

STUDENT-LED UPRISING
Memorial to honour martyrs postponed

Foundation formed to support families of deceased, injured

BSS, Dhaka
Information Adviser Md Nahid Islam yesterday informed that the memorial meeting to honour the martyrs of the recent student-led mass upsurge, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed.

A new date will be announced later, he told reporters at a press briefing held at the Secretariat.

The health ministry has confirmed a list of 728 martyrs, alongside 20,263 injured, during the movement, he said.

On Tuesday, the government set September 14 as the date for the memorial.

Families of the martyrs and students, who participated in the movement, were expected to attend the memorial.

Meanwhile, the interim government has established the July Martyrs' Memorial Foundation to provide support for the families of the martyrs and those injured

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Nahid



Asif



Following the opening of the Dengue Ward at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital on Wednesday, more and more patients have started filling up the beds in both the male and female wards. According to the DGHS, the number of dengue cases is rising, with this year's death rate standing at 0.61 percent, compared to 0.5 in 2023. This photojournalist saw that most of the beds in both wards already had patients being treated.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ARTICLE 70

Attorney general for reform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman has expressed his desire for the reformation of Article 70 of the constitution, stating that it has led to an excessive concentration of power in the hands of one individual.

"Not as attorney general, my personal opinion is that due to Article 70 of the constitution, the legislative, executive, and judiciary of Bangladesh have practically come under the control of one person and the members of parliament cannot apply their minds independently," he said while speaking to reporters in his office at the Supreme Court premises yesterday.

Asaduzzaman said the upcoming constitution reform commission will review the issue.

Article 70 says, "A person elected as a member of parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he (a) resigns from that party; or (b) votes in parliament against that party; but shall not thereby be disqualified for subsequent election as a member of Parliament."

200 BCS NON-CADRE HEADTEACHERS

Gazette delay leaves them in limbo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 headteachers appointed to BCS non-cadre posts in government primary schools across the country have yet to be recognised as gazetted officers, despite a High Court verdict.

These headteachers were appointed through the Public Service Commission during the 34th BCS non-cadre recruitment in 2017. But, for more than six years, they have not been gazetted due to bureaucratic issues between the PSC and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

According to the teachers, due to a limited number of cadre positions, the PSC recommended appointing headteachers from non-cadre posts in 2016, following the 34th BCS.

The recruitment rules of 2010 (amended in 2014) stipulated that recommendations should be made for first or second-class gazetted positions. However, these teachers were recommended for third-class, non-gazetted positions.

Mejbaul Haque, president of the 34th BCS Non-Cadre Head Teacher Association and headteacher at Khas Naogaon Government Primary School in Naogaon Sadar, said those who ranked lower in the same BCS merit list were later appointed to second-class gazetted positions, such as assistant teachers in secondary schools and chemists and inspectors in the environment ministry.

They are yet to be promoted to first-class positions, even after nine years.

"In contrast, we are paid according to grade I2 and face no further opportunities for direct promotion," he claimed.

Despite a High Court verdict, they have not been gazetted for more than six years due to bureaucratic issues between the PSC and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

The recruitment rules of 2010 (amended in 2014) stipulated that recommendations should be made for first or second-class gazetted positions. However, these teachers were recommended for third-class, non-gazetted positions.

He said in 2018, 225 of their teachers filed a petition with the High Court. The court ordered that they be appointed to second-class gazetted positions, such as assistant

upazila education officer or equivalent roles under the ministry.

Then, when the government and PSC appealed, the Appellate Division upheld the HC ruling and directed action to be taken. Despite this, primary education ministry and the PSC have been delaying implementation under various pretexts.

Haque claimed there are over a thousand vacant positions for assistant upazila primary education officer or similar roles, and thus, there should be no issues with implementing the court's decision.

Another teacher said, "Even after passing the BCS, as non-cadre officers, we have only requested our entitlement to second-class gazetted positions according to the 2014 recruitment rules."

"Despite ranking lower in the same BCS exam, others were appointed to 10th grade gazetted positions, while we were placed in non-gazetted 12th-grade positions. Despite the court's ruling, no steps have been taken to address this discrimination."

PSC Chairman Md Sohorab Hossain could not be reached despite several attempts.

However, PSC Public Relations Officer Motiur Rahman said, "The PSC received the teachers' application, and petition documents on August 22. The matter is still under process. PSC law officer will review the matter, and it will be brought to the PSC meeting for further steps."

Ex-IGP Mamun shown held in 4 murder cases

Menon, Inu, Palak also shown arrested in one of the cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was shown arrested yesterday in four more murder cases filed with Bhatara and Khilgaon police stations centring quota reform protests.

Two Dhaka courts passed the orders after four petitions were filed in this regard, said court staffers.

