

Watchdog slams B'desh interim govt for banning Awami League

TI, NEW DELHI: Human Rights Watch (HRW) has slammed Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus for imposing a ban on former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, saying the "arbitrary targeting" "fails accountability" and is suppressing the rights of the supporters of the deposed leader and her party.

The interim government on May 12 officially disbanded the Awami League under an overnight revised anti-terrorism law, two days after it slapped a ban on its "activities" under the previous version of the law.

"The interim government's arbitrary targeting of former ruling party (Awami League) supporters fails accountability," the New York-based international rights watchdog said in a press release shared on its website on Wednesday.

Instead of pursuing its pledge to reform the criminal justice system and bring accountability for serious abuses, the government led by Yunus is "attempting to suppress the rights of supporters" of Hasina and the Awami League, it said.

"Recent legislative initiatives by Bangladesh's interim government risk undermining fundamental

freedoms," the HRW said.

It said on May 12, the interim government ordered a "temporary" ban on the Awami League, using newly introduced powers under a "draconian amendment" to the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The original Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009 did not have the provision of banning the party.

"The ban includes, among other actions, meetings, publications, and online speech supporting the party... Meanwhile, draft legislation to address enforced disappearances, which were widespread under the previous government, does not meet international

standards and scarcely addresses accountability for past crimes," the rights watchdog said.

The interim government has pledged to restore democratic principles and respect for human rights before holding a free and fair general election and has also taken several positive steps, but "these recent measures are disappointing", it said.

Following the ban, the Election Commission scrapped the Awami League's registration, disqualifying the party from contesting polls.

The Awami League leaders were charged with com-

mitting crimes against humanity over the deaths of hundreds of people during last year's anti-government protests by a student platform. The protests resulted in the ouster of Hasina's 16-year-long regime on August 5 last year.

According to the government order, Awami League will remain disbanded until a special tribunal completes a trial of the party and its leaders over the deaths of people during the anti-government protests.

Hasina and most of her senior colleagues in the party and past regime were accused of committing "crimes against humanity".

Floods leave over 50,000 stranded in Australia

AFP, SYDNEY: Record floods stranded more than 50,000 people in eastern Australia on Thursday, killing three as a muddy tide swept through towns and swollen rivers cut off roads.

Police have pulled three bodies from rising floodwaters on the Mid North Coast, a river-braided region of rugged hills and fertile valleys about 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Sydney.

Authorities launched a major search-and-rescue mission as people clambered atop cars, houses and highway bridges to escape fast-moving flash floods.

The storms have dumped more than half a year's worth of rain over

just three days, the government weather bureau said, smashing flood-height records in some areas.

MORE OBITS ON PG 12

First Death Anniversary
In loving memory of
ANTONIO VAZ
(BENDWADDO, SANGUEM)
There will be a Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Antonio on Saturday, 24th May 2025 at 8:30 am at Our Lady of Miracles Church, Sanguem, followed by prayers & blessing at the grave, offered by his sorrowful Wife: Antoneta Travasso, Children: Joanita/Joseph, Filomena/late Inacio, Precy/Lucas, Sabina/Seby, Son: late Thomas Vaz, Grandchildren: Anascia, Jen, Jenisa & Tyrus.
Relatives & friends kindly accept this as the only intimation
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

Third Death Anniversary
In Ever-loving Memory of our beloved
MARSHALL FRANCISCO FALEIRO NAVE LIM
A beautiful life full of good deeds, Unforgettable fragrance of love & affection Generous was your heart & respected by all Very sincere, thoughtful & kind What a sweet memory you left behind.
There will be an Eucharistic Celebration for the soul of our beloved Marshall Francisco Faleiro on Saturday 24.05.2025 at 7:15 a.m. at Our Lady of Rosary Church Navelim, followed prayers and blessings of the grave.
Offered by his sorrowful wife Erolvina Faleiro Children, grandchildren & family
Family, friends and neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation
Costy's Ads, Chinchinim, Navelim, 9850473904

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Ever Loving Memory Of
MARIA AURORA SILVINA PINTO GRACIAS
VELSAO, GOA
BORN 29-11-1962 DIED 24-05-2022
Your loss in our lives is immeasurable, but so is the love you have left behind
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved Silvina on 24th May 2025 (Saturday) at Our Lady of Assumption Church Velsao at 4:30 pm followed by prayers and blessings at the grave.
Offered by her sorrowful
Husband Xavier Gracias Children Joslyn/ Paschal Vaz, Nasia / Vijay Da Graca Pinto, Dr. Joshua / Berny & Noah Gracias. Grandchildren Phaedon, Johann, Archer & Caleb.
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.

