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3 ordinances to be tabled as JS reconvenes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth session of the 13th parliament is set to begin today and is expected to be prorogued on November 18.

On the first day of the session, three ordinances issued between the third and fourth sessions -- the Public Procurement (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, the Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, and the Special Solar Power Installation Ordinance, 2026 -- will be placed before the House.

The session is commencing 60 days after the last session ended on September 10.

On October 14, President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir summoned the session, exercising the powers vested in him.

The Parliament Secretariat issued a statement after a meeting of the Business

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Locals, including students, cross a canal separating the capital's Banasree and Aftabnagar areas using a makeshift bamboo footbridge yesterday, as construction of a permanent bridge remains incomplete. Many continue to use the route as a shortcut despite the risk of accidents.

PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

IN FOCUS

Serve people, do not harass them

PM urges new BCS officers

UNB, *Dhaka*



Prime Minister Tarique Rahman yesterday urged newly recruited civil servants to serve people with honesty, efficiency and humanity, ensuring that no citizen faces harassment while seeking government services.

"Regardless of a citizen's age, you must ensure that they do not face any kind of harassment when they come to your offices seeking assistance," he said.

The PM was addressing the closing ceremony of the 81st Foundation Training Course for newly recruited BCS officers at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre in Savar.

Congratulating the officers on completing the four-month course, Tarique said an efficient, honest and humane administration was essential for any government's success.

He reminded them that, regardless of their cadres or postings, their primary identity was that of public servants.

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Intellectual corruption hurt judiciary more

Says law minister at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman yesterday said intellectual corruption within the judiciary has caused far greater damage to Bangladesh than financial corruption.

"Look back over the past several years. How often did the Supreme Court stand by the people or stand up to the government during times of crisis? Issuing general orders every day is one thing, but what about judgements such as the one on the 13th Amendment, which scrapped the caretaker government system?

"That judgement undermined Bangladesh's democratic progress and set the country on a path towards authoritarianism. The process began with the Supreme Court itself. I would not call this a by-product of financial corruption but rather a product of intellectual corruption," he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a three-day workshop for judges at a hotel in Dhaka. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), in collaboration with the UNDP, organised the workshop titled "Integrity in Judicial Proceedings" with 25 judges from subordinate courts.

The law minister urged TIB to broaden its definition of corruption beyond financial misconduct.

"TIB should also identify and speak out against those who are intellectually biased and whose actions and judgements have undermined the credibility and integrity of our Supreme Court," he said.

Look back over the past several years. How often did the Supreme Court stand by the people or stand up to the govt during times of crisis? What about judgements such as the one on the 13th Amendment?

Regarding allegations of financial misconduct against judges, he said only a handful might be involved.

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300 families wiped out in road crashes since 2020

Says RSF report; experts blame lax enforcement, regulatory failures

1,728 killed in 525 crashes involving family members | Auto-rickshaw crashes claim highest toll | 386 spouses killed in 193 motorcycle crashes | 318 fathers and children killed in 159 crashes | 708 family members killed in microbus crashes

SHAMIMA RITA

Morshed Alam, his wife Ikrama, and their infant daughter Rifa were killed in a road crash in Jamalpur's Melandah upazila on November 7.

In the blink of an eye, the entire family was wiped out, leaving no one behind to perform their final rites.

A similar tragedy occurred on May 25, when Monir Hossain, his wife, and their only child were returning home to celebrate Eid. Their motorcycle collided head-on with a rice-laden pickup van in Kishoreganj.

Around 300 families are estimated to have been wiped out in road crashes across Bangladesh between January 2020 and October 2026, according to a report released yesterday by the Road Safety Foundation (RSF). The report drew on nine national newspapers, 17 online news portals, electronic media outlets and the foundation's own records.

Auto-rickshaw crashes accounted for the highest number of fatalities involving multiple members of the same family, the report found.

A total of 1,728 people were killed in 525 such crashes. Five members of the same family died in 53 incidents, six in 38 and seven in 13.

On October 17, a paddy-laden truck rammed into a battery-run auto-rickshaw in Kurigram's Roumari upazila, killing five people.

The victims included Lipi Begum, 32, her son Rishad Islam, 12, daughter Tuba Akter, 7, and sister Sharifa Begum, 42. The auto-rickshaw driver also died.

Motorcycle crashes also claimed hundreds of lives within families. Husbands and wives were killed together in 193 crashes, claiming 386 lives, while 318 fathers and children died in 159 incidents, according to the report.

Meanwhile, 708 members of the same families died in 186 microbus crashes. Four incidents killed 11 family members each, while another claimed 14 lives.

The foundation also recorded 352 deaths in 108 private car crashes, 162 in 45 ambulance crashes and 85 in 32 bus crashes involving multiple members of the same family.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

JS body to probe graft in textbook printing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on the education ministry has decided to form a probe panel to investigate allegations of corruption and irregularities in textbook printing under the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

The committee also directed the authorities to ensure that textbooks for the 2027 academic year reach students by December.

The committee took the decisions at its second meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, according to a Parliament Secretariat press release.

After the meeting, committee Chairman Md Selim Bhuiyan told reporters that the committee would investigate allegations of irregularities and corruption involving various departments, directorates and agencies under the education ministry.

He said the committee could form more than one probe panel if needed, with committee members dividing responsibilities.

The NCTB would also come under scrutiny, and the committee would submit its findings to the prime minister and recommendations to the speaker of Parliament, Selim said.

He said the investigation should not create panic or disrupt textbook distribution for the coming academic year.

'Zero means zero'

BOESL says Malaysia-bound workers will pay nothing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian companies recruiting Bangladeshi workers through a zero-cost initiative will bear all migration expenses, including medical fees and airfares.

"Zero means zero," Mohammad Rashedul Hasan, managing director of the state-run Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL), told The Daily Star when asked whether workers would have to bear any expenses under the initiative.

"The company will bear all costs," he said.

His assurance came as BOESL introduced its first digital lottery system to shortlist 300 candidates from 4,039 applicants for 112 jobs at DHL Supply Chain Malaysia, as operations assistants and technical staff, with a monthly basic salary of 1,700 ringgit.

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NEW GINI HOUSING PROJECT

7-katha land dispute sparks fresh attack

TOUSIF KAIUM

A group of 100-150 people stormed the New Gini Properties housing project in Dhaka's ECB Chattar area on Saturday, vandalising property and assaulting security guards and workers.

The attack stemmed from a land dispute involving a seven-katha plot worth Tk 2.60 crore between the company's chairman Nazim Uddin Bhuiyan and landowner Nur Ahmed, police said.

At least three people were seriously injured, while police detained 14 people, including four women, from both sides.

A similar attack was made on September 26 when some 200-250 people allegedly stormed the compound, fired gunshots, vandalised several structures, and assaulted workers.

However, police and project workers said the two attacks were linked to separate land disputes.

Sazzad Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of DMP's Cantonment Zone, said Nazim had agreed to purchase the seven-katha plot from Nur for Tk 2.60 crore in 2023.

Nazim initially paid Tk 30 lakh in cash and issued a Tk 20 lakh cheque as booking money. After the cheque was dishonoured, it triggered a dispute over payment, he added. The two sides, however, gave conflicting accounts of the transaction.

Nazim claimed he had paid Tk 50 lakh in cash and issued another Tk 20 lakh cheque. He said he later discovered inconsistencies in the ownership documents and asked Nur either to resolve the complications and complete registration or refund his money.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1



Heaps of household waste and garbage collectors' overloaded carts occupy a footpath in the capital's Pirerbag area of Mirpur yesterday, with rubbish spilling onto the road. The makeshift dumping spot forces pedestrians onto the busy road, while the foul smell and accumulated waste cause suffering for residents and commuters.

PHOTO: **STAR**