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Govt rolls out nationwide Eid security plan

BSS, Dhaka

The government has announced a comprehensive nationwide security and monitoring plan ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, focusing on safe travel, prevention of extortion, cattle market security, fair prices for sacrificial animal hides, and uninterrupted public services during the holiday period.

"We have taken wide-ranging decisions to ensure public safety and smooth Eid celebrations across the country," said Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday.

He made the remarks while speaking to journalists after a high-level interministerial meeting on ensuring overall security ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha at the Secretariat.

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Jamaat spent Tk 4.49cr in 13th national polls

Says the party in expenditure statement to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami spent Tk 4.49 crore during the 13th national election, according to the party's expenditure statement submitted to the Election Commission yesterday.

Jamaat Assistant Secretary General Ahsanul Mahboob Zubair submitted the statement to EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed. Signed by Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, the report said the party spent a total of Tk 4,49,47,972 for election-related activities.

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Higher deposits, no posters in local polls

EC drafting unified code of conduct for elections to all local govt tiers

AHMED DEEPTO

The Election Commission has begun drafting a unified code of conduct for elections to all five local government tiers, with provisions to ban posters and increase security deposits for the polls, likely to be held later this year.

As part of the preparation, the commission is also working to amend relevant laws and regulations, as existing codes of conduct vary across different local government tiers.

An EC meeting is scheduled for today at 10:30am to discuss the proposed reforms, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahmani Masud told The Daily Star.

"The discussion will focus on what changes are needed in the law and what amendments should be made to election rules and codes of conduct," he said.

He also said a final draft will be prepared after the meeting and later placed before the full commission for approval.

Masud said several reforms are being considered. "Posters will not be allowed. Online submission of nomination papers will not continue. Independent candidates will no longer need to submit documents showing minimum support."

He added, "There should be a single code of conduct for all local government tiers."

The EC is preparing to hold elections to five non-partisan local government bodies -- city corporations, municipalities, district councils, upazila parishads, and union parishads.

Bangladesh currently has 13 city corporations, 500 upazila parishads, 61 district councils, and 4,580 union parishads.

The commission faces a backlog of local government elections, as the tenures of many bodies have already expired. No local government polls have been held in more than two years.

After the fall of the Awami League government in August 2024, the interim government did not arrange any local polls. An ordinance was issued to suspend voting with party symbols.

EC officials said local government laws and regulations will be aligned with the Representation of the People Order (RPO), election rules, and codes of conduct.

The commission is also reviewing proposals to increase security deposits,

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The commission is also reviewing proposals to allow billboard campaigning, and expand social media use for electioneering

DSCC to modernise Sayedabad bus terminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation has initiated plans to modernise Sayedabad Inter-District Bus Terminal, aiming to restore discipline in the capital's public transport system and ease traffic congestion.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting at Nagar Bhaban, where officials said all unauthorised roadside ticket counters around the terminal will be removed and inter-district buses will be required to operate from inside the terminal.

The plan includes relocation of 110 ticket counters in a fair manner and eviction of illegal shops inside the terminal. Authorities also decided that buses must use the flyover as per the original terminal design.

Other measures include construction of boundary walls, drainage improvement to reduce waterlogging, removal of abandoned buses and installation of modern passenger facilities, including a breastfeeding centre.

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Future generations to be inspired by July Museum

Says Speaker Hafiz Uddin

BSS, Dhaka

Speaker of the parliament Hafiz Uddin Ahmad yesterday said the July Museum will inspire future generations by preserving the history of resistance against autocracy.

"The history of people's resistance will remain preserved as long as this museum exists," he told reporters after visiting the July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum alongside Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal and Cultural Affairs Minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury in the capital.

The speaker said the museum portrays repression, violence and killings during the 16-year rule of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, which he described as an "autocratic mafia regime" sustained through "staged and controversial elections".

Referring to incidents of enforced disappearances under the previous government, Hafiz Uddin said Sheikh Hasina's expressions of sympathy toward victims' families had become "a stain in history".

He added that the sacrifices made by ordinary people in democratic and anti-autocracy movements between 1971 and 2024 were unparalleled in the struggle to establish democracy in the country, according to a press release.

At the briefing, the cultural affairs minister said the museum will open to the public by late July or early August.



A group of around 60 students and two faculty members from Jagannath University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism visited a special exhibition at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, calling for accountability and justice over the attacks on The Daily Star and Prothom Alo.

PHOTO: STAR

People will defend borders if govt fails

Says Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Chief Whip in the parliament and National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday said people would take the responsibility of protecting the country's borders if the government fails to ensure national security.

He made the remarks while addressing a discussion and documentary screening titled "Shapla Massacre: A Decade of Impunity", organised by National Ulama Alliance, at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka's Kakrail.

Nahid said the country is once again witnessing killings along the frontiers and the erection of new barbed wire fences.

He said, "Friendship is impossible if a country continues killing citizens of a neighbour



and fencing the border," adding that genuine ties cannot be built behind barbed wire.

Nahid expressed hope that people of the neighbouring country will one day remove the fences to establish genuine relations with Bangladeshi people.

He also said protecting Bangladesh's borders and securing the country's fair share of water from transboundary rivers were fundamental responsibilities of the state.

Nahid warned that propaganda could be used to portray Muslims in Bangladesh as oppressors of Hindus in order to justify violence elsewhere.

Referring to the 2013 Shapla Chattar crackdown, Nahid said if those responsible for it were brought to justice, the July

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JnU journalism students visit Star exhibition

Demand justice for attacks on media houses

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Jagannath University's Department of Mass Communication and Journalism yesterday visited a special exhibition at The Daily Star Centre, calling for accountability following the attacks on the newspaper and Prothom Alo.

A group of around 60 students and two faculty members toured the exhibition in the morning. They later watched a documentary produced for the newspaper's anniversary programme.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam met the group from JnU alongside Consulting Editor Kamal Ahmed, Deputy Editor Arun Devnath, and Chief Reporter (Digital) Rashidul Hasan.

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