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'Ensure justice or step down' Jamaat ameer tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader and Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said the government should step down if it fails to ensure justice for enforced disappearances, killings, and alleged massacres during the Awami League's rule.

He also alleged that the BNP, despite promising before the election to dismantle fascism, was now drifting away from that commitment and moving towards one-party rule.

Addressing a rally organised by the 11-party alliance at Bijoynagar in Dhaka, he said, "Bangladesh has witnessed revolutions time and again. We are making it clear -- either ensure justice or step down."

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Nurjahan Begum winnows freshly harvested Boro paddy with a traditional kula at Zero Point in Khulna yesterday. Despite increasing mechanisation in agriculture, the age-old practice remains part of rural life in many areas.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Menon and Qamrul's trial begins at ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial of former ministers Rashed Khan Menon and Qamrul Islam began at International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of 23 people in Badda and neighbouring areas during the July uprising in 2024.

The trial began with the testimony of the first prosecution witness in the case, while Menon, president of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh and former civil aviation minister, and Qamrul, an Awami League leader and former food minister, were present in the dock.

The witness, university student Sakib Ahmed, told the tribunal that he joined a protest in front of BRAC University in Badda on July

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Rooftop solar needs clear roadmap

Experts urge Bangladesh to learn from international experiences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should carefully examine international experiences to ensure energy security, affordability and sustainability as it seeks to expand rooftop solar while managing rising electricity costs and power sector overcapacity, speakers said at a dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

The discussion, titled "Solar Revolution in Pakistan: Lessons for Bangladesh from National Budget Perspective", focused on Pakistan's rapid adoption of rooftop solar power and the lessons it may offer for Bangladesh. It was organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at a city hotel.

Presenting the keynote, Muhammad Basit Ghauri, manager of special initiatives and China programme at Pakistan-based Renewables First, said Pakistan has experienced one of the world's fastest expansions of distributed solar power, driven largely by consumers rather than government programmes.



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18 pro-Jamaat DAGs and AAGs resign

Cite govt failure to implement July charter as reason

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen pro-Jamaat-e-Islami state law officers -- seven deputy attorneys general (DAGs) and 11 assistant attorneys general (AAGs) -- resigned from their offices yesterday.

They stepped down in protest against the ruling BNP government's failure to implement the July National Charter, its opposition to establishing an independent secretariat for the judiciary and its move to repeal the Supreme Court Judge Appointment Ordinance.

They submitted the resignation letters to the president through the attorney general's office in the afternoon.

Those who quit the DAG posts are Md Yusuf Ali, Shafiqur Rahman, Abdul Karim, Farid Uddin Khan,

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Bangladeshi student found dead in Cyprus

He was missing for 10 days, family claims; 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Police in Cyprus's Larnaca have recovered the decomposed body of a Bangladeshi student, 10 days after he had gone missing, his family claimed.

The victim, Shahriar Ahmed Imon, 22, was a resident of Lochanpur village under Raipura upazila in Narsingdi. His father Nasir Mia is a Bangladeshi expatriate living in Greece.

Cyprus police have arrested a Bangladeshi national named Shahin Babu, 22, in connection with the killing. However, the accused's permanent address in Bangladesh has not yet been confirmed.

Family members alleged that although



Shahriar had already been murdered and buried, unidentified individuals continued using his WhatsApp account over the 10-day period to demand 35,000 euros in ransom for his release while threatening to sell his organs if the money was not paid.

According to relatives, Shahriar, who had enrolled in a university in Cyprus three months ago, went missing on June 11 night after leaving Oroklini to join a new job in Larnaca. His body and the knife used in the murder were recovered on Sunday from Kofinou, Larnaca based on information provided by the suspect.

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No state duty takes precedence over JS: Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad yesterday reiterated his demand that cabinet members attend parliamentary sessions regularly, saying no state work takes precedence over the chamber's proceedings.

The remarks came in response to Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman, who flagged the absence of ministers when matters related to their portfolios are under discussion.

The Speaker noted that the matter had been raised the previous day, when the chief whip cited ministers' state duties.

He directed the chief whip to convey to ministers that they should attend sessions punctually, particularly during budget discussions when MPs address their departmental activities.

The speaker also addressed parliamentary decorum, agreeing with the opposition leader's complaint about side conversations disrupting proceedings.



Up to 7 years' jail, Tk 5cr fine for online betting 'Gambling Prevention Bill' placed in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed placed the "Gambling Prevention Bill" in parliament yesterday to curb gambling and online betting -- including sports and casino betting.

The bill was introduced to repeal the 1867 "Public Gambling Act".

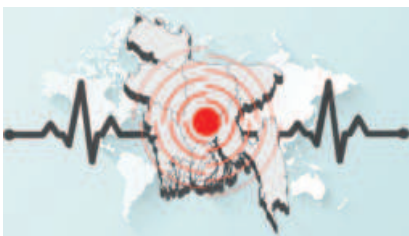


The proposed law defines 24 categories of gambling-related activities -- including online and remote gambling, betting, bookmaking, match fixing, and spot fixing -- and prescribes 14 types of punishments (fines, imprisonment, or both) depending on the nature of the offence.

The bill was later referred to the Parliamentary

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Dhaka to get 445 quake-safe shelters: minister



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu MP has said the government plans to establish 445 safe shelters for earthquakes in Dhaka.

As part of urban disaster preparedness, Dhaka South City Corporation has identified 256 shelters and Dhaka North City Corporation 189, bringing the total to 445. A letter has been sent to the Prime Minister's Office to formally declare them as earthquake-safe shelters.

Responding to a question from Selimuzzaman Mollah during yesterday's parliament session, the minister said a coordinated volunteer database is being prepared with a target of 100,000 volunteers in Dhaka and nearby areas, using data from government and non-government organisations.



FROM THE JS GALLERY

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