



BANK RESOLUTION ACT New law risks rehabilitating looters: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday said the newly passed Bank Resolution Act, 2026, could open the door to corruption and rehabilitate individuals responsible for looting the banking sector.

A provision in the new law allows former shareholders of weak banks that have been merged to regain ownership without any form of accountability, the anti-corruption watchdog said in a press release.

The banking sector may once again turn into a haven for corruption and plunder as a result, it added.

TIB also observed that instead of addressing long-standing mismanagement, irregularities, and governance deficits, the provision perpetuates an entrenched culture of impunity associated with past authoritarian practices.

Referring to an earlier amendment under the "Bank Resolution Ordinance, 2025" issued during the interim government, which barred

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A father carries in his arms the body of his three-year-old daughter, who just died from a suspected case of measles, as the child's mother and uncle are seen inconsolable in the background. The measles situation in the country continues to deteriorate, with both confirmed and suspected cases climbing steadily. The photo was taken outside the DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in Mohakhali yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

'Fascism's shadow' returning to JS Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader and Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Shafiqur Rahman has said that the "shadow of fascism" is once again visible in the Jatiya Sangsad.

He said, "In the past, those who are now sitting on the government benches were spoken to in a dismissive manner on the floor of the House. Now, one or two members have started using similar language against us. We urge them to restrain their tongues."

He made the remarks yesterday while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled "Government Against the Referendum Verdict: The Country Facing a Crisis".

The seminar was organised by the Jamaat-led IJ party alliance at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) auditorium in the capital's Kakrail as part of their ongoing movement demanding implementation of the referendum verdict.

Addressing the government, he said, "Remember, wrongdoing leads to consequences even more severe than before. You are walking down that path. We do not see you among the people; instead, you are concentrating everything in your own hands."

Referring to the ongoing movement to implement the referendum verdict, he said it is not driven by opportunism or power-sharing. "This movement is about respecting



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PAHELA BAISHAKH

A festival of hope and new beginnings PM greets nation; security tightened

STAR REPORT

The country celebrates Pahela Baishakh today with colourful processions and cultural programmes, ushering in Bangla New Year 1433 amid tight security.

Authorities have taken extensive measures nationwide, deploying police, Rab, and other law enforcement

rebranded the rally as "Barshabaran Ananda Shobhajatra" from "Mangal Shobhajatra", following demands from certain quarters.

Preparations were nearly complete yesterday, with DU teachers and students busy putting the finishing touches on the artworks.

Dean of fine arts Azharul Islam



agencies at key venues to ensure peaceful celebrations.

In the capital, one of the main attractions will be the procession from Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts, themed "Harmony of the New Year, Resurrection of Democracy".

Organisers said the procession, along with its traditional motifs and masks, will feature a 150-page 'Pata Chitra' and five major motifs.

The government has renamed the traditional procession "Baishakhi Shobhajatra". Last year, authorities

Sheikh said the main motifs will reflect the country's democratic resurgence as well as its rich heritage and traditions.

According to organisers, the five large motifs -- a rooster, an elephant, a pigeon, a dotara (a traditional string instrument), and a horse -- will represent strength, creation, peace, glory, and dynamism.

Azharul said the 'Pata Chitra' will feature folktales-based artworks depicting Bonbibi, the goddess of the Sundarbans; the Mughal

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PIR KILLING Brother files case against 4 people

Mentions over
180 unidentified
attackers in FIR

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kushia

A case has been filed over the killing of Abdur Rahman, alias Shamim al Jahangir, a pir based in Kushia's Daulatpur upazila.

His elder brother, Fazlur Rahman, lodged the case with Daulatpur Police Station early today, naming four individuals and 180-200 unidentified persons, Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the station, told The Daily Star.

He, however, could not provide the names of the four accused.

Earlier, the family decided not to file the case, despite repeated requests from police officials. Fazlur had told this newspaper yesterday morning that he was too old and weary to pursue legal proceedings.

