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Primary schools reopen after 28 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes at all primary schools across the country resumed yesterday after a 28 day closure due to the quota reform movement, which was followed by widespread violence.

All government primary schools under eight city corporation areas of the country were declared closed for an indefinite period on July 17 amid tension over students' quota reform movement.

After nearly a month of closure, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education issued an order on Tuesday to resume academic activities. The directive instructed all government primary schools under the ministry, primary schools operated by the Children's Welfare Trust, and learning centres run by the Bureau of Non-Formal Education, to take necessary measures to fully resume classroom activities.



As part of the "Resistance Week" programme, students of various educational institutions gather at Shahbagh yesterday afternoon. They demanded formation of a special tribunal to ensure speedy trial of the killings carried out by Sheikh Hasina, her party, and the government during the mass uprising in July and August.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

**CEOs now in charge of cities**  
**LGD empowers them with full admin, financial power**

HELEMUL ALAM

The interim government yesterday decided to give chief executive officers full administrative and financial power to run the city corporations where mayors and panel mayors are absent.

In an office order, the Local Government Division said many mayors and panel mayors have been absent due to the existing circumstances. The LGD has tried to communicate with them but to no avail.

The order came into effect yesterday.

Due to their absence, works and services at the city corporations remain halted.

The decision was taken for the sake of people's interest and to continue all kinds of services as well as administrative works, said the order, signed by Abu Hena Morshed Zaman, secretary to the LGD.

There are 12 city corporations - Dhaka south, Dhaka north, Khulna, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barishal, Cumilla, Sylhet, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Mymensingh.

According to the sources, several mayors including Dhaka north and south, Chattogram, Khulna, Barishal, Mymensingh and Cumilla were absent from their offices since the ouster of Awami League government on August 5.

All the absentee mayors were elected with AL support. This is the first time such a decision was taken in the country.

DHAKA CITY CORPORATIONS

**Disruption of services leave residents in limbo**

2 mayors, most councillors absent from office

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

Mohammad Atique, a resident of Gandaria, has been visiting the local councillor's office for the last several days as he needs a citizenship certificate for his son.

However, Atique could not manage the certificate as the ward-46 councillor's office has remained closed since August 5, following the fall of the Awami League government.

Similarly, many councillors' offices of two Dhaka city corporations are non-operational, as most of those came under attack following the resignation of Sheikh Hasina.

With the two mayors and councillors absent, the regular activities of the two city corporations of Dhaka have been severely disrupted.

As per media reports, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh left the country on August 3, while Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam is said to have gone underground.

However, a DNCC official said Atiqul is still in the country and

providing them with instructions virtually.

Of the councillors, some have reportedly fled the country, while many are in hiding and are not joining work, fearing further attacks.

In addition, a good number of DNCC and DSCC officials are

Only the waste management and mosquito control programmes are running partially, according to sources.

This newspaper tried to contact at least 103 councillors of the two city corporations and could only reach 39 of them.

Among the councillors who The Daily Star contacted, 19 of their offices were vandalised and looted and three faced arson, while 18 councillors said they have already resumed their operations and 20 are waiting for the government's direction.

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Ward-10 councillor office in Motijheel.



Ward-27 councillor office in Farmgate.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Students for political reform on campus

Demand transparency from govt at MJF discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University students expressed their support for student politics on campus, but were against allowing traditional party-affiliated groups like Chhatra League, Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir, during a discussion organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation yesterday.

They also emphasised the need for transparency and accountability from the government.

The session brought 25 young men and women from various parts of the country, who took part in the anti-discrimination student movement, to share their experiences and demands for the future of Bangladesh.

Speaking about how the quota reform movement turned into a mass uprising, the youth shared that when former prime minister Sheikh Hasina called the protesting students "Razakars", it angered everyone.

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Staffers cleaning up the premises of Mohammadpur Police Station in the capital yesterday, following a mob attack just over a week ago. The attack caused extensive damage to the police station that resumed partial operations on Tuesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

DAY AT A GLANCE

Submit income statements in 10 days

Asif Nazrul to judiciary staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said officials and employees of the judiciary have to submit their income statements within 10 working days.

The adviser said this at a press briefing at the law ministry.

He further said all false and fraudulent cases filed between July 1 and August 5 in Dhaka centring student movement will be withdrawn by Thursday.

Besides, all the cases filed against protesters of quota-reform movement for harassment would be withdrawn by August 31, he added.



Allow relatives to visit prisoners in jails: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to allow the relatives and lawyers to visit prisoners in jails under the provisions of the Jail Code.

The court also stayed a previous government notification that had barred relatives and lawyers from visiting prisoners in jails and also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why the notification should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Md Bazlur Rahman issued the order and rule.

Journo Rozina Islam cleared of charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Prothom Alo senior journalist Rozina Islam has been cleared of the charges in an Official Secrets Act case.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sultan Sohag Uddin yesterday exempted Rozina, accepting a final report in the case, a court staffer told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, the PBI submitted the final report before the court, clearing Rozina of the charges in the case.

On May 17, 2021, Rozina was sued by a deputy secretary of the Health Services Division on allegations of stealing and capturing photos of "highly sensitive" government documents.



Ban AL, its associate bodies: Gono Odhikar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday called for the banning of the Awami League, Jubo League, and Chhatra League, which it labelled as "terrorist organisations".

After a one and half-hour meeting with the Home Affairs Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain at the secretariat, the parishad president Nurul Haque Nur and general secretary Rashed Khan laid out the party's eight-point demand.

They also demanded that the interim government appoint new superintendents of police and officers-in-charge in all 64 districts.

They urged the home adviser deploy a 10-member military team in vulnerable police stations to increase the morale of the cops and to normalise the law-and-order situation.

Gono Odhikar Parishad also demanded a people-friendly police system free of bribery and corruption.

Fakhrul visits Abu Sayed's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday visited the family of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur, who was killed by police during quota reform movement.

Upon arrival at Sayed's home in Zafarpur Babanpur village in Pirganj around 1:45pm, Fakhrul offered prayers at Abu Sayed's grave and met his family members.

Later, he addressed a rally at Zafarpur Madrasa field at 3:00pm. He urged his party men to refrain from any attacks on minorities and resist evil plans by Awami League.