FROM PAGE 1

STUDY WARNS OF ALARMING SURGE IN EXTREME RAINFALL ACROSS GOA

Prof Chaturvedi explained, "We divided rainfall into three categories to understand what type of rainfall is increasing in Goa. Category 1 is normal or moderate rainfall, ranging from 2.5 mm to 64 mm per day.

Category 2 is extreme rainfall, which ranges from 65 mm to 124 mm per day. Category 3 is exceptionally very high rainfall — more than 124 mm per day. We observed that the number of days with good rainfall is slightly decreasing, while extreme rainfall has increased by over 60 per cent in the past century. Exceptionally very high rainfall has increased by more than 100 per cent. However, this kind of rainfall is not beneficial for the State and is, in fact, creating significant challenges."

Prof Chaturvedi also projected a temperature rise of up to 4°C over the next 100 years in a high-emission scenario. He found that extreme rainfall is likely to continue increasing.

When asked whether Goa's recent experience of one of the hottest summers followed by unseasonal rains was due to climate change, he replied that the State is indeed undergoing climate change. However, he added that attributing a single extreme event — such as the hottest summer — requires further study. "All these extreme events are expected in a climate change scenario," he said.

Prof Chaturvedi further stated, "We also analysed temperature data and found that in the last hundred years, the temperature in Goa has risen by 1°C — higher than the national average. Goa is experiencing climate change at a faster rate than the rest of the country, and this is now impacting the State."

Cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea has also increased, he noted. "In the last 20 years, cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea has risen by over 52 per cent, while in the Bay of Bengal it has decreased by 8 per cent, despite traditionally being the hub of cyclonic events. The rise in cyclones over the Arabian Sea has led to more unseasonal rainfall in recent times. Very severe cyclonic activity in the Arabian Sea has increased by 150 per cent, which is a major concern."

Goa is already witnessing sea level rise, Chaturvedi said. This issue has been addressed in the State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) for 2023-2033. "Long-term station data from Mormugao indicates that sea level at this location is rising at a rate of 1.45 mm per year. It also shows that the sea level in Goa has increased by approximately 0.48 feet—or about half a foot—over the past 100 years. This rising sea level is likely to pose serious problems in the future," he cautioned.

Commenting on the 2024 landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, caused by indiscriminate development and hill-cutting, Prof Chaturvedi said that Goa currently faces a low to moderate risk of landslides. "Our risk is not as high as Wayanad's. One reason for this lower risk is that almost all of Goa's Western Ghats are under protection — unlike in some other States," he said.

He recalled a landslide in Satrem, Satari, in July 2021, which resulted in the collapse of 16 hectares of land. "If indiscriminate hill-cutting and unplanned development occur, our risk level will certainly increase," he warned.

Asked for projections for this year's monsoon or future seasons, he clarified that he is a climate scientist, not a weather forecaster. "The IMD specialises in short-to medium-term forecasts. In our report, we have made projections for the next 30 to 40 years. Our findings indicate that while overall rainfall may decline, extreme rainfall events are expected to become more frequent in this coastal State."

ANNUAL PHENOMENON: WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS IN PANJIM MARKET

It was raining, water was collecting, and you'd have seen the real state of this market. They talk of Panjim being a Smart City, but step into the market and it tells a very different story."

According to Dhamaskar, water accumu-

lates inside the market during rains and is rarely cleared. "The toilets are filthy, the roof sheets have fallen apart, and there's no proper drainage. Every year before the monsoon, I keep writing to the CCP (Corporation of the City of Panaji), but nothing changes."

He added, "They claim the market doesn't generate revenue, but every shopkeeper pays. Sopo is collected daily. They're obsessed with some agreement, while basic maintenance is ignored. The CCP is the landlord; it's their job to ensure the market is functional." Rizwan, a shopkeeper, who has been selling biscuits and sweets for over three years, said, "I've been covering my stall with plastic for three years now. If I didn't, all my goods would be ruined. The roof needs urgent repairs."

