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'Step out of line and you'll lose your post'

Tarique tells administrators of 42 zilla parishads

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Tarique Rahman yesterday warned newly appointed administrators of 42 zilla parishads that they would be withdrawn if any allegation of misconduct surfaced against them or if their actions harmed the government's image.



He asked them to stay away from controversial activities and said they must act responsibly so that the opposition does not get any opportunity to criticise the government.

"We will monitor your performance. Those who perform well -- who work with honesty, dedication, and without indulging in corruption, and who do not put the government in an embarrassing situation -- will definitely be evaluated," sources quoted Tarique as saying during a meeting held at the party chairperson's office in Gulshan last night.

Tarique warned that the government's reputation rests, in part, on how responsibly the administrators fulfil their roles.

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Motorcyclists line up at a municipality office in Thakurgaon town yesterday to collect "fuel cards" now mandatory from April 5 amid the ongoing fuel crisis. Similar lines were seen at UNO, municipality, and DC offices in the district as drivers scrambled to secure the required permits.

PHOTO: MD QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

JULY UPRISING CASE

Former DGFI director Afzal on six-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Lt Col Md Afzal Naser, a former director of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and a key figure during the army-backed caretaker government of 2007-08, on a six-day remand in a case filed over the killing of furniture trader Mohammad Delowar Hossain during the July Uprising.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasib Ullah Pias passed the order after detectives produced Afzal before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

According to the police forwarding report, Afzal was arrested as a suspect in the case.

Members of the Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested him early Monday from Mirpur DOHS. This marks the third high-profile arrest linked to the 1/11 regime in recent days.

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RISING FUND DEMAND

Govt to borrow extra Tk 5,000cr

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The government is planning to borrow an extra Tk 5,000 crore on top of its regular borrowing from the financial sector this month as the ruling BNP goes about implementing its election pledges amid low revenue mobilisation.

In the first eight months of the fiscal year, the National Board of Revenue fell short of its collection target by 28 percent, leaving a gap of Tk 71,472 crore, shows provisional data.

Generally, the government borrows funds to finance budget deficits and public expenses by issuing treasury bills (short-term) and bonds (long-term). These debt instruments are sold through the central bank to commercial banks, financial institutions and individual investors, acting as a low-risk investment tool.

As part of its election pledge, the new BNP-led government has introduced several cards and waived off farm loans, which are generating additional demand for funds, said Bangladesh Bank (BB) officials involved with the proceedings. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to speak candidly on the issue.

Subsequently, the BB will hold a special auction of Tk 5,000 crore worth of 91-day treasury bills on April 1.

In the latest auctions, the government borrowed Tk 3,417 crore through 91-day treasury bills, Tk 2,382 crore through 182-day bills and Tk 2,046 crore through 364-day bills, BB data showed.

The rate stood at 9.78 percent for 91-day treasury bills, 9.97 percent for 182-day bills and 10 percent for 364-day bills.

The government generally borrows through special treasury bills when its demand for fund increases, said Md. Ezazul Islam, director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management.

Another reason for the special auction could be the underwhelming revenue collection, he said.

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Bangladesh ready to stand by Qatar

PM writes to emir

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has expressed solidarity with Qatar's leadership, government, and people amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and conveyed its readiness to extend any assistance should the State of Qatar consider it necessary.

The Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser, Humaiun Kobir, yesterday handed over the letter of solidarity from Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani during a meeting with Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, in Doha.

Kobir reached the Qatari capital Sunday as part of his official tour of the Gulf region as the prime minister's special envoy.

"In the letter, the prime minister also conveyed gratitude for measures ensuring the safety and welfare of nearly 450,000 Bangladeshi expatriates in Qatar," according to a statement issued by the foreign ministry yesterday.

The prime minister further recalled with

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Dhaka, Delhi 'move to mend ties'

Experts suggest resolving long-standing issues

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh and India appear to be moving towards improvement in bilateral relations, with both sides signalling a thaw after months of strain that followed the ouster of the Awami League government in August 2024.

The first signal from India was External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's presence at the funeral of Khaleda Zia. Later, Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's attendance at the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's multiple messages to his Bangladesh counterpart Tarique Rahman, and an official invitation for a visit -- all underscore Delhi's intent to reset bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal police arrested three suspects in the killing of Inquilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Hadi.

Dhaka is also signalling positively to mend the ties, with Bangladesh missions in India resuming issuance of all categories of visas for Indian citizens in late February.

On March 20, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Riaz Hamidullah called on

EXPERTS' SUGGESTIONS FOR BOTH SIDES

Counter radical elements, misinformation

Address disputes over water sharing

Introduce joint protocols to stop border killings

Remove trade barriers, negotiate fair deals

Resume all types of visas

Jaishankar, and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. It was Hamidullah's first meeting with Indian ministers since his appointment in April 2025.

"Our conversation was focused on advancing our bilateral ties," Jaishankar wrote on X, sharing an update on the meeting.

Hamidullah affirmed Dhaka's readiness to work with Delhi for mutual benefits. He and Goyal discussed ways to deepen economic cooperation, advance

the broader Bangladesh-India economic partnership, and address trade-related issues.

He also addressed senior military officers at the Indian Army's War College in Madhya Pradesh on March 10, sharing his perspectives on the state of Bangladesh-India relations and ways to address existing issues.

Earlier, Kaiser Rashid Chowdhury, director general of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, visited New Delhi from March 1 to 3, marking the first official visit of a Bangladeshi high up since the BNP assumed office.

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman is likely to meet Jaishankar and several other officials during his visit to India on April 7-8 before traveling to Mauritius to attend the Indian Ocean Conference.

With India emphasising a "forward-looking and people-centric" relationship, these developments indicate both sides' readiness to renew relations, said Lailufar Yasmin, a professor of International Relations at Dhaka University.

The BNP policymakers seem to recognise the importance

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ICT CASE

Ex-CMP chief Abdul Jalil Mondal held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday arrested former additional director general of Rab, Abdul Jalil Mondal, who also served as commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP).



A DB team picked him up from his residence in the capital's Sabujbagh area in the evening.

Confirming the development, DB Joint Commissioner Nasirul Islam told The Daily Star that Mondal had an arrest warrant against him in a case filed with the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in connection to the July uprising.

Abdul Jalil Mondal served as commissioner of CMP from 2014 to 2016. He was later appointed as an additional director general of the Rapid Action Battalion.



Illegally parked buses in the middle of the road obstructing vehicular movement and triggering traffic congestion near the Mohakhali bus stand in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ILO lauds changes in Bangladesh labour laws

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union, United States, and Canada commended Bangladesh's progress in labour law amendments, inspector recruitment, and other areas, while urging further steps to fully implement the reform roadmap, said a statement from the Bangladesh Mission to the UN in Geneva at the 356th ILO Governing Body session yesterday.

In June 2019, during the Awami League government, five worker representatives from the International Trade Union Confederation filed a complaint under Article 26 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention, alleging Bangladesh's failure to comply with Conventions 81, 87, and 98.

In response, the then

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Israeli fire kills four in Gaza, West Bank



WTO conference concludes without major agreements

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B1

Today is the 55th Death Anniversary of S N H Rizvi



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul