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JULY UPRISING Govt forms committee for memorial museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday announced the formation of a committee to oversee the establishment of the July Mass Revolution Memorial Museum.

Information Adviser Nahid Islam revealed the committee during a press briefing at the Gono Bhaban, according to a press release from the Ministry of Information.

Ebadur Rahman, a curator, teacher, writer, and filmmaker, has been appointed as the committee's convener, while Mahfuz Alam, special assistant to the chief adviser, will serve as joint convener.

The committee includes Mustain Billah, a writer and human rights activist; Jahid Sabuj, a faculty member from the Fine Arts Department at

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A girl lights a candle on the grave of a deceased family member at Patharghata Catholic Church in Chattogram city yesterday, marking All Souls' Day. Members of the Christian community observe the day by offering prayers, and lighting candles and placing flowers on the graves of their loved ones.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Reforms underway to prevent corruption Says energy adviser

BSS, Dhaka

The interim government has started institutional reform works to prevent corruption and ensure transparency and accountability in all sectors, said Energy, Road Transport, and Railways Affairs Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan yesterday.

He said this while addressing a seminar at a city hotel.

The seminar, titled "Harmonizing Reform and Sustainable Infrastructure Development for a Prosperous Bangladesh," was organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum.

The interim government has destroyed the infrastructure connected to corruption, the adviser said, adding that efforts are underway to reduce

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TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

73pc graduates earn less than Tk 10k per month

Says CPD study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 73 percent of technical graduates earn less than Tk 10,000 per month, as most job opportunities offer poor salaries due to a lack of skills and a mismatch between supply and demand, as per a study by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Of the graduates, 36 percent get Tk 15,000 to Tk 25,000, while only one percent get above Tk 30,000.

CPD yesterday unveiled the findings at an event on government technical and vocational education in the capital's Farmgate.

The survey was conducted on 600 incumbent and former technical students in three districts -- Panchagarh, Satkhira, and Sunamganj -- in collaboration with Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, and the Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO).

Presenting the keynote, Towfiqul Islam Khan, a senior



I hope the interim government will establish a committee to draft an action plan to create a modern, efficient technical and vocational education system.

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA
CPD Distinguished Fellow

research fellow at the CPD, said initially certified students have to work without pay as their acquired skills do not properly meet the market demand.

Recruiters often express

concern about the graduates' quality of work, he said.

He also said the course curriculums often do not meet the needs of local industries, making it challenging for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates to find appropriate job opportunities.

According to CPD, only 13 percent of participants believe the quality of education meets their expectations, while 59 percent feel it is satisfactory.

About 87 percent of current and past students believe technical education falls short of their expectations, while 67 percent believe infrastructure is on average level, said the study.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at CPD, called for a partnership-based expert committee to modernise technical education.

"I hope the interim government will establish a committee to draft

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SSC exams to be held in April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The SSC and equivalent exams, which had resumed their regular February schedule this year after disruptions caused by the pandemic, are set to face delays once more in the upcoming year.

The education boards are planning to start the SSC exams in April, roughly two months later than usual, after the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, head of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, confirmed the timeline. However, he did not specify the reasons behind the delay.

Due to the delay in the SSC exams, the HSC and equivalent exams are also likely to be delayed by one to two months, according to board officials.

Traditionally, SSC exams start in early February, with HSC exams following in early April. However, the pandemic disrupted this

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US polls outcome won't affect our bilateral ties

Says CA's press secretary on
Dhaka-Washington relations

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam yesterday said the results of the US election will not pose any challenge for the relations between the country and Bangladesh.

Prof Muhammad Yunus, as a global leader, has very good ties with senior leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties, he added.

"He [Prof Yunus] has friends in both parties. The relationship depends a lot on personal attachment. Prof Yunus is a global leader. So, whether Kamala Harris or Donald Trump wins the US election, there will be no challenge for our relationship," he said while speaking as the chief at a debate competition in the capital.

Shafiqul Alam said Donald Trump's statement on minorities in Bangladesh is a completely domestic political issue, and lobbyists may have influenced this issue.

Trump, on Thursday, strongly condemned the "barbaric violence" against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are "getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which remains in a total state of chaos."

"What Republican Donald Trump, who is running again for the White House, thinks about the events in Bangladesh 'does obviously matter'," he said, but stressed that their task in the government is to tell the truth.

"He [Trump] may soon become the leader of the free world. But our task is to tell our truth in the most

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'Minorities matter'

Oikya Parishad places six-
point proposal for non-
discriminatory state, society



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minority community leaders yesterday placed a six-point proposal aiming to rebuild a non-discriminatory state and society.

Nirmal Rozario, one of the presidents of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, placed the proposals at a rally held at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka.

The Minority Unity Forum, which comprises 40 organisations representing religious and ethnic minority groups, organised the rally calling for protecting rights and the existence of religious minorities.

"The existence of Bangladesh cannot be envisioned without minorities. We aim to build a united nation and ensure democracy, equality,

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Drop cases under ICT's repealed provisions: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cases pending under the repealed provisions of Bangladesh's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act should be dropped, recommended a report published yesterday.

The TrialWatch Initiative of the Clooney Foundation for Justice, and the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) jointly released the report, the first in a series on Bangladesh's cyber laws.

"With a political transition underway in Bangladesh, the time is right for a review of the country's succession of draconian cyber laws. The recent announcement by the interim government to withdraw all 'speech offence' cases under all three cyber laws is a step in the right direction," the organisations said in a statement issued by CGS.

Bangladesh has long had laws criminalising what is vaguely described as the dissemination of "offensive" or "false" information or information that allegedly "deteriorates law and order" or "hurts religious beliefs" on online platforms, said the statement.

These criminal provisions have found form in a succession of laws -- first in provisions of the ICT Act-2006, then replaced by the Digital Security Act (DSA) in 2018, which in turn was supplanted by the Cyber Security Act (CSA) in 2023, it also said.

Although each of those changes was trumpeted

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People in droves occupy a large part of Topkhana Road in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, disrupting traffic flow yesterday. Such gatherings have become a common sight as various organisations hold events at this location almost every day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Lack of national unity behind distorted history

Says Serajul Islam
Choudhury

BSS, Dhaka

Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury yesterday said libraries need to be made a centre of cultural practice.

"The role of books is most important in practicing the culture. There were libraries in almost every area, but those are now lifeless. Those libraries should be reinvigorated," he said.

The eminent historian said this while inaugurating a book fair titled "Oitijhya Book Festival," organised by Oitijhya Prakashona at Bangla Academy premises.

Mentioning that the capitalist system is isolating people every day, Prof Choudhury said, "Resistance against this system exists, but on a small scale. In the long run, humanity will win. This is the source of optimism and hope."

He said capitalism is patronising

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