

27 Dhaka city AL units dissolved

Inactivity during quota reform protests blamed
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committees of 27 units under Dhaka city (north) Awami League was dissolved yesterday following allegations of inactivity during the recent quota reform demonstrations.

These units are part of the Dhaka-13 constituency, which includes Mohammadpur, Adabor and parts of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

The decision was made at a views-exchange meeting held at Mohammadpur Suchona Community Centre last night, sources said.

The meeting was attended by local AL lawmaker and Textiles and Jute Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Dhaka city (north) AL president Sheikh Bazlur Rahman, organising secretary Azizul Haque Rana, and the presidents and general secretaries of the AL's thana and ward units, along with local councillors.

Participants at the meeting accused the activists of failing to take to the streets during the quota protests, despite directives from the AL to form a resistance.

This decision came at a time when senior leaders of the ruling party have publicly acknowledged the organisational weaknesses within the AL. The lack of presence by AL leaders, activists, and associate bodies in many parts of Dhaka city (north and south) during the quota protests highlighted these deficiencies.

According to an AL leader, this dissolution is only the beginning. More units and thana committees in Dhaka may face similar consequences.



Mahbubul Haque passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Prof. Mahbubul Haque, a linguist, essayist, and researcher, passed away at the Dhaka Combined Military Hospital on Wednesday. He was 76.

Dr Haque had been suffering from heart and kidney complications.

A recipient of Ekushey Padak, he retired as a professor from the Bangla Department at Chittagong University.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter, and a host of well-wishers who mourn his death.

Dr Anwar Sayeed, a professor in the Bangla Department at CU, said Dr Mahbubul Haque was instrumental in writing textbooks for Bangla language and literature across primary, secondary, and higher secondary levels.

Haque's body will be brought to Chattogram today. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Jamiatul Falah Mosque after the Juma prayers. Later, he will be laid to rest at the graveyard on the CU campus.

Born on November 3, 1948, in Modhukhali, Faridpur, Mahbubul grew up in Chattogram.

PRAYER TIMING	
JULY 26	
Fazr	Asr
JANAN 4:20	12:30
5:00	6:50
6:50	8:15
AZANAT 4:55	1:15
5:15	6:55
8:45	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Nur Nahar Begum being carried to a hospital after she lost her consciousness in front of the CMM court in Old Dhaka yesterday. Her 20-year-old son Sakib Al Hasan was arrested by police on Monday night while he was going to attend his nephew's birthday in Gopibagh. PHOTO: STAR

DMCH, volunteers step up to save lives

Hundreds of bullet-hit patients get blood transfusion

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Md Ismail was waiting for passengers in his battery-powered auto-rickshaw in Jatrabari's Kajla area on July 18.

A procession of students demanding quota reform was marching along the road.

Suddenly, police opened fire at the protesters.

Ismail could have just disembarked from his vehicle and run for his life. But he couldn't abandon his auto-rickshaw as he recently bought it using all of his savings.

So, he tried to turn the vehicle around and drive to safety. But before he could do so, several bullets pierced through his chest, hand and left leg.

He was bleeding so profusely that many thought he had already died. However, when some CNG drivers saw signs of life in his body, they quickly took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

According to duty doctors, eight bags of A+ blood had to be collected within two hours to save Ismail's life.

Ismail was only one of hundreds of patients who had received blood transfusion due to bullet wounds during the height of the quota reform protests.

According to an employee of DMCH's blood bank, "From Thursday night [July 18], we

started receiving patients with bullet wounds, who were in urgent need of blood transfusion. The influx of patients was so high that we did not have any empty beds left for blood transfusion. Besides, our stocks of transfusion equipment dried up within a few hours."

"We along with some of our workers and doctors made makeshift beds with whatever we had and placed them in the

voluntarily came forward to donate blood.

According to Md Agibul Islam, an official of Sandhani Blood Bank stationed at DMCH, "The situation was simply unbelievable. We have seen hundreds of patients with bullet wounds. We have donated 115 bags of blood and donated numerous transfusion equipment. We could not even count the number of transfusion



motorcycle garage in front of the Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery and continued with blood transfusion," he added.

The DMCH authority started to make public announcements with megaphones so that volunteers step up and donate blood to incoming critical patients.

Thanks to the announcements, Sandhani Blood Bank, Rhythm Blood Centre and many people

equipment we collected and donated."

"At one point, when we ran out of transfusion equipment at DMCH, we asked for help from common people. Many people purchased transfusion bags and equipment from wherever they could," he added.

Rhythm Blood Centre also donated 388 bags of blood to the

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No train operations until 'situation improves'

Says rail minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will not resume operation of passenger and freight trains until the "situation improves," Railways Minister Zillul Hakim told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, could not tell when the situation will improve and railway operations could be resumed.

"...We cannot allow the so-called protesters to destroy our trains, coaches," he said, adding, "All trains will be made operational once the situation is improved."

Rail ministry Secretary Humanun Kabir told The Daily Star and other media on Wednesday that they would resume operation of passenger trains on a very limited scale from yesterday.

But railway authorities on Wednesday night backtracked from the plan and decided not to resume train services.

Asked about the matter, the minister said the secretary might have taken the decision to resume operations "without considering everything".

