



"We are going to do something on Greenland, whether they like it or not."

US President Donald Trump

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Vengeance brings disaster, dialogue is the way

Tarique says at meet with senior journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sustaining the democratic process and ensuring accountability at every level, at any cost, is essential to bringing meaningful changes to the country, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman said yesterday.

Bangladesh must be freed from the politics of vengeance, he said, stressing that political differences should never harden into deep divisions.

"We are facing tough challenges. The democratic process must be kept alive at all costs. We had problems, we have problems, but we do not want to return to the situation before August 5, 2024. Therefore, putting aside our differences, everyone must work



together," Tarique said at an event where he exchanged greetings with editors and journalists at a city hotel.

Recalling moments that shaped his political outlook, he referred to his father's janaza in 1981, his mother's janaza on December 31, 2025, and the events of August 5, 2024.

"So I feel this is not only about me. For the leaders and activists of my party, and for the people of the country as a whole, these examples are perhaps

the clearest reasons why there is absolutely no need to go back to the situation before August 5," he said.

Tarique warned that violence and cycles

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FREE SPEECH KEY TO DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION - PAGE 2

City kitchens go cold amid gas crisis

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Gas supply to thousands of homes in different parts of the capital came to a complete or partial halt yesterday morning after a key valve on a distribution line burst.

The valve explosion in front of Gono Bhaban on Mirpur Road comes on the heels of a leak in a major pipeline under the Turag river last week.

A valve is a mechanical device used to control the flow of gas through a pipeline.

The incident left large swathes of the capital -- particularly Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, New Market, Hazaribagh, Gabtoli, Farmgate, Kazipara and Shewrapara -- with little to no supply yesterday.

To repair the leak, several valves in the distribution network were shut, worsening pressure in Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, New Market, Hazaribagh and surrounding areas, said Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution, which supplied gas through pipelines in Dhaka and surrounding areas, in a press release.

With kitchens rendered near unusable, many families were forced to rely on induction stoves or restaurant food, driving up demand and costs. Long queues were seen in front of eateries across affected neighbourhoods, where customers complained of sudden price hikes.

Abu Kalam, an auto-rickshaw driver in Purba Kazipara, was seen buying lunch for his three-member family from

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MUSABBIR MURDER DB detains 'shooter, 2 others'

TOUSIF KARIM

The Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police has detained three individuals, including an alleged shooter, in connection with the murder of Swechhasebak Dal leader Azizur Rahman Musabbir.

Another suspect involved in the killing has also been identified.

The DB, however, has yet to officially acknowledge the detentions.

The detainees are alleged shooter Zinnat, his associate Riaz and Billal, two senior DB officials and two officers directly involved in the investigation told The Daily Star.

Musabbir, the former general secretary of the

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PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the bti-The Daily Star Stellar Women Award 2025 pose for a photo at the Banquet Hall of the Kurmitola Golf Club last night.

Celebrating women who redefine boundaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve women from diverse backgrounds were honoured yesterday for their exceptional contributions to nation building at the bti-The Daily Star Stellar Women 2025 Gala.

Organised by Building Technology and Ideas Ltd (bti) in association with The Daily Star, the second edition of the Stellar Women Award recognised women for their achievements across professional and social sectors at the banquet hall of Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka Cantonment.

The awardees -- selected in 12 categories, ranging from entrepreneurship and engineering to health, environment and agriculture -- are Nomrota Sarkar (entrepreneurship); Mouri Morium (writing); Kyoko Arani (marketing); Nishat Afrose (architecture -- interior and landscaping); Mabiha Akter (sports); Afsana Louqman (architecture -- residential and commercial); Papi Sarwar Dithi (art and culture); Nusrat Nur Maisha (engineering); Shaila Abedin (finance and banking); Dr Tahsin Ferdous (health); Shah Israt Azmery (environment); and Nasrin Akter Ivy (agriculture).

Speaking at the gala, bti Chairman Arshi Haider said the award initiative reflected the

organisation's commitment to promoting women's leadership and empowerment. "In two years, the Stellar Women programme has received nationwide recognition.

"Through this, if we can make the smallest contribution towards bringing a change, I think it would be one of bti's greatest achievements.... The woman is also the unsung hero of every home.



"... A few years ago, we decided to have this programme, in partnership with the leading English newspaper of the country, the torchbearer of transparency and fearless journalism. Now, fearless journalism has a big price tag, a heavy price -- we all know what

happened on the 18th and 19th of December.... I extend my sympathy to every member of The Daily Star team for the trauma that you have suffered."

