



1972 ‘Mujibist’ constitution will be buried

Say student coordinators about proclamation of July Revolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The “Mujibist” constitution of 1972 will become invalid through the proclamation of the July Revolution by the Anti-discrimination Students Movement on December 31, leaders of the platform said yesterday.

“From the very place where the one-point movement was declared, the grave of the Mujibist 1972 constitution will be dug -- we want the Mujibist constitution to be buried,” Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the platform, told a press briefing at its central office in the capital’s Banglamotor.

The platform is all set to unveil the proclamation of the

“The proclamation will clarify how the ‘Mujibist’ constitution has destroyed the aspirations of the people and precisely how we intend to replace it.”

HASNAT ABDULLAH
Convener of Anti-