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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়



Farmers manually pollinate onion flowers in the Naldanga area of Natore, as excessive pesticide use has driven away bees and butterflies, disrupting natural pollination. Despite this, growers say seeds are forming and will be harvested after drying, with hopes of good prices. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

CITY POLLS

NCP picks Asif for Dhaka South, Adeeb for North

3 other candidates announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday announced mayoral candidates for five city corporations.

For Dhaka South, the party nominated its spokesperson and former interim government adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain.

Senior Joint Convener Ariful Islam Adeeb, who previously contested the Dhaka-18 seat, was named for Dhaka North.

The party also unveiled a five-point demand, including completing all local government elections within six months, barring administrators from contesting, and holding polls without party symbols.

The announcements came at an emergency press briefing at the party's Banglamotor office last night.

For other cities, Jubo Shakti Convener Tarikul Islam was nominated for Cumilla, Rajshahi metropolitan Convener Mobasher Ali for Rajshahi, and Sylhet metropolitan Convener Abdur Rahman Alzal for Sylhet.

NCP Convener and Opposition Chief Whip Nahid Islam expressed concern over the Election Commission, criticising the government's appointment of administrators to city corporations. "The BNP government is politicising local government institutions, bringing them under its control," he said.



Asif

Adeeb

Make ministers answer for policy, output

Tarique directs ruling BNP lawmakers at parliamentary party meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has instructed the health minister to visit hospitals even on government holidays to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services for the public.

He gave the directive at a time when the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) struggles to cope with a surge in measles cases, with infections rising since January and putting additional pressure on already stretched healthcare services.

Tarique also asked ruling BNP lawmakers to work in coordination, remain united in addressing problems, and stay active in their constituencies to ensure prompt service delivery and address public concerns.

The directives came at a parliamentary party meeting of the ruling party held yesterday morning at the Jatiya Sangsad, according to meeting sources.

The country's fuel and energy situation, as well as the law and order situation, was also discussed at the meeting.

Tarique told lawmakers to remain active in their areas so that no one can create artificial crises by exploiting local weaknesses or poor coordination, sources said.

Several MPs stressed the need for close monitoring of supply and stock to

prevent shortages, according to those present at the meeting.

The meeting also discussed ordinances issued during the interim period and matters related to the July Charter.

A proposal was placed to form a committee comprising ruling party MPs, opposition lawmakers, and academics to examine the issue further, sources said.



Leader of the House Tarique Rahman at a meeting of BNP parliamentary party in the parliament yesterday. PHOTO: BNP

The leader of the House also underscored the need for accountability in the way ministries function.

He told those present that ministers must remain answerable not only for policy decisions but also for the overall performance of their offices.

Meeting sources said this was the first time ministers were being made directly

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Fuel crisis deepens amid persistent hoarding

Tanker workers' strike halts supply across 8 northern districts

STAR REPORT

The ongoing fuel crisis has continued to worsen public suffering across the country, even as the government keeps carrying out drives against fuel stockpiling to tackle the situation.

Mobile courts in different districts have recovered large quantities of fuel from hoarders and fined them.

In Gazipur, a mobile court fined Abul Hossain, 65, a fuel trader, Tk 20,000 for illegally stockpiling around 3,000 litres of diesel at a roadside shop along the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Kaliakair upazila early yesterday.

Besides, police seized 880 litres of diesel from a shop at Uttar Salna Porabari area of Gazipur city and detained shop owner Abdur Razzaq, 35, yesterday morning.

In Chattogram, Bangladesh Coast Guard (East Zone) personnel yesterday detained 10 people and seized a fishing trawler from the outer anchorage near Chattogram carrying 22,500 kilogrammes of potatoes and 230 litres of diesel while the items were being smuggled to Myanmar.

In Jashore, a mobile court seized 875



I am unable to till my cropland, as none of my three tractors is operational amid the diesel shortage. I have been going from one filling station to another, but I am yet to get any fuel.

MD JAHID HASAN, a farmer of Islamgati village in Pabna

litres of fuel and 850 litres of lubricant from an unauthorised storage facility in Manirampur upazila on Saturday night.

In Bagerhat, a joint team of the district administration, Bangladesh Navy, Coast Guard and police detected a significant discrepancy in fuel stock at the Mongla Oil Installation of Jamuna Oil Company Limited, leading to the temporary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MOB VIOLENCE

Interim govt failed to curb it due to weakness

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the interim



government had failed to control mob violence because it was weak, adding that since the elected government took office, there have been no such incidents except one or two isolated cases.

"The government is not giving any space to mob violence or disorder," he said, adding that political parties would be allowed to hold meetings and express democratic views through regular means without causing public suffering.

He made the remarks during a courtesy meeting with French Ambassador Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet at the Secretariat, according to a home ministry release.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Army chief leaves for US on official visit

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman left Dhaka on Saturday for the United States on an official visit.

During the trip, he will attend a special lecture in the Senate Chamber and accept an award presented by the Georgia State Capitol in recognition of the commendable contributions of Bangladeshi peacekeepers to United Nations missions, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release yesterday. He is also scheduled to participate in bilateral meetings with US officials concerned.



BTV, Betar, BSS to collaborate with Turkish media

Dhaka, Ankara to sign MoU

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Türkiye have reached a decision in principle to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for knowledge sharing, information exchange and technical cooperation in modern information management.

The decision was made during a bilateral meeting between Professor Burhanettin Duran, director of Türkiye's Presidential Communication Directorate and Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan, held on the sidelines

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

Shwapno files GD 7 months after cyberattack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shwapno, a supermarket chain, has filed a GD with Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, seven months after its customer database was compromised in a cyberattack.

The GD was lodged on March 28 by Md Masum Billah, head of administration and crisis management at ACI Logistics Limited, Shwapno's parent company.

Police confirmed the GD has been transferred to the Detective Branch Cyber Unit.



According to the GD, before August 2025, international cybercriminal groups, including the Qilin ransomware syndicate and LockBit 5.0, targeted Shwapno employees with phishing emails containing malicious links.

On August 19, 2025, around 2:00pm, computers at the head office of ACI Logistics Limited were locked down by ransomware, with attackers from Qilin

SEE PAGE 9 COL 8

'Police threatened crossfire, shot him'

July survivor recounts friend's death in Jatrabari at ICT-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A survivor of the July uprising yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that police opened fire "like rain" on protesters in Dhaka's Jatrabari before allegedly shooting his friend at close range after threatening to stage a "crossfire".

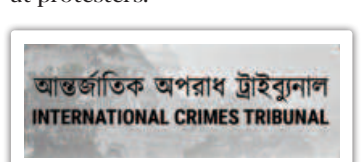
Testifying as the first prosecution witness in a case over the killing of Imam Hasan Bhuiyan Tayim, a 12th grader, on July 20, 2024, Md Rahat Hossain described how he narrowly escaped death while his friend was fatally shot.

Earlier, the tribunal framed charges against 11 former police officers in connection with the killing.

Rahat told the court that he and two friends - Tayim and Shahriar - had joined a protest near the Kajla foot overbridge

during a brief relaxation of a nationwide curfew imposed amid the anti-discrimination student movement.

According to his testimony, hundreds of police advanced from both sides of the road, some in armoured vehicles and others on foot, firing live rounds at protesters.



"Bullets were falling like rain," Rahat said, recalling how people around him screamed and collapsed while trying to flee.

Terrified and disoriented, the three friends ran for cover and took shelter in a roadside tea stall, but it lasted only moments.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

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