Of the four cases, two were filed with Bhatara Police Station over the deaths of Sohag Miah, 16, and bakery employee Abdul Hannan on July 19, while two others were filed with Khilgaon Police Station over the deaths of grocery shop owner Mizanur Rahman and Ashiqul Islam, 14, in Khilgaon on the same day.

Mamun was produced before court yesterday upon completion of his eight-day remand in a case filed over the death of grocery shop owner Abu Saeed in Mohammadpur on July 19.

Meanwhile, Workers Party president Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal president Hasanul Haq Inu and former state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak were also shown arrested yesterday in the case filed with Khilgaon Police Station over Mizanur's death.

Report enforced disappearances to Inquiry Commission

Govt urges all; SC sends 64 names to the commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued a public appeal for information on missing persons, urging victims, families, or witnesses of enforced disappearances to provide details to the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

The call for information was made in a notice signed by Md Bulbul Hossain, additional district judge and an official attached to the commission.

The commission was established to investigate cases of enforced disappearances allegedly involving law enforcement agencies, including the Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Special Branch (SB), Detective Branch (DB), Ansar Battalion, National Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Coast Guard, and other agencies, between 2010 and August 5 this year, the notice said.

The commission has asked victims, their family members, or witnesses to submit information in person, by mail, or via email between September 15 and September 30.

Complaints can also be filed by scheduling in person appointments through the hotline from 10:30am to 4:00pm on working days.

The commission's office is located at 96, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Email: decommission.bd@gmail.com. They can be contacted via these hotlines: 01701662120 and 02-58812121.

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'Kicked out one fascist not to make room for another'

Student leaders rally in Tangail, Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

The coordinators of the anti-discrimination student movement held rallies in Tangail and Cox's Bazar yesterday as part of their nationwide campaign.

At a rally in Tangail's Shaheed Smriti Municipal Park, central coordinator Sarjis Alam said, "We kicked out one fascist, not to make room for another." He warned against the rise of new autocratic regimes, saying, "If anyone dreams of becoming a fascist, they should learn from Sheikh Hasina's downfall."

He said the student community should lead the country and enter parliament as policymakers, urging the youth to fight bribery, corruption, and syndicates.

In Cox's Bazar, central coordinator Hasnat Abdullah echoed similar sentiments. Speaking at a meeting in the public hall, he said despite the fall of the "fascist" government, its supporters remain, posing a threat to the country's newfound freedom.

He urged continuous vigilance to safeguard the rights won through the student-led movement.

Hasnat told everyone to stay united irrespective of caste, creed and religion. He emphasised the importance of building a fair, corruption-free state, stressing the need for co-operation from all sectors.

"Hundreds of students sacrificed their lives to rid us of the fascists. They sought no personal gain. However, once we began reforming the state and government after the movement, many individuals emerged seeking positions of power," he said.

He said the previous relationship between the fascist government and India had been one of subjugation. Looking ahead, he said Bangladesh will aim for an equal and respectful relationship with India.



Sarjis



Hasnat

BANGLADESH-INDIA AIR ROUTES

Passenger numbers plummet following Aug 5

RASHIDUL HASAN

Flights between Bangladesh and India have seen a sharp drop in passenger numbers recently, with airlines blaming India's restricted visa issuance as the main cause.

This has led to a significant fall in travellers, especially as many who have received visas are hesitant to visit India, fearing harassment or detention at the airport.

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, India has only resumed issuing visas on a limited basis, mainly for medical and educational purposes. As a result, flights are running at less than half capacity on routes from Dhaka to major Indian cities like Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi, according to sources at various airlines.

Flights to Kolkata, which are priced between Tk 12,500 and Tk 17,000 depending on the airline, are operating with very few passengers. In one case, a private airline flew to Kolkata with just 12 passengers.

Airlines are struggling to cover operational costs as a result of this steep decline, the sources said.

Currently, flights between Bangladesh and India are operated by Biman

Bangladesh Airlines, US Bangla Airlines, Novoir, and Indian carriers Vistara Airlines, Air India, and Indigo. These airlines serve routes from Dhaka to Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai.

Airline officials said flights from Dhaka to Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi are carrying less than 50 percent of their passenger capacity. Biman Bangladesh Airlines has had to reduce its weekly flights to Kolkata

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, India has only resumed issuing visas on a limited basis, mainly for medical and educational purposes.

to seven from 14, while flights to Chennai and Delhi have also been reduced.

Biman's general manager of public relations, Bushra Islam, said they are only managing to fill 40-48 percent of seats on these routes, though return flights from India have slightly higher passenger numbers.

US-Bangla Airlines has similarly

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A part of this road in the Jurain Rail Crossing area has been taken up by illegal makeshift shops and illegally parked CNG-run auto-rickshaws. As a result, there is very little space for vehicles plying the road, leading to severe traffic congestion. The photo was taken recently.