



Pro-AL lawyers 'shut out' of at least 13 bar elections

Exclusion runs counter to constitutional provisions, say legal experts

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Around 200 lawyers aligned with the Awami League – a party whose activities are currently banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act – have been unable to contest at least 13 bar association elections since January, according to members of lawyers' associations across the country.

Around 40 of 83 bars held polls since Jan '25
Candidates aligned with BNP won most of them
SCBA polls tomorrow; nomination papers of 42 pro-AL lawyers rejected

Though many attempted to run as independent candidates, they were reportedly barred from collecting or submitting nomination papers, or had their nominations cancelled by election commissions.

Sources at the Bangladesh Bar Council said elections have so far been held in at least 40 of the country's 83 bar associations since January 25 this year. Candidates aligned with the BNP won most of those elections. However, in some cases, lawyers aligned with the Awami League won as independent candidates.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) is set to hold a two-day election from tomorrow, with the nomination papers of 42 pro-AL lawyers having been rejected by the election commission.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, TCB trucks resumed selling essential commodities at subsidised rates across the capital yesterday, and they will continue until May 21, except on Friday. The items include two litres of soybean oil at Tk 130 per litre, one kg of sugar at Tk 80 per kg, and two kg of pulses at Tk 70 per kg. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Aftabnagar area.



Rise above political stripes

PM tells police

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged police personnel to rise above differences of opinion and work together in the national interest.

He made the call during a meeting with senior police officials at the Prime Minister's Office, said PM's Press Secretary Saleh Shibly.

"This country belongs to all of us. We must work together to protect it. We may not all share the same ideology, but while working

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'Controlled' quakes triggered under Swiss Alps

AFP, Bedretto

Researchers have made the ground shake in southern Switzerland, triggering thousands of tiny earthquakes in a monitored setting, as they seek to discover seismicity insights that could reduce risks.

"It was a success!" said Domenico Giardini, one of the lead researchers on the project, as he inspected a crack in the rock wall lining a narrow tunnel far below the Swiss Alps.



Wearing a fluorescent orange jumpsuit and helmet, the geology professor at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) switched on his headlight to get a better look.

"We had seismicity," he said excitedly, explaining that the goal was "to understand what happens at depth when the Earth moves".

Giardini was standing in the BedrettoLab carved out in the middle of a narrow 5.2-kilometre (3.2-mile) ventilation tunnel leading to the Furka railway tunnel.

Reached by specially adapted electric vehicles that slide through the dank darkness along concrete slabs laid over a muddy dirt floor, the deep underground laboratory is the ideal location to create and study earthquakes, Giardini said.

SC regrets upholding Azharul's death sentence

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in the full text of a verdict released recently, expressed regret over its earlier judgement, which had upheld the conviction and death sentence of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leader ATM Azharul Islam in a case filed over crimes against humanity committed during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War.

"This Division [Appellate Division] acknowledges, with a profound sense of judicial responsibility, that in its earlier adjudication, it failed to give due and dispassionate consideration to the evidentiary deficiencies and the broader context in which the allegations of crimes against humanity were framed against the appellant," said the seven-member bench, headed by then chief justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed, in the 74-page verdict.

"The earlier judgement regrettably fell short of the



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Facebook 'news' pages out to objectify women for profit

Experts call for stronger oversight, accountability

TAREK HOSEN

A Facebook page named Daily Biplobi Kantho, with more than 72,000 followers, presents itself as a media outlet.

Since its creation in March 2025, the page has changed its name twice – first from Cholti Pothe to NISAD VLOGS, and later to Daily Biplobi Kantho – before adopting the branding and appearance of a news platform.

On April 18, the page published a reel of actor Keya Payel that appeared to have been recorded without her consent, using deliberate camera angles and continuing to film even after she objected.

The video quickly drew a flood of sexually suggestive comments. Within two days, the page uploaded at least 20 more reels featuring the same actor. Most of these clips shifted focus away from any news context, relying instead on selective framing and zoomed-in shots that emphasised her body.

A review of the page's output shows this was not an isolated incident but part of a broader content strategy. The visuals are frequently decontextualised, slowed down, and framed to foreground physical appearance rather than events or information – most often with women as the subject.