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said, "The Stellar Women Awards is one of the most crucial awards for women's emancipation, and I, as a representative of The Daily Star, am very proud to be part of it.

"The Daily Star partners with many organisations and presents several awards each year, but the Stellar Women Award is unique. It recognises professional women for their skills, intelligence, academic achievements and personal courage."

He added, "In our country, when a woman breaks through various obstacles, she is not only talented -- I would say she is super-talented -- because she has to constantly prove her worth. She must break the glass ceiling that prevents her from becoming what she truly is.

"The Stellar Women Award helps women gain recognition, be socially honoured, and, most importantly, build the self-confidence that is absolutely essential. Equally important, it sets an example for others."

Pointing out that women make up half

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Iran protests rage on, crackdown fears grow

AGENCIES

Rights groups yesterday expressed alarm that Iranian authorities were intensifying a deadly crackdown under cover of an internet blackout on the biggest demonstrations in the Islamic republic in over three years after another night of

protests yet on Thursday, new demonstrations took place late Friday, according to images verified by AFP and other videos published on social media.

This was despite an internet shutdown imposed by the authorities, with monitor Netblocks saying early Saturday that "metrics show the nationwide internet

security forces could be preparing to commit a "massacre under the cover of a sweeping communications blackout".

Norway-based Iran Human Rights group has said at least 51 people have been killed in the crackdown so far, but warned the actual toll could be higher.

It posted images it said were of corpses



Son of shah calls for city centres to be seized

Revolutionary Guards declare security a 'red line'

Internet blackout still in place after 36 hours

blackout remains in place at 36 hours".

Amnesty International said it was analysing "distressing reports that security forces have intensified their unlawful use of lethal force against protesters" since Thursday in an escalation "that has led to further deaths and injuries".

Iranian Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi warned on Friday that

of people shot dead in the protests piled on the floor of Alghadir hospital in eastern Tehran.

"These images provide further evidence of the excessive and lethal use of force against protesters," IHR said.

Iranian authorities are using the "most blatant tools of repression", prize-winning filmmakers Mohammad

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'Our stance unchanged'

Bulbul says no word from ICC yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam Bulbul reiterated that the board will remain steadfast on its stance over the security of the Bangladesh contingent for the ICC T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

Speaking at a school cricket event at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday evening, Bulbul said the board is yet to receive any reply from International Cricket Council (ICC) and is awaiting guidance, expected by Monday or thereafter.

"We haven't received any response yet [after a letter to ICC was submitted on Thursday]. We have provided all the links, attachments, and information requested. We are now waiting to see what ICC advises," Bulbul said.

On the question of whether Bangladesh would consider playing at an alternate venue in India, he stressed that the decision ultimately rests with the government.

"Another venue in India is still an Indian venue. The venue itself doesn't matter. But we are not making this

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FIRST DAY OF APPEAL HEARINGS

EC clears 51 to contest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 51 aspirants, including AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad, assistant secretary general of Jamaat, and independent candidate Tasnim Jara, regained their candidacy yesterday as the Election Commission began reviewing appeals against returning officers' decisions.

Returning officers had rejected their nominations after finding issues in their forms during scrutiny. Grounds for cancellation included errors in affidavits, concealment of information, loan defaults, dual citizenship complications, and similar irregularities.

Most challenges sought to overturn rejections, with one appeal instead contesting an accepted nomination.

During the hearings, EC officials approved an appeal by a rival against the decision to accept the nomination of BNP candidate for Brahmanbaria-1, Syed AK Ekramuzzaman, cancelling his candidacy after finding him to be a fugitive from the law.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin led the hearings at the EC headquarters in the capital's Agargaon.

Briefing the media afterwards, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed said, "On the first day, hearings were held on 70 appeals. Of these, 52 appeals were granted, including one challenging the acceptance of a nomination paper. In addition, 15 appeals were rejected, while 3 remain pending."

The EC will complete hearings on a total of 645 appeals by January 18. AHM Hamidur Rahman Azad, Jamaat's candidate from Cox's Bazar-2, regained his nomination after it was cancelled during scrutiny on January 2 due to incomplete information related to cases and punishment.

The EC also cleared Tasnim Jara, an independent candidate for Dhaka-9. Jara, who recently resigned from the National Citizen Party, was rejected by the returning officer based on a mismatch in the signatures from one percent of voters during scrutiny on January 3.

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Hamidur Rahman



Tasnim Jara