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Ansars want their jobs regularised

Along with VDP, they protest in front of SC for over 5 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Ansar and the Village Defence Party blocked the road in front of the Supreme Court's main gate for over five hours in the capital yesterday, demanding immediate regularisation of their jobs.

Several hundred Ansar members, both in uniform and non-uniform, took position in front of the Supreme Court's main gate around 11:30am.

They began chanting slogans such as, "Ar Noy Jukti, Eibar Chai Mukti [No more logic, this time we want emancipation]," and "Ek Dofa, Ek Dabi, Chakri Jatiyakaron [One point, one demand, we want jobs regularisation]."

Speaking to The Daily Star at the spot, some Ansar members expressed their

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Restore order, probe all the killings

Urges Shujan, places 18 proposals for state reform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) has called for bringing the law and order situation under control quickly and initiating an investigation by the United Nations to bring the culprits of the July-August killings to justice.

Simultaneously, Shujan, a civil society platform advocating for good governance, has also called for long-term initiatives from the interim government to reform the state system.

They made these calls at a press conference titled, "What the Interim Government Should Do to Reform the State", organised by Shujan at the Dhaka Reporters Unity

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Wave of resignations hits universities

UGC chairman, at least 13 VCs and top officials quit over a week

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A wave of resignations has swept through the nation's higher education sector, as an unprecedented number of vice chancellors from the public universities are stepping down from their positions.

At least 13 VCs have so far resigned from their official positions.

"We are fearing that the number will increase in the coming days," said a University Grants Commission top official.

There are 42 public universities in the country that are teaching students. Besides there are five public universities that are yet to enrol students, five medical universities and two affiliating universities and one open university.

A UGC member said in most cases, these VCs are stepping down citing personal reasons, but they are actually doing it in the face of pressure from students and teachers.

Most of these resignations took place following the ouster of prime minister Sheikh Hasina in the wake of a mass upsurge led by

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All the VCs' were appointed by the previous Awami League government.

UGC CHAIR STEPS DOWN

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah resigned from his post

yesterday citing illness. In his resignation letter to the education ministry's Secondary and Higher Secondary Division, Shahidullah said he has been in Australia for medical treatment since August 20 last year.

The letter said based on advice from Australian doctors and due to his health condition, he is unable to continue his duties.

He joined as the UGC chairman for a second term on May 28 last year. Earlier in May 2019, Shahidullah was appointed the UGC chair.

Shahidullah is a brother of Awami League leader Kazi Zafarullah.

UGC member Prof Muhammed Alamgir said he will remain in charge as UGC chairman until the next chairman takes charge.

Yesterday, the UGC appointed Mohammad Fakhrul Islam, director of the research support and publication division, as its new secretary, replacing Ferdous Zaman.

Comilla University VC Prof AFM Abdul Moyeen, Jagannath University VC Prof Sadaka Halim, National University VC Prof Mashiur Rahman and Bangamata Sheikh

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INTERNET SHUTDOWN

Find out in 24hrs who's responsible

Says ICT adviser

STAR REPORT

A seven-member committee has been formed to investigate the internet shutdown during the recent protests that led to the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government.

This comes after Nahid Islam, adviser for Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, sought an explanation as to why the internet was shut down during the protest and who was responsible, with a report within 24 hours.

AKM Amirul Islam, an additional secretary at the Posts and Telecommunications Division, was appointed as the head of the committee.

"We are now working on it," he told The Daily Star.

Earlier, while speaking to journalists at the secretariat, Nahid said action will be taken against the officials involved in the internet shutdown.

Nahid said access to the internet is a right, and disrupting or shutting down internet services is a violation of human rights.



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HC division also needs reform

Says Attorney General Asaduzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court needs to be reformed like the Appellate Division, said Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at his Supreme Court office yesterday, he expressed optimism that the newly appointed Chief Justice, Syed Refaat Ahmed, would soon enhance the judiciary's role in upholding the rights of the people of Bangladesh.

"The government has taken initiatives to reform the Supreme Court. With a new chief justice in place, I am confident that this institution will quickly evolve to better serve the people," said Asaduzzaman, who was appointed on August 8, even before the interim government took oath.

His remarks come in the wake of significant changes in the judiciary, including the resignation of former chief justice Obaidul Hassan and five other Appellate Division judges on Saturday, amid widespread student protests.

On the same day, Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed,

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JATIYA PRESS CLUB Memberships of Farida, Shyamal 'revoked'

The two term move unconstitutional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of Jatiya Press Club's managing committee yesterday revoked memberships of its president Farida Yasmin, general secretary Shyamal Dutta and managing committee member Shahnaaj Siddiqui Soma.

At the same time, senior vice president Hasan Hafiz and joint secretary Md Ayub Bhuiyan were selected as the new president and general secretary respectively.

The decision was taken unanimously during a meeting of the club's managing committee, following demand from the anti-discrimination student movement coordinators, said a notice signed by Hasan and Ayub.

It said the decision was taken as per clause 13 (b) and clause 34. The new president and general secretary were chosen as per clause 14 b (1), (3) and (4) of the club's constitution. Shahnaaj said they received the notice.

The Daily Star could not contact Hasan Hafiz and Ayub Bhuiyan for their comments.

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They share a common grief: their sons, husbands, or brothers have been missing for years, allegedly abducted by state agencies during the 15-year rule of the Awami League. Families of such enforced disappearance victims formed a human chain in front of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. They placed three demands before the interim government and sought a reply within 24 hours. The demands are unconditional and immediate release of their loved ones, trial of those state force members involved in enforced disappearances, and a commission for the victims and their family members under UN supervision. The event was organised by Maayer Daak.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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RMG workers seek reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Workers' Solidarity presented an 11-point demand to the newly formed interim government, calling for improvements for garment workers and other key labourers vital to the country's development.

At a meeting titled "Garment Workers' Expectations from the Interim Government" held at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, the organisation demanded justice for the murder of garment worker Shubho Sheel and six others, urging state honours for all workers killed during clashes centring the quota reform movement, appropriate compensation for their families, and proper treatment and rehabilitation for the injured.

The group also called for the immediate withdrawal of all repressive cases filed during the 2023 wage increase movement and the release of 57 expatriate workers imprisoned in the UAE in connection with the protests.

Taslima Akhter, the organisation's president, emphasised the need for a reform to the minimum wage board and a reconsideration of the demand for a minimum wage of Tk 25,000.

She highlighted the need for unions, proper daycare centres for workers' children, extension of paid maternity leave to six months, and the creation of anti-sexual harassment complaint cells