



Bureaucrats busy feuding over perks

Admin cadre demands reform commission be scrapped within 48hrs; admin, other cadres call separate rallies for Jan 4

BAHARAM KHAN and MD ABBAS

After the administration reform commission recently revealed recommendations it was considering, protests by officials of the admin and 25 other cadres have significantly intensified, affecting their work.

So far, officials have taken out processions, held press conferences, gone on strike which they termed "pen down", announced forming human chains today and called or threatened to hold rallies on January 4 in Dhaka.

On Sunday, admin officials left their offices, gathered inside the Secretariat, took out a procession towards the public administration secretary's office, and submitted a memorandum.

Former additional secretary and civil administration expert Firoz Mia strongly criticised the recent actions of the officials, stating, "What the cadre officials are doing is a clear violation of conduct rules. If they behave like trade unionists to secure personal benefits, what can the nation possibly expect from them?"

"Cadre officials are among the highest beneficiaries and most responsible officers of the state. If they resort to protests, threaten mass rallies, and engage in such movements, what lessons will the people or



The walkway by the Turag River in the capital's Ramchandrapur was built not only for people to enjoy daily strolls, but also to stop illegal encroachment of the banks while protecting the demarcation pillars. However, some cement companies have illegally constructed a structure right on the walkway to unload cement, which is not only obstructing pedestrian movement but also posing risks to the walkway's structural integrity. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MV AL BAKHERA Rab claims a coworker killed 7 crew members

STAR REPORT

The seven crew members of MV Al-Bakhera were killed by a fellow, Akash Mondal, who was allegedly frustrated over unpaid wages and mistreatment, the Rab claimed yesterday after his arrest.

He put sedatives into the food on Sunday night, rendering everyone unconscious, before murdering the vessel's master Kibria in Kibria's cabin with a fire axe in the wee hours of Monday, the Rab said.

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REFORM COMMISSION

ACC overhaul, amendments to law to be proposed

DIPAN NANDY

The reform commission for the Anti-Corruption Commission is focused on amending the ACC structure and related laws to enhance its capacity, efficiency, and independence.

The commission will recommend reducing the workload of the ACC's top-tier leadership, amending provisions of the ACC act that conflict with existing laws, and keeping the graft watchdog free from political and bureaucratic influence, according to sources within the reform commission.

The eight-member commission is working to submit its report within the January 7 deadline. Since its formation on October 3, it

has held around 30 meetings with different stakeholders.

According to sources, the commission will recommend expanding the current three-member ACC to a five-member body by amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004. It will also propose changes to several provisions of the ACC act to make it consistent with other related laws and regulations.

The commission may also suggest amending or repealing laws and provisions, including Bangladesh Civil Service Recruitment Rules-1981, the Income Tax Act-2023, and the Money Laundering Prevention Act-2012.

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ACC can't deliver without changes in politics, bureaucracy

Says Iftekharuzzaman

DIPAN NANDY

Iftekharuzzaman, the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh and also the head of the anti-corruption reform commission, recently shared with The Daily Star updates on the commission's activities.

The Daily Star: Tell us about the progress the commission has made so far.

Iftekharuzzaman: We have already talked to various stakeholders, particularly current and former officials of

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lower-grade employees learn?"

Admin and other 25 cadres are vehemently protesting against the commission's possible recommendations and have violated section 17(a), section 23(a), section 29(c), and section 30 of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules, 1979, and sections 9(a), 9(g), and 9(j) of the Guidelines on Social Media Usage by Government Institutions, 2016, by taking to social media.

The government employees taking part in these protests could be subjected to disciplinary actions, experts have said.

Bangladesh Administrative Service Association of the incumbent admin officials and the BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, consisting former and current admin officers, yesterday held a protest to counter what they said "deep conspiracies

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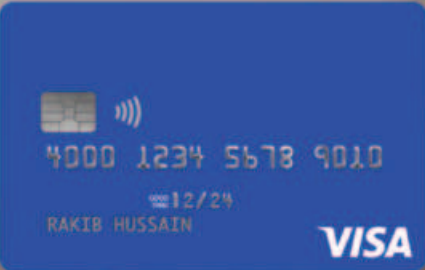
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