The minister and BR director general returned to Bangladesh Wednesday evening after a foreign tour.

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Agonising wait to see loved ones

People continue to gather at CMM court for a glimpse of arrested family members

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Everyone was ready to celebrate Surjo's sixth birthday at his Gopibagh residence on Monday night.

To take part in it, his 20-year-old uncle, Sakib Al Hasan, headed out from his Mir Hazaribagh home early that night.

But the celebration turned into a matter of great distress when the family learned that Sakib, an eleventh grader, got arrested by Wari police while on his way to his sister's house.

Yesterday morning, five of his family members, including Surjo, rushed to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the old part of the city to catch a glimpse of Sakib.

They could not see him till 5:00pm.

While crying for her son on the court premises, Sakib's mother Nur Nahar Begum lost her consciousness around 4:15pm. Ten minutes later, she regained her consciousness while being taken to a hospital.

"Where is my son?" she kept on screaming, "Police arrested my innocent son!"

"He did not do anything. Why was he arrested?" she continued.

Sakib's sister Rumi Akter told The Daily Star, "My brother is an intermediate first-year student in a college at Khilgaon. He did not join any protest. We feel so helpless."

Meanwhile, Sakib's elder brother Sakil, 24, desperately stared at the road in front of the court. Whenever a prison van left the court premises, he looked for Sakib in those.

Not just Sakib's family, many others who thronged the court premises faced a similar ordeal.

When this correspondent asked a sub-inspector working in the court, he said Sakib was sent to jail after police produced him before the court in a violence case filed with Wari Police Station.

He was among 260 arrestees produced before the CMM court yesterday in cases filed centring the recent violence in the city, according to the court record books.

Meanwhile, a seemingly distressed Fatema, 25, along with her two relatives, was waiting in front of the CMM court to see her father Mir Shahadat Hossain.

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Stop repressive measures against the students: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Using force to suppress the recent quota reform protests and the unprecedented death and havoc exacerbated by the wrongdoings of the interested groups during the movement depict acute governance deficits, said Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday.

"We have become the witness of a massive loss of lives and mayhem on the state's properties revolving around the movement that has been described as peaceful by the government itself and this situation manifested the acute lack of good governance and accountability," TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said in a press release issued by the organisation.

TIB also emphasised that peaceful dissent and demonstrations to address demands are constitutional rights, not crimes.

It also mentioned that the peaceful movement with the logical demands suddenly turned into a violent and bloody one due to the provocation of the high-level leadership of the government.

The anti-graft watchdog also raised the question whether the individuals responsible for the deaths of

The judicial commission will only investigate the six death incidents that happened on July 16. So, are the rest of the lives worthless? Should we accept dying by bullets at home and accept it as regular normal events?

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PATIENTS WITH PELLET, BULLET WOUNDS AT CMCH

Injured, they now stare at bleak future

SIFAYET ULLAH

Mohammed Rubel, a mason by profession, is the sole earning member of his family.

Instead of working, he now lies groaning in severe pain at the casualty unit of Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

His body bore the mark of recent violence – shotgun pellet wounds in his lower chest – inflicted during the quota reform protests.

Rubel, a 27-year-old from Rangunia upazila, lives with his five-member family in the Chandgaon area of the port city.

On July 19, around 8:00pm, he found himself caught in a clash between law enforcers, Chhatra League, and protesters in the Bahaddarhat area of the port city. He wasn't involved in the protests, he claimed.

He went outside to pay some bills when he came in the line of fire, he said.

His mother Jasmin Khatun was sitting beside him.

"My son is my only hope. But will he ever return to a normal life? What will happen



to us if he doesn't?" she asked.

Rubel's case is one among many.

Alauddin Talukder, sub-inspector of Chattogram district police attached to CMCH, reported that eight individuals, including Rubel, are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital with bullet and pellet wounds. "They are now out of

danger," Talukder said.

On Friday alone, 72 people with bullet and pellet wounds sought treatment at CMCH.

Over 30 injured individuals were admitted on Thursday, and five more on Saturday, according to Talukder.

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ARITRY'S DEATH

Court orders PBI to probe further

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered Police Bureau of Investigation to conduct further investigation into the case filed against two former teachers of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College for instigating the suicide of ninth-grader Aritry Adhikary in 2018.

The two are former acting principal of the school Nazneen Ferdous and former morning shift in-charge Zinat Akhtar.

Yesterday was the sixth time the court was scheduled to deliver verdict in the case.

Judge Abdullah Al Mamun of Dhaka 12th Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court issued the order, said the victim's father Dilip Adhikary.

Dilip told The Daily Star that he appeared before the court to hear the judgment but the bench assistant informed him about shifting the date for judgement in the case.

Later, he came to know the judge had ordered further investigation into the case.

"I don't know when I will get justice for the death of my daughter," said Dilip.

The two accused, now on bail, were present at the court during yesterday's hearing.

Aritry was found hanging from the ceiling in her house in the capital's Shantinagar on December 3, 2018, hours after she and her parents were allegedly insulted by some teachers at the school.

The next day, her father filed the case with Paltan Police Station, accusing three teachers of instigating Aritry's suicide.