The 52-year-old pir was beaten and hacked to death by a mob of 300 to 400 people at his darbar (shrine) in Philipnagar on Saturday, following allegations of hurting religious sentiments. Two others were injured in the attack.

Police said they were scrutinising video clips circulated on social media to identify the attackers.

Mohammed Jasim Uddin, superintendent of Kushia police, earlier said arrests would follow once

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KHALILUR'S INDIA VISIT

A positive start to build on

PORIMOL PALMA

Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman's first visit to India after the BNP government assumed office has been described as a positive beginning, though the future of high-stakes bilateral relations will hinge on how both countries address longstanding and emerging challenges.

During the three-day visit to India on his way to Mauritius to attend the Indian Ocean Conference from April 10-11, he met Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Oil and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

While Bangladesh described it as a "goodwill visit", India had put it as an official one. Foreign policy analysts think the meetings were more about understanding each other's points of views to take forward the relations after strained relations during the interim government period since August 2024.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Indian officials indicated that engagement with an elected government and the recent developments suggest a shift.

Jaishankar's attendance at the funeral of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's attending the BNP government's oath-taking ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's multiple messages to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and invitation to visit India -- all indicate New Delhi's eagerness to mend ties with Dhaka.

Dhaka responded positively by resuming all categories of visas for Indians and sending Khalilur Rahman to New Delhi. There are indications of a visit by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman to India, though a date has not been fixed yet.

Following the meetings, Dhaka and New Delhi issued separate statements committing to improve overall relations, but many of the specific challenges in their relations remained untouched or were not made public.

Bangladesh had raised the extradition of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and others accused in the killing of Inqilab Moncho spokesperson Sharif Osman Bin Hadi. While India has agreed to extradite those accused in Hadi's killing, the statements did not mention any response regarding Hasina or Kamal.

"This suggests there was no consensus on the matter," said former

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HUNGARY ELECTION

Orban loses to pro-Europe newcomer His 16-year rule ends

AFP, Budapest

Congratulations from across Europe poured in yesterday for Hungarian political newcomer Peter Magyar, who defeated nationalist Viktor Orban in elections seen as a blow to right-wing populism worldwide.

Orban, a self-described "thorn" in the EU's side and defender of "illiberal democracy" endorsed by US President Donald Trump, lost Sunday's elections

after 16 years in power as Hungarians fed up with corruption gave Magyar a decisive victory.

Magyar's party, Tisza, won a thumping majority in the parliamentary elections, which drew record turnout and sent tens of thousands of jubilant supporters into the streets to celebrate as car horns sounded in the capital, Budapest.

Leaders across the EU welcomed Magyar's win, including French President Emmanuel Macron, who hailed a victory for the "values of the European Union", and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who called it a "heavy defeat" for "right-wing populism".

With Orban the EU's most Russia-friendly leader, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday Moscow hoped for "pragmatic" relations with Hungary's new leadership.

Crowds of Magyar supporters celebrated into the early morning hours outside his party's election headquarters on the banks of the Danube river and in Budapest's streets, waving Hungarian flags and dancing.



A dilapidated footbridge on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Paribagh in the capital. It has remained unusable for pedestrians for months.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Trawler 'with 250' Bangladeshis and Rohingyas sinks

Catastrophe feared near Andaman

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A humanitarian catastrophe is feared after a Malaysia-bound trawler, allegedly carrying more than 250 trafficked Bangladeshis and Rohingya, capsized near the Andaman Islands recently.

The incident came to light after nine survivors were rescued from the sea.

In a press release, Bangladesh Coast Guard media officer Lt Commander Sabbir Alam Sujon said the Bangladesh-flagged vessel MT Meghna Pride, en route from Chattogram to Indonesia, rescued nine individuals -- eight men and one woman -- from international waters near the Andaman Islands on the afternoon of April 9.

They were later handed over to Bangladesh Coast Guard's patrol ship Mansur Ali around midnight.

After being rescued, the survivors described harrowing accounts of human trafficking and the deadly voyage.

Rafiqul Islam, a Rohingya survivor, claimed he had

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