The Wait at the Prison Gate

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Last Monday, fourteen-year-old Monjoor Morshed, a student of class 10 at Rifles Public School, was calmly waiting with a petition in his hand to see his father before the gate of Dhaka Central Jail. The sun was blazing and Monjoor was sweating a little. His father Sheikh Nurul Ameen, Deputy Assistant Director of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), was at the BDR Quarters in Rangpur during the February Pilkhana Carnage and is still under arrest in the Pilkhana case.

"My father is now in the hospital as he was taken on remand several times. Every month we are now getting just his basic salary. I would be really happy if I could just have a glimpse of my father," the boy said. Like Manjoor, Parvin Karim, wife of a BDR member, waited to see her husband, who is behind the bars.

Hosne Ara, elder sister of garments-worker Manir, had come to Dhaka from Bargona last Thursday to take his brother, who was to be released on bail that day. "My brother Manir has been in prison for the last two and half years on charge of creating chaos and anarchy in a garments factory. He used to work at a factory at Mirpur. Since last Thursday his name is on the notice board as one of those who have been granted bail but he has not been set free till now. For the last four or five days, I have been standing at the prison gate from dawn to dusk to see my brother's face," the woman said in a choking voice.



Dhaka Central Jail.



Waiting to catch a glimpse of loved ones behind bars.