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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE VICTIMS

75% from Jamaat, 68% of still missing are from BNP

Says commission of enquiry in final report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-five percent of the victims of enforced disappearance were members of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir, while 68 percent of those who never returned belonged to the BNP and its allied organisations, according to the final report of the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

Submitted yesterday to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, the report lays bare the political character of enforced disappearances during the Awami League's 15-year rule, revealing how different opposition groups suffered distinct forms of repression.

The commission received 1,913 complaints related to disappearances. After verification, 1,569 were recognised as cases of enforced disappearance, including 287 classified as "missing and dead". A total of

"Given the centralised style of decision-making during this period, and the degree of coordination required across agencies, it is difficult to conceive that such a system could have functioned for over a decade without the awareness of Sheikh Hasina and those immediately around her."

The report read

1,282 victims later resurfaced after varying periods in illegal detention.

Yet, the commission estimates between 4,000 and 6,000 disappearances may have occurred between 2009 and 2024. It cited underreporting, fear of reprisals, and victims leaving the country as the reasons behind the reported figure being low.

"Together, opposition aligned organisations account for approximately 96.7 percent of all victims with known political identity. Ruling party affiliates appear only marginally.

"This pattern indicates that disappearances and related abuses were not politically neutral, but disproportionately affected individuals associated with opposition politics," the report said.

The commission further noted that such a system could not have endured for over a decade without political sanction at the very top.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A total of 273 people, including 10 members of a human trafficking syndicate, were detained by the Bangladesh Navy while attempting to travel illegally to Malaysia on a wooden boat on Saturday night. The detainees were intercepted in the Bay of Bengal near St Martin's Island. Story on page 4.

PHOTO: COURTESY

ROs cancel 723 nominations after scrutiny

BNP, Jamaat, CPB aspirants among those disqualified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Returning officers have cancelled 723 nominations out of 2,568 submitted across the country, the Election Commission (EC) said yesterday.

EC Public Relations Officer Ruhul Amin Mollah disclosed the figures in the evening, noting that the nomination papers submitted on behalf of recently deceased BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia from three constituencies were excluded from the count.

Officials said most of the cancelled nominations belonged to independent candidates, primarily due to discrepancies in voter signatures. Independent aspirants must submit signatures from at least one percent of voters in their constituencies to qualify. Other grounds for cancellation included errors in affidavits, concealment of information, loan defaults, dual citizenship complications, and



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similar irregularities.
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SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

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This year, 28 percent of nominations were scrapped, slightly higher than in 2024 (27 percent) and 2018 (25.64 percent).

After scrutiny, the highest number of aspirants survived in Dhaka-5, with 14 candidates; followed by 11 each in Dhaka-9, Dhaka-12, Brahmanbaria-2, Noakhali-5 and Noakhali-6; and 10 each in Natore-1, Sirajganj-6, Khulna-1, Dhaka-7, Dhaka-16, Dhaka-17, Gazipur-2, Narayanganj-3, Narayanganj-4, Gopalganj-3, Madaripur-1, Brahmanbaria-1, Brahmanbaria-5 and Brahmanbaria-6.

Meanwhile, only two candidates each cleared scrutiny in Nilphamari-3, Bogura-6, Rajshahi-4, Rajshahi-5, Pirojpur-1, Sherpur-2, Netrakona-5, Dhaka-2 and Chattogram-3.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Business leaders call on BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan, Dhaka yesterday evening.

PHOTO: BNP MEDIA CELL

Business
leaders call
on Tarique
Express concerns
over law and order
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top industrialists and business leaders expressed concerns over Bangladesh's deteriorating law and order situation during a meeting with BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman at the party's Gulshan office yesterday.

From gas and electricity shortages to instability in law and order, rising interest rates, and unpredictable tax policies -- business leaders said these persistent challenges are stifling investment and threatening economic growth.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bangladesh won't travel to India for T20 WC

BCB requests ICC to relocate matches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday confirmed that it will not send the national team to India for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, considering the safety and security of the Bangladesh contingent in India.

In a press statement issued following an emergency meeting of the BCB Board of Directors yesterday afternoon, the BCB also requested the game's governing body, International Cricket Council (ICC), to consider



relocating Bangladesh's matches outside India.

The 10th edition of the T20 World Cup, jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka, is set to begin on February 7, with Bangladesh scheduled to play

their four group stage matches in India.

The board's decision comes within a day of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman being released by Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on the instructions of the Board of Control for

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Venezuela VP to pay 'big price'

Trump warns Rodriguez if she doesn't
'do what's right'; 40 Venezuelans
killed in Saturday's strikes

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday threatened that Venezuela's interim leader Delcy Rodriguez will pay a "very big price" if she doesn't cooperate with the United States, after US forces seized and jailed her former boss Nicolas Maduro.

"If she doesn't do what's right, she is going to pay a very big price, probably bigger than Maduro," Trump told The Atlantic in a brief telephone interview.

At least 40 people, including civilians and soldiers, were killed during the US military operation, according to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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