Fruit and vegetable vendors, on the condition of anonymity, pointed to visible holes in the ceiling and complained that the rainwater damaged their stock.

"This is our livelihood. Wet goods mean no sales," a vendor lamented.

Acknowledging the issue, CCP councillor and Market Committee chairman Bento Lorena said, "A tender has been cleared, and work is set to begin immediately."

Another CCP official said a tender for 40 roof sheets worth Rs 1.5 lakh have been approved and the repairs were imminent. However, the market's tenants and their customers will have to continue braving the annual monsoon mess in the market.

ED 'CROSSING ALL LIMITS', SAYS SUPREME COURT

Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) moved the top court against ED raids on the state-run liquor retailer. The CJI went on, "The Enforcement Directorate is violating the federal concept (of governance)."

On April 11, a different bench headed by Justice A S Oka didn't mince words and chided the federal agency, which sought the transfer of the Nagrik Apurti Nigam (NAN) scam case from Chhattisgarh to New Delhi.

ED should also think of the fundamental rights of accused as well, the bench said.

While hearing two bail pleas in the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh, Justice Oka's bench observed, "You (ED) are virtually penalising person by keeping him in custody."

"Investigation will go at its own speed. It will go on till eternity. Three chargesheets have been filed. You are virtually penalising the person by keeping him in custody. You have made the process a punishment. This is not some case of terrorist or triple murder," it said.

In February, the top court pulled up the ED for using PMLA to keep a former excise officer incarcerated and asked if the provision was "being misused" like the dowry law.

On another occasion, the top court called out ED's "high handedness" and "inhuman conduct" over a 15-hour long interrogation of former Haryana Congress MLA which it noted had gone on past midnight.

Hearing a bail application of a woman in another case of money laundering, the apex court said the ED made arguments "contrary to the provisions of PMLA" to oppose her plea.

"We will not tolerate conduct on the part of the Union of India to make submissions contrary to statute," it said.

A former IAS officer was summoned and arrested by the agency. The top court questioned the "tearing hurry" the ED had shown to carry out his action.

"This does not happen in the case of terrorism or serious offences in the IPC."

DOC'S VIDEO GOES VIRAL ON 'LOSING JOB TO AI', BUT IS THE THREAT REAL?

Some shared his unease, while others argued that AI should be seen as a tool to assist, not replace, doctors.

Supporting this view, Dr Sindhu, MD, DTCD, of the Government Hospital in Kalpetta, Wayanad, stated that their facility uses AI-integrated portable X-rays for tuberculosis screening. "AI helps us identify high-risk patients more efficiently," she said. "But the final decision always rests with the doctor. It's a support system, not a substitute."

Dr Anil Mehndiratta, Chest Specialist and DG Shipping-certified examiner, emphasised the current limitations of AI in clinical settings. "AI cannot perform a physical examination or understand patient history in context. It's similar to online consultations — useful, but inherently limited. Real diagnosis often requires hands-on evaluation, which AI simply can't replicate at this stage."

Dr Katranji's story has a footnote that echoes what the experts spoke about. Two days after his now-viral post, he uploaded a second video titled 'Artificial Intelligence or Artificial Confusion?', where he posted a clip shared with him by Dr Mohammad Ahmad Mansour, a radiologist at Zahra Hospital. In the video, Dr Mansour demonstrated a case where AI misread scans, highlighting the technology's inconsistency and its need for

human oversight. "My job is safe — for now," Dr Katranji said. The jury is still out on whether AI will take away jobs in the medical sector in future, for now tech is only a support — just like a steth- in a doctor's toolkit.

