



ANGER OVER DC POSTS Deputy secys scuffle inside Secretariat

BAHARAM KHAN

In an unprecedented scene, Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday witnessed a fistfight among a section of public administration ministry officials over the appointment of 59 deputy commissioners in the last two days.

The officials also hurled abuse at each other inside a senior official's room as well as in the corridor, officials said.

They said they have never heard of or imagined such an unpleasant and undisciplined behaviour at the Secretariat, the heart of civil bureaucracy.

Witnesses said some officials belonging to the rank of deputy secretary stormed the office of Joint Secretary KM Ali Azam at building no. 1 around 1:30pm, saying they were unfairly left out of the list of the newly appointed DCs.

At one point, some of them lunged at Ali Azam. A pushing and shoving broke out when other colleagues, including a female official, tried to intervene to bring order, they added.

Police and army personnel deployed at the Secretariat gate rushed to the scene on the second floor of the building to prevent the situation from worsening further, several officials said.

When an intelligence official tried to capture video of the disorderly episode, some officials seized his mobile phone, which has since been returned.

The protesting officials made themselves available on the second floor until 4:00pm and then moved to the fourth floor, outside the office of Cabinet Secretary Mahbub Hossain. The DC aspirants spoke with him

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“We have demanded the cancellation of the gazette [of the DC appointment]. We have also explained why it should be revoked.”

An official of BCS
24th batch



Army personnel try to diffuse tension between the students of Dhaka College and Ideal College at the capital's Science Laboratory intersection yesterday afternoon after a clash broke out leaving at least two dozen people injured. Traffic was disrupted on this busy road for hours. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Power supply may not improve anytime soon

ASIFUR RAHMAN and
KONGKON KARMAKER

The power supply situation has further deteriorated across the country as another power plant has completely shut and there is no sign of increasing generation in the immediate future.

Load-shedding or gap in power demand and supply hit the highest 2,312MW early yesterday, a record in recent weeks, according to the data of Power Grid Bangladesh PLC.

Rajshahi, Rangpur, Cumilla,

Mymensingh and Sylhet areas are mostly affected by power cuts, the data shows.

From Monday evening, Dinajpur's 525-megawatt Barapukuria thermal power plant, the country's first coal-fired power producer, suspended operations after its lone functioning unit shut down for technical glitches, leaving the greater Rangpur area without electricity for a large part of the day.

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Hasina's energy adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's energy adviser



Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury was arrested from the capital's Gulshan area last night.

A team of detectives arrested him around 9:45pm, Rezaul Karim Mallik, additional commissioner of Detective

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PRISON BREAKS 928 inmates still at large 84 of them are condemned

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least 2,241 inmates, including 88 on death row, fled from prisons before and after the mass uprising but a large number of them are yet to be found.

So far, 1,313 prisoners, including four condemned, have either surrendered or have been arrested.

Police are clueless about where the remaining 928 convicts are, according to officials working at the Department of Prisons.

The prison breaks happened in five out of the 68 penitentiaries in the country. Most of the 88 condemned prisoners who fled had escaped from the Kashimpur High Security Jail in Gazipur.

Law enforcers have claimed that they beefed up security and intensified vigilance in border areas so that those who fled from prisons cannot leave the country.

Lists of escaped inmates have been given to border

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‘Underpaid jail guards susceptible to bribery’

IG (prisons) tells Star

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Many well-off inmates carry out illegal activities inside prisons by bribing a section of jail staffers.

Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Muhammad Motahar Hussain highlighted this problem in an interview with The Daily Star on Sunday.

Asked about the allegations of narcotics in jails and granting illegal privileges to the prisoners in exchange for money, he said he cannot denying those allegations as affluent prisoners “exploit the undercompensated jail staffers” in many ways.

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S M Motahar Hussain

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