



QUOTA PROTESTS All deaths unfortunate Says HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said the deaths in the violence over quota reform protests were unfortunate.

“These deaths are sad for all of us,” the HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon said during a hearing on a writ petition.

Lawyer Aneek R Haque presented newspaper reports on the death of six-year-old Ria on the roof of a house in Narayanganj. “When a life is lost, there are no sides. A six-year-old child.”

Justice Mustafa, presiding judge of the HC bench, said, “We will not address emotional issues in this court. We are deeply ashamed.”

The petition was filed by Supreme Court lawyers Aynunnahar Siddiqua and Manzur-Al-Matin on Monday seeking HC orders for the immediate release of six coordinators of the quota reform protests

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



With red cloths covering parts of their faces, teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday brought out a silent march to protest the torture and detentions of students and also to demand justice for those killed during the unrest centring the quota protests.

PHOTO: AKHLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Teacher-student demo in several univs

Many take to social media to express solidarity; protesters to bring out processions today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students at Jahangirnagar University and faculty members at Rajshahi University yesterday staged demonstrations, with red cloths covering parts of their faces, calling for an end to harassment, detention and torture of students.

They also demanded thorough investigation into the indiscriminate killings during the unrest over the quota reform movement.

In Khulna and Tangail districts, college students blocked intersections to press for the same demand.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UN, EU call for thorough probe into the killings

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remains concerned by emerging reports of excessive use of force by security forces and credible evidence of human rights violations in Bangladesh during the quota reform protest, said his spokesperson.

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Joseph Borrell also expressed grave concern at the announcement of a “shoot-on-sight policy” and unlawful

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Govt largely to blame for huge loss of lives

Says eminent citizens’ platform, gives govt 24hrs for releasing quota protest organisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is largely responsible for the huge loss of lives during the quota reform protest, said eminent citizens yesterday.

The level of violence and attacks on peaceful protesters has shocked and outraged the people of Bangladesh and the world, they said at a press conference under the banner of Aggrieved Citizen Society at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

They said they were lost for words to condemn or protest such levels of brutal killings and violence.

The citizens also issued a 24-hour ultimatum for the unconditional release of the key organisers of the quota reform protest currently in the custody of the detective branch (DB) of police “for their security”.

“Now, everyone is feeling insecure -- will [DB] provide safety to all by bringing them into their office?” said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

If the coordinators of the quota reform protest were not released unconditionally in the next 24 hours, tougher programmes will be announced, he said.

The citizens are concerned, shocked, and worried, he added.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, read out an 11-point demand.

It includes proper and transparent probes and accurate trials of the members of the police, Rab, Ansar, BGB, activists of Chhatra League, Jubo League and everyone who fired shots during the quota reform protests.

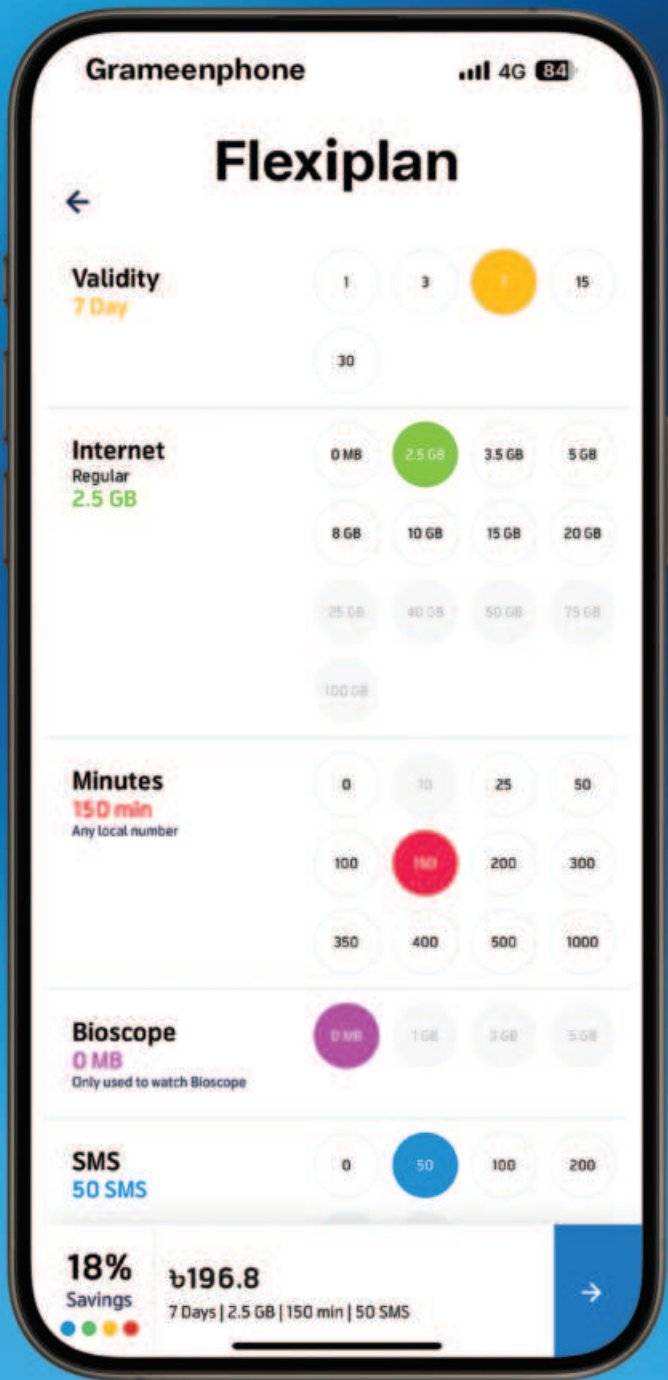
They also demanded an independent, acceptable and credible probe under high-positioned specialists of the UN into every killing, law enforcers’ use of weapons, and use of force.

They demanded immediate release of the arrested students and suspension of all drives to arrest students.

All educational institutions must be reopened and the politics of arms and influence have to be stopped.

The citizens demanded the immediate disclosure of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



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