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Resorts 'built to burn' dot Marine Drive

Most so-called eco resorts are made with wood, bamboo, other combustible materials

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, *Cox's Bazar*

The deadly fire at Tup Tup Resto & Resort in Inani has exposed the dangers of unapproved resorts mushrooming along Cox's Bazar Marine Drive. Many of these so-called eco-resorts are built with combustible materials but have inadequate fire safety measures.

Tup Tup had concrete pillars but wooden floors, walls and staircases, while bamboo and timber were also used, said Dolon Acharya, senior station officer at Cox's Bazar Fire Service Station.

- Probe team inspects Tup Tup resort site
- 11 remain missing against 10 unidentified bodies
- Owners accused in case
- Manager arrested

"These structures were not built in compliance with fire safety requirements," he said. Many guests became trapped because they could not escape down the stairs, which contributed to the high number of casualties, he added.

Many other establishments along Marine Drive have similar structures, leaving guests vulnerable to fire, while hotels, motels, and resorts have sprung up haphazardly, often without government approval.

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, a warehouse inspector at the fire station, questioned how a three-storey building could operate as an eco-resort.

"These are not eco-resorts by any means," he said. "An eco-resort should have adequate open space, and its accommodation units should be single-storey."

Despite the proliferation of such establishments, government agencies could not provide an accurate count or comprehensive list of those operating without approval.

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'THEY PERISHED WHILE TRYING TO SAVE A CHILD' -- PAGE 2



Students of Nimtala Chakpara Government Primary School in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila risk falling into the Padma as they cross an eroded riverbank on their way home. Recent flooding submerged homes and the school, while receding waters have triggered riverbank erosion. The photo was taken last week. PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Ishraque's fate up in the air

Reports say PM asked him to resign over firearm incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The fate of State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Ishraque Hossain appeared to be hanging in the balance late into last night.

Several media outlets reported last night that Prime Minister Tarique Rahman had asked Ishraque to resign from the cabinet following public outrage over his display of a firearm during an "anti-drug operation" in the capital's Gandaria on Saturday.

Citing sources close to the government, the reports said Tarique summoned Ishraque after a cabinet meeting at the

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Migrants under trial abroad, what's Bangladesh's duty?

TASNEEM TAYEB

Bangladesh's laws recognise a right to legal assistance for migrant workers abroad. But what happens when a worker is arrested and prosecuted under another country's criminal laws? Who decides whether Bangladesh will help, and how?

EXPLAINER

These questions have surfaced following the execution of two people identified as Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia on October 14.

Speaking on Saturday, State Minister-2 for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said there was little she could do when a Bangladeshi citizen violated another country's laws. She also suggested the executions could serve as a lesson for Bangladeshis overseas.

Bangladesh cannot overturn a foreign court's judgment. But its own laws provide for assistance to citizens facing difficulties abroad, including migrant workers in detention.

Section 27 of the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act, 2013 recognises the right of migrant workers and victims of migration-related fraud to reasonable legal assistance.

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Ensure safeguards for journalists in cyber law

Says Editors' Council, places 12-point recommendation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday said the amendment to the Cyber Security Act, 2026, must ensure effective measures against cybercrime and clear safeguards for independent journalism, disclosure of information in the public interest, lawful expression, and the professional independence of the media.

It submitted a 12-point recommendation to the office of Principal Information Officer Syed Abdal Ahmad for forwarding to Information and Broadcasting Minister Andaleeve Rahman.

The organisation issued a press release signed by its President Nurul Kabir,

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