That pattern extends well beyond a single page. The Daily Star identified at least 30 Facebook pages posting similar content and reviewed around 100 reels published by them.

Of these pages, 24, including Daily Biplobi Kantho, describe

– Daily Biplobi Kantho and Telebangla.com – acknowledged to The Daily Star that the approach is aimed at gaining followers and engagement, which can eventually be monetised.

Salma Ahmed, warned that such portrayals of women can



themselves as "Media/News Company" on Facebook. The other six identify as "Digital Creator". However, none of them is listed as a media outlet on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's website.

Across these pages, actresses, models, female politicians, academics, and other women are repeatedly featured in videos edited to strip away context and draw attention to specific body parts.

Administrators of two pages

have lasting consequences.

"Repeated exposure to body-focused visuals can distort perceptions, reinforcing the idea that a woman's value lies in her physical appearance while her identity, intellect, and work are sidelined," she told The Daily Star.

She added that the trend also increases risks in digital spaces by normalising harassment, trolling, and stalking. "When engagement becomes the primary goal, respect

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IMF conditions 'not suitable' for Bangladesh

Says Khosru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conditions attached to the International Monetary Fund's loan programme are not suitable for Bangladesh's economy and its people, Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday.

"We are an elected government. We are accountable to the people. We cannot do everything exactly the way they want," he said, referring to development partners.

The minister said differences with some multilateral lenders, including the IMF, would remain. "But I will make course corrections only to the extent that they remain aligned with our manifesto. Beyond that, going completely out of the way is not possible," he said at a policy discussion organised by Bangla daily Bonik Barta in Dhaka.

The finance minister said Bangladesh's development partners are broadly aligned with the ruling party's economic vision and manifesto, although differences remain with the IMF over several reform conditions.

Khosru also criticised

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Six-month-old Omar, weakened by measles, clasps his grandfather's hand, his frail gaze searching for comfort. Five days ago, his guardians brought him from Dhaka's Labagh area and admitted him to DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital in Mohakhali, where this photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

2 Bangladeshis killed in Israeli drone strike in Lebanon

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi workers were killed in an Israeli drone attack in southern Lebanon yesterday. The strike took place around noon local time at a residence in Zebdine, Nabatiyah.

Both victims were residents of Satkhira.

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Beirut confirmed the deaths in a condolence message yesterday. The deceased were identified as Shafiqul Islam, son of Afsar Ali of Bhaluka Chandpur in Satkhira Sadar Upazila, and Md Nahidul Islam, son of Md Abdul Kader of Kadakati in Ashashuni Upazila.

According to the embassy, the bodies are currently being kept at Nabih Berri Hospital. The embassy expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved families.

HARIPUR POWER LIMITED ("HPL")

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ("RFEOI")

Haripur Power Limited ("HPL") is a private company incorporated in Bangladesh, which owns a 360 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Haripur, Narayanganj, Bangladesh. HPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of PEL, a joint venture between Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd, Malaysia and Aljomaih Energy and Water Co., Saudi Arabia, leading international independent power producers which own and operate a diversified portfolio of power generation assets in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

HPL wishes to invite prospective applicants to express their interest in participating in the tender (the "Tender") as stated below

TENDER NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION
HO-HPL-2026-001	Tender: tender for the purchase of a 360 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Bangladesh comprising 1 x Gas Turbine (Mitsubishi, M701F) + 1 x Steam Turbine (Fuji, K1E69050G1) + 1 x HRSG (Hyundai, HRSG-H-40-65) and all its auxiliaries, in the form of an asset sale.

Prospective applicants interested in participating in the Tender are required to send their Expression of Interest ("EOI") on company letterhead stating their interest and providing the information stated below via email to hpl.sales@edra-bd.energy by **12th June 2026**.

Information to accompany the EOI:

- Name of applicant (company name)
- Country of incorporation
- Authorized contact person with contact details
- Company Profile

The EOI along with the information provided therein will be reviewed and evaluated to determine the Responsive Applicants. HPL will issue invitations via email to the Responsive Applicants to participate in the Tender. The complete information on the Tender and related documents shall be attached with the invitation email.

Any inquires related to the above RFEOI shall be directed to: hpl.sales@edra-bd.energy.