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'Political syndicates behind fuel crisis'

Jamaat ameer calls for buffer stocks, transparent management



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday blamed "political syndicates" for the ongoing fuel supply crisis, along with the impact of the Middle East war centred on Iran.

He alleged that the ruling BNP has long been behind major syndicates in the country, including in the energy sector.

He made the remarks as the chief guest at a seminar titled "Impact of the global energy crisis on Bangladesh's agriculture: ways forward" at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium in the capital. The event was organised by the Agriculturist Forum of Bangladesh.

Describing the energy sector as being in "distress", Shafiqur Rahman said, "Every major syndicate has the backing of the ruling party. That has not changed."

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A father tenderly holds his child, who is receiving treatment for measles symptoms at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital & Institute in Dhaka yesterday. According to the DGHS, one more confirmed death and another suspected measles-related death in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning have brought the total to 24 confirmed measles deaths and 145 suspected deaths since March 15.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Dhaka seeks collective global efforts to tackle energy crisis

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman



has called for collective global action to tackle the ongoing energy crisis, warning that its impacts will persist beyond any short-term ceasefire and pose long-term risks to economics and multilateral cooperation.

He made the call while addressing the 9th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC 2026), under the theme "Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance," in Mauritius on Friday, according to a message received by the ministry yesterday.

"There might be a ceasefire, but the energy issue is not going to be

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532 killed, 2,221 injured in 576 road crashes in March

Says Road Safety Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 532 people – including 66 women and 98 children – were killed, and 2,221 were injured in 576 road accidents across the country in March, said the monthly report of Road Safety Foundation (RSF) released yesterday.

Meanwhile, 14 waterway accidents left 12 people dead, 27 injured, and three missing. Besides, 48 railway accidents killed 67 people and injured 224.

The RSF prepared the report based on information published in nine national dailies, 17 national and regional online news portals, various electronic media outlets, and the RSF's own sources.

Most accidents occurred due to vehicles losing control at high speed, underscoring the need for technology-based monitoring to curb speeding, as well as motivational training for drivers, RSF officials say.

RSF analysis shows that most of the accidents occurred on motorcycles. A total of 204 motorcycle drivers or riders were killed in 219 accidents. Besides, 79 pedestrians were killed, while 66 drivers and assistants died in accidents.

Then 45 bus passengers, 28 riders of trucks, pickups, and tractors, and 46 passengers of private cars and minibuses were dead. At least 94 passengers were killed in three-wheelers, including easy bikes, and CNG-run

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39 die in custody in first 3 months of 2026

Says HRSS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 39 inmates died in prisons across the country in the first three months of this year, according to a quarterly human rights monitoring report by the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

Among the deceased were 16 convicts and 23 undertrial prisoners. Of them, 12 were leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies, while the remaining 27 were general inmates.

The HRSS prepared the January–March 2026 report based on its own findings and reports published in 16 national media outlets.

According to the report, Proloy Chaki, 60, Pabna district AL cultural affairs secretary and singer, died in custody on January 12, with his family alleging inadequate treatment.

Former water resources minister Ramesh Chandra Sen died on February 7 after falling ill in jail. He was later declared dead at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. He had been in Dinajpur District Jail in three cases since his arrest on



AT A GLANCE

- ▶▶ 49 killed in 88 mob violence incidents
- ▶▶ 36 killed, over 4,000 injured in political violence
- ▶▶ 12 killed, 2,573 injured in election-related clashes
- ▶▶ 670 women, girls face violence; 147 raped
- ▶▶ 328 children face violence; 138 killed
- ▶▶ 183 jounos face harassment

August 16, 2024.

The report also highlighted mob violence, stating that at least 49

people were killed in 88 incidents during the three months.

It said one man was beaten to death in Magura on January 7 over suspected cattle theft, another in Pabna on January 13, two in Gaibandha on February 20 over alleged robbery, and two in Munshiganj on March 4 after being tied to a tree and beaten over alleged theft.

The HRSS said the January–March period was a time of concern in terms of political transition and the human rights situation in Bangladesh.

It noted that the February 12 parliamentary election under the interim government and the February 17 swearing-in of the new government created an opportunity for political continuity, but violence before and after the polls contributed to insecurity.

According to the report, at least 36 people, including 28 BNP members, were killed and 4,078 injured in 610 incidents of political violence during the period. It said 94 percent of the incidents

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'650 extortionists listed nationwide'

Says Rab at press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has prepared a list of around 650 individuals allegedly involved in extortion across the country, including 110 identified as top extortionists in Narayanganj alone.

Rab Director (media wing) MZM Entekhab Chowdhury shared the information at Rab's media centre in Karwan Bazar yesterday.

"The list of extortionists is yet to be finalised. The process is still ongoing to ensure it is credible and unbiased," he said.

Earlier, he briefed journalists on Rab's recent nationwide operations.

Detailing the drives, he said Rab arrested a key suspect, Md Sabuj, within 48 hours of a high-profile attack in Chattoagram in which a young man's wrist was severed. "The arrest was made on April 9 during a joint drive by Rab 7 and Rab 9 in Kasba upazila of Brahmanbaria," he added.

In another drive in Sonargaon, Rab arrested Mahbubur Rahman, also known as "Kaila Roxy", who had long been accused of establishing dominance in the area through criminal activities, including drug trafficking.

Rab also arrested two members of a human trafficking ring – Neyamat Ullah and Shah Alam – from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar and rescued four abducted victims.

Between April 8 and April 10, Rab conducted 51 mobile court drives nationwide. During these drives, authorities fined offenders Tk 14.25 lakh for illegally stockpiling 4,68,439 litres of edible oil and seized more than 50,000 litres, said the official.



A woman and her daughter paint crafts, joining preparations for the upcoming Baishakhi Shobhajatra at Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts yesterday. With Pahela Baishakh just a couple of days away, preparations -- including shopping and event arrangements -- are in full swing everywhere.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

A school born of hope

Lalmoni Bidyapith opens doors for out-of-school children in remote Lalmonirhat shoals

S DILIP ROY

Children living in the shoals (char) along the Teesta and Dharla rivers in Lalmonirhat are often deprived of quality education due to remoteness and poor communication with the mainland.

Witnessing this while working with various voluntary organisations, Nayem Rahaman, an undergraduate student of Lalmonirhat Government College, decided to help facilitate education for these children. In 2022, he founded Lalmoni Bidyapith, a voluntary educational initiative, with support from his friends.

Since then, the initiative has been spreading the light of education through four learning centres -- in Dawkir Char and Gobordhan Char on the Teesta riverbed under Aditmaripapazila,

and in Falimari Char and Khatamari Char on the Dharla riverbed under Sadar upazila. About 20 young volunteers are currently working with him.

With the slogan "Shoal children are not lagging behind

Initially, Nayem and his friends ran the initiative by raising funds among themselves, but they now receive support from donors and well-wishers.

Lalmoni Bidyapith also provides basic training in



in talent, but in opportunity", the initiative now teaches around 50 school dropouts and underprivileged children in each shoal while providing necessary educational materials free of cost.

technical skills and access to technology. It raises awareness among children and their parents -- covering around 800 families -- on issues such as child marriage, superstition, health practices, and nutrition.

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