DEATH
...Until we meet again
Those special memories of you will always bring a smile if only we could have you back for just a little while then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do You meant so much and always will. The fact that you are no longer here will always cause us pain but you're forever in our hearts until we meet again.
AGOSTINHO JOSE CUSTODIO de QUADROS
Born: 16/10/1959 Died: 21/05/2025
-: VANXEM, LOUTOLIM -:
Beloved husband of Lisa Rodrigues
Son of late Mariano do Rosario Antonio de Quadros & late Zita Josefa Fernandes
Son-in-law of late Valeriano/Acelia Rodrigues
Loving father of late Mariano Macgyver De Quadros
Everloving brother/brother-in-law of Gracinda/Olavo Noronha, and Vera/Antonio Nunes & Kevin/Jocelyn Rodrigues.
Affectionate Uncle of Isabel/Roy, Ozelle/Vikas, Gizelle/Damiano, Vania, Antonio, Aliana, Nicole and Megan.
Grand Uncle of Gracia, Rhys, Ethan and Elio.
Funeral cortege will leave his residence Vanxem, Loutolim on 24th May 2025 (Saturday) at 3:15 pm to Saviour of the World Church, Loutolim, for Eucharistic Celebration followed by burial.
Friends, relatives & neighbours kindly accept this as the only intimation
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The bereaved family would like to express their deep gratitude to Dr. Marilyn Teles, Dr. Valabh Nadkarni and Staff at District Hospital South Goa, Margao for immediate attending to Agostinho. Also special thanks to Dr. Ponraj, Dr. Amey, Dr. Tereza Ferreira, Dr. Shirley (GMC), Special thanks to Dr. Mavis Faleiro, Dr. Virendra Kudchadkar, Mrs. Sandra Correia, Tony Vaz, Joyson Pinheiro, Butush, Aldrin & Ramiro Mascarenhas. We also would like to thank all friends, neighbours who reached out in this difficult moment.
We regret our inability to thank each and everyone personally.
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In everloving memory of **SUZANA MARIA JESUINA GOMES E DIAS**
-: Sarzora -:
There will be an Eucharistic celebration for the soul of our beloved mummy Suzana Dias at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, 24th May 2025 at Our Lady of the Assumpta Church, Sarzora, followed by prayers and blessing at the grave, offered by her beloved Children and their families.
Relatives and friends kindly accept this as the only intimation.
Confident Advtg. & Funeral Service, Margao 9823022194

RETURNED TO THE LORD
Born: 20th July 1937 Died: 21st May 2025
JOSE ALVARINHO JERONIMO ANTONIO LOYOLA FIGUEIREDO
GAONKAR VADDO BATIM
Loving son of the Late Caetano Xavier de Loyola Figueiredo and Late Maria Bernardina De'Souza.
Loving Brother/ Brother-in-law of Late Otília/Late Bernard Pinto, Ida/Late Ernest Viegas and Late Olga/ Late Felício De'Souza.
Devoted Husband of Maria Fernandes e Figueiredo .
Beloved Father and Father-in-law of Savio/ Blossom, Pio/Sharmila, Jose/Ave Maria, Linette(Baita)/Macmillan Quadros.
Cherished Grandfather of Swynne, Billjoy, Ludovico, Isaac, Jeremy, Janice, Alicia, and Mario.
The funeral cortege will leave his residence on 24th May 2025 at 10:00 AM to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Batim for the Eucharistic Celebration, followed by burial.
Forever in our hearts.
Relatives, Neighbours and Friends kindly accept this as the only intimation

Well done, good and faithful servant...
Enter into the joy of your lord
Matthew 25:21
Celebrating the life of Rosario Furtado
AUGUST 1946 - MAY 2025
With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Rosario Furtado, who left for his heavenly abode on 22 May 2025.
Ever loving husband to Imelda, nurturing and selfless father/father-in-law to Sonia/Savio and Sally/John. Most loving Grandfather to Tristan and late Hope.
Brother/Brother-in-law of Rosalina/Late Mohan, Remiza/Moses, Luisa/C.D Silva, Late Menino/Filomena, Gaspar/Lavina.
Brother-in-law of Late Belmira/Late Joao Camilo, Late Annie/Late Seby, Late Leticia/Late Jose, Late John/Bernadine, Mary/Late Zacharias, Late Antonetta/Late Apolinario.
Adored Uncle, Grand Uncle and Great Grand Uncle to nephews/nieces.
Eucharistic celebration will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 24 May 2025, at St. John the Baptist Church, Cana Benaulim, followed by burial.
Relatives and friends, kindly accept this as the only intimation
NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE
Rebello Publicity & Funeral Services Margao 9822383992