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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

‘Arrest guilty officials in 24 hours’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayer Daak yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the government demanding the arrest of law enforcement officials involved in enforced disappearances.

The ultimatum was announced by Sanjida Islam Tulee, one of the coordinators of Mayer Daak, a platform for the families of victims, at a human chain at Jatiya Press Club.

Six days have passed since the formation of the interim government, and only three people have been released from “Aynaghor”, she said.

However, the remaining missing persons have not yet been found.

“We are issuing a 24-hour ultimatum for the arrest of Ziaul Hasan, Tarique Siddique, and other officials involved in these disappearances.”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Family members of the victims of enforced disappearance break down in tears at a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. “Mayer Dak”, a platform of the victim families, organised the event demanding arrest of the law enforcers involved in forcibly disappearing people.

PHOTO: STAR

Rizwana vows stern action against corruption

BSS, Dhaka

Environment Ministry adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday warned that stern action will be taken if anyone from her ministry is found involved in corruption.

She made the remarks at a meeting with Forest Department officials.

Rizwana said the Wildlife Crime Control Unit should monitor bird markets at Katabon regularly.

“Legal action should be taken against all types of illegal bird trade and traders who are cruel to animals. She sought cooperation from students to this end.

Earlier, the adviser visited the DoE and gave instructions to take effective steps against hill razing and river pollution.

She urged for transparency and accountability from the DoE.

CITY CORPORATIONS 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 (CEO) 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 tried to communicate with them but to no avail.

Due to their absence, works and services remain halted. So, the decision was taken for the sake of people's interest and to continue services as well as administrative works, said the order, signed by Abu Hena Morshed Zaman, secretary to the LGD. It came into effect yesterday.

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

According to 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.

Disruption of services leave residents in limbo

Two Dhaka mayors, most councillors
absent from office



Ward-10 councillor office in Motijheel.

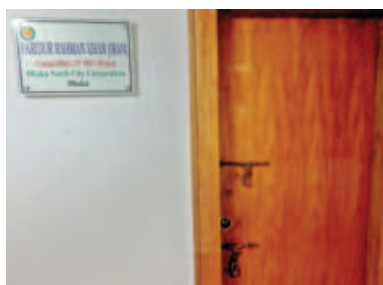
HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

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



Ward-27 councillor office in Farmgate.

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 currently absent from their duties.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



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

Lamiya Morshed chief coordinator for SDG affairs

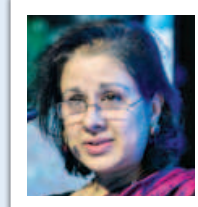
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lamiya Morshed, the executive director of Yunus Centre, has been appointed as the chief coordinator of SDG affairs of the chief adviser's office.

She replaced by Akhtar Hossain, whose contractual appointment was cancelled yesterday.

A source in the Ministry of Public Administration confirmed it to the Daily Star.

Notification in this regard will be issued shortly, sources said.



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-a-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.

