes of CO2 per year.