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Protests against quota intensify

STAR REPORT

Students from various universities in Bangladesh intensified their protests against the recent High Court decision reinstating the quota system in government jobs.

As part of the protests, hundreds of Dhaka University students blocked the Shahbagh intersection for an hour yesterday afternoon.

Beginning around 3:45pm, slogans filled the air as protesters blocked traffic from Bangla Motor to Shahbagh, causing significant congestion in Bangla Motor, Shahbagh, Science Lab, and Kakrail areas.

They left the intersection around 4:45pm.

Nahid Islam, one of the organisers of the “Boishommo Birodhi Chattrra Andolon”, said, “We have resumed protests as our ultimatum ended on June 30.”

Asif Mahmud, one of the organisers, demanded reinstatement of a 2018 circular that initially abolished the quota system.

“After that, if the government wants, they can reform quotas gradually in a logical way rather than a blanket reinstatement,” he added.

Earlier, the students assembled at the Central Library

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Students block traffic at Shahbagh protesting reinstatement of quota system.

PHOTO: STAR



Take advance preparation for floods: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina instructed authorities to prepare for more potential floods this year, following discussions at an Executive Committee of the National Economic Council meeting held at the NEC auditorium in Sher-E-Bangla Nagar yesterday.

After the meeting, Planning Minister Abdus Salam said, “Based on weather analyses, the premier anticipates possible flooding soon. We must be ready to take necessary actions if it occurs.”

Quoting the PM, Salam added, “The rainy season could persist until September, potentially disrupting project

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PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Under water for three weeks and counting

Haor dwellers bearing the brunt of Sylhet flood

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The houses are barely standing on bamboo poles with fences broken, other parts dilapidated, and foundation submerged under water.

Some residents have found the most elevated space within their houses to stay put, while many have taken refuge in shelters or in their relatives' houses.

This was witnessed by this correspondent when he visited Murshibadakura, Baramaidan, Durgai, Paschim Gagra, Purba Gagra, Srirampur, Hakaluki Haor areas of Talimpur union under Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday.

Many people in these areas chose to remain in their homes despite immense sufferings due to the ongoing flood which began on June 15.

Vast stretches of land have been inundated by floodwaters, especially in Hakaluki

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Flood damages 39 schools in Rangpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur



At least 39 government primary schools across Rangpur division have either sustained damages to their infrastructure or washed away due to recent flash floods and river erosion.

Of those, 11 schools were in Gaibandha, 20 in Kurigram, two in Rangpur, and six in Lalmonirhat.

The damages were caused by the rising waters of Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dudhkumar, and Dharla rivers in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, and Gaibandha districts since mid-June, following torrential rainfall upstream in India.

According to locals and teachers, this has been a recurring issue that results in massive financial losses to the government and disrupts the education of hundreds of children.

Officials said these schools often cannot protect their lands and infrastructure from erosion and flash floods due to close proximity with the rivers.

As such, these schools are often built with corrugated tin sheets and bamboo for easier relocation.

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