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## 'Enforced disappearance ordinance unnecessary'

Says ICT chief prosecutor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal Chief Prosecutor Md Aminul Islam yesterday termed the ordinance on enforced disappearance as "unnecessary", saying the offence was already more effectively covered under the tribunal's existing law.

His remarks came in response to a journalist's query after the parliament passed the International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Bill earlier yesterday, paving the way for trying enforced disappearance cases at the ICT.

"It seems to me that the Enforced Disappearance Ordinance was an unnecessary law. The offence it addresses had already been codified in our [ICT's] laws," he told a media briefing on the tribunal premises.

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A mobile public toilet, specifically for people queuing to purchase fuel at filling stations, stands near the Prime Minister's Office in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday. The Dhaka City Corporation's initiative to ease long waits for fuel is likely to gain traction in the coming days.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## 1972 Constitution not to blame for authoritarian rule

Says Shahdeen Malik, points to its misuse by those in power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Constitution of 1972 was not responsible for authoritarian rule, lack of accountability, or arbitrariness in past years; rather, it was repeatedly misused by those in power, said constitutional expert Dr Shahdeen Malik yesterday.

He made the remarks at a memorial lecture titled "Liberation War and the Constitution of 1972", held at the Liberation War Museum in Agargaon, marking the museum's 30th founding anniversary.

"The authoritarian rule, unaccountable social order, and arbitrariness of the past regime were not the fault of the 1972 Constitution," he said.

He noted that the constitution was drafted through extensive year-long discussion, debate, and exchange of views among elected representatives, who later resigned and called fresh elections -- an example he described as rare globally. "This is the core strength of

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## ACC sets records in probes, convictions in 2025

Experts warn numbers alone don't reflect independence, effectiveness

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) set new benchmarks for inquiries, case filings, and convictions in 2025, though experts warn that numerical growth alone does not guarantee institutional effectiveness.

ACC data shows that 13,877 complaints were lodged between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

The commission initiated investigations into 2,536 of these -- around 18 percent -- marking the highest annual inquiry volume since its inception in 2004. Historically, the ACC investigated only 4 to 5 percent of complaints each year.

In 2024, the commission investigated 1,894 of 15,842 complaints, or 11.95 percent, which was considered a milestone at the time.

Case filings also increased significantly. The ACC filed 594 cases in 2025, the highest in a decade,

naming nearly 3,000 individuals. In comparison, it filed 451 cases in 2024, 348 in 2023, 347 in 2022, 406 in 2021, and 404 in 2020.

Last year, the ACC submitted charge sheets in 413 cases and filed

the attachment of assets worth about Tk 29,310 crore, including Tk 6,137 crore in immovable property and Tk 23,172 crore in movable assets.

Despite these figures, experts



**ACC data shows that 13,877 complaints were lodged between January 1 and December 31, 2025. The commission initiated investigations into 2,536 of these -- around 18 percent -- marking the highest annual inquiry volume since its inception in 2004.**

final reports in 89. It also disposed of 47 complaints and ordered 432 individuals to submit wealth statements.

The conviction rate in disposed cases rose to 52 percent, up from 48 percent in 2024.

The commission also stepped up efforts to seize illegal assets. Based on 370 applications, courts ordered

remain cautious.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said assessing the ACC's success solely on the number of inquiries is not appropriate.

"The past year was exceptional in many respects, particularly in terms

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## 13TH PARLIAMENT

### 'New Bangladesh' vision fading amid old practices

Rumeen Farhana tells JS

**Women are needed at the front of marches; they stand as shields against police tear gas and batons, and they help in times of turmoil. Yet, once everything is settled, women get ridiculed and are treated as objects.**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brahmanbaria-2 MP Rumeen Farhana yesterday strongly criticised the government for appointing party-linked figures to key positions, including the governor of Bangladesh Bank and vice chancellors of several public universities.

Speaking during the thanksgiving motion on the president's address in parliament, she also noted that women had played a leading role in the recent mass uprising to topple the autocratic regime. Yet, she lamented, their presence seems to have faded away.

Speaking about the appointments made by the government, the independent MP said, "In

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### 'BNP holds legacy of 1971, '90, '24' State minister tells JS; opposition demands the 'false claims' be expunged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief adviser of the immediate past interim government, Prof Muhammad Yunus had travelled to London to hand over the "trophy" of the 2024 July-August movement to Tarique Rahman and return with an election date, State Minister for LGRD Mir Shahe Alam said yesterday.

He made the remarks while participating in the thanksgiving motion on the president's speech in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The state minister claimed that the "trophies" of three major political movements in the country -- the 1971 Liberation War, the 1990 mass uprising and the July uprising -- belong to the BNP.

"All three trophies are in our house. Only BNP can showcase such trophies. Awami League can claim 1971 and 1990, but not July-August. The opposition can claim July-August, but not 1971 and 1990," he said.

His remarks drew protests from opposition MPs.

Shahe Alam continued, "Opposition MPs may shout. They can talk about 1990. But in 1986, they

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## 'We brought blood for him, but it was too late'

Mother recounts son's death while testifying at ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"My brother had just brought three bags of blood for my son, but doctors then told us blood was no longer needed. My son had died."

Saying this, Hasi Akter, mother of July uprising victim Rakib Hossain, broke down in tears while testifying as a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case filed over the killing of 28 people in Rampura on July 18-19, 2024, during the uprising.

Hasi, an office assistant at Aftabnagar Power Grid office, said her only son, Rakib Hossain, worked there as a cleaner.

Rakib, who had been participating in the July uprising from the beginning, was shot in the abdomen near the slope of Rampura Bridge, in front of the Aftabnagar gate, during a protest with friends on July 19, and later succumbed to the injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hasi and her son-in-law rushed by rickshaw to Aftabnagar Nagarik Hospital, where they learned he had been shot in the abdomen nearby. He was later transferred to DMCH on doctors' advice.

According to Hasi's testimony, around 9:30am on that day, Rakib's sister Rupa went to his room with breakfast but found him missing. While searching nearby, Hasi learned from her son-in-law

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PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A woman is busy crafting decorative clay items, including plates, pottery, elephants, horses and other figures, ahead of Pahela Baishakh celebrations across the country. She sends finished products to a showroom just outside her family home to maintain a continuous display. The photo was taken at Dumuri village in Rajshahi yesterday.

## 'Implement referendum verdict'

Demands 11-party alliance, announces 7-day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jamaat-e-Islami-led 11-party alliance has announced weeklong programmes demanding the government convene a session of the Constitutional Reform Council for implementing the referendum verdict and preventing "the return of fascism".

The programme, which includes protests, leaflet distribution, and seminars in Dhaka and other metropolitan cities and districts, was announced by Maulana Mamunul Haque, ameer of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, at a press conference at Al-Falah Auditorium yesterday noon.

The announcement came following a meeting of the alliance's top leaders held at Jamaat's central office in Moghbazar earlier in the morning.

According to the announced schedule, leaders and activists of the alliance will carry out leaflet distribution and public outreach programmes nationwide on April 9-15.

In addition, protest programmes will be observed in all metropolitan cities on April 11, and in all districts on April 12.

A national seminar will be held

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