



‘Fascist Awami forces’ will never return

Says Salahuddin; Shafiqur challenges remarks on foreign intelligence links

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday said the “fascist Awami forces” that fled Bangladesh following the mass uprising would never return.

In a statement in parliament under Rule 300, he said law enforcers would take necessary measures during operations,



exercising their right of private defence.

He called for national unity against attempts to destabilise the country and sought cooperation from opposition parties, other political parties and citizens to improve public security.

He said programmes announced from across the border, whether protests, strikes or otherwise, aimed to create instability.

“To resist the fallen fascist forces, uproot them completely and prevent the implementation of any of their programmes or conspiracies, national unity is essential above all else.”

“The Nazis could not return to Germany or engage in politics again. Likewise, the fascist Awami forces that fled during the mass uprising will never be able to return to Bangladesh,” he said.

Salahuddin recalled that the opposition leader had declared at a programme in Dhaka on September 3, 2024, that his party

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Hamza Choudhury celebrates his goal during Bangladesh’s 4-0 win against Sri Lanka in their SAFF Championship fixture at the National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday, with the win setting up a semifinal clash against Pakistan. PHOTO: **BFF**

Keep control of the streets

BNP instructs grassroots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP has stepped up its political activities on the streets and planned to maintain its presence throughout December with a series of programmes amid countrywide incidents of crude bomb explosions and arson attacks on vehicles.

“We are not the kind of political party that would simply sit back and wait for the authorities to intervene while a banned party holds processions -- we do not depend on any government force or agency,” said Abdul Quiyum Choudhury, a member of the



BNP chairman’s advisory council.

The party would not remain passive in the face of attempts by the Awami League, whose activities have been banned, to “create unrest”.

“Our leader Tarique Rahman has instructed us not to leave the streets. All our party leaders and activists are on alert, and our presence on the streets remains strong,” said Quiyum, also the Sylhet district BNP president.

As part of its efforts to maintain political activities on the streets, the BNP plans to observe several important occasions throughout December, including Martyred Intellectuals Day on December 14, Victory Day on December 16, the anniversary of

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Arson attacks target vehicles, train carriage

Grameen Bank Pabna branch set on fire; police, BGB members attacked in Teknaf

STAR REPORT

At least three vehicles and a train carriage were set ablaze in three districts, including Dhaka, between Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

Miscreants also set fire to a branch of Grameen Bank, while two bomb-like objects were recovered in front of its another branch in two other districts.

Incidents of crude bomb blasts and arson attacks targeting buses have continued over the past few days. One person was killed when a parked bus was torched in Faridpur early Tuesday. More than two dozen vehicles, mostly buses, were torched in



The burnt seats inside a carriage of the Titas Commuter train. PHOTO: **STAR**

this period.

Early yesterday, in Dhaka, arsonists torched two parked buses in the Pallabi area. No casualties were reported, said Jalal Uddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

Criminals set fire to a Bikalpa Paribahan bus around 6:10am and fled, the OC said. The flames engulfed the bus before spreading to a nearby Abhijat Paribahan bus.

Locals managed to douse the fire and rain also helped contain the blaze, he said. “We are collecting CCTV footage and hope to identify those involved.”

In Narayanganj, miscreants tried to set fire to a parked truck

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NEWS IN FOCUS



Ninety-five-year-old Fulbanu (right) sits with her daughter, Manowara Begum, amid the rubble of their demolished home. PHOTO: **TOUSIF KAIUM**

230 families left homeless in Dhalpur eviction

Residents allege demolition violated HC ruling; DSCC says housing project 80pc complete

HELEMUL ALAM *and* **TOUSIF KAIUM**

On November 4, 75-year-old Sokhina Begum was trying to sell debris from her demolished home to earn some money. Her house had been razed three days earlier, and she managed to raise just Tk 3,500 by selling what she could salvage.

Sokhina said she had lived in the area for 36 years after being relocated from Jasim Uddin Road in Kamalapur, along with several hundred others, during the tenure of former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

“I spent Tk 70,000 rebuilding my house after it was demolished earlier during the tenure of former DSCC mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh,” she said.

Living alone, she makes and sells clay stoves to earn a living, despite having a broken hand. Her son and daughter have been living in their village home for the past decade.

“I feel helpless. I don’t know where to go,” she said.

Like Sokhina, around 230 families have been left homeless following the demolition of their houses at Dhalpur City Polli. Residents alleged that the eviction was carried out despite a High Court ruling directing the authorities not to evict them until proper rehabilitation arrangements were made.

Many of the affected families, most of them economically disadvantaged, said they had lived in the settlement for decades. They appealed to Prime Minister Tarique Rahman and the government to intervene and ensure their rehabilitation.

When these correspondents visited the area on November 4, they found dozens of families living under the open sky.

Fulbanu, 95, said her family had lived in the settlement since being allotted a house during Ershad’s tenure.

“I support my family by collecting scrap materials and begging. Now I am living under the open sky after the city corporation demolished our house,” she said.

She alleged that they had

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TIB slams Shahe Alam’s ‘contractors’ gifts’ remarks

Ministry says state minister apologised for his comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday condemned remarks by State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Mir Shahe Alam that government engineers could accept gifts from contractors, warning that such comments could legitimise bribery in public procurement.

The minister has since apologised and withdrawn his remarks, the ministry said.

Addressing newly appointed assistant engineers of the Local Government Engineering

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH
Social movement against corruption

Department last Tuesday, he reportedly said they could accept gifts from contractors’ profits provided work quality was ensured and bills were paid promptly.

Quoting his ministry’s senior secretary, he said, “One day, the [LGD] senior secretary told me that an engineer has no need to take bribes. Once the quality of work is ensured, the contractor’s profit is already factored into the work. If, after promptly taking handover of the work and clearing the bill, the contractor happily gives a gift to the engineer from that profit, it does not count as a bribe. You can certainly accept it.”

Local Government Division Senior Secretary Md Shahidul Hassan was present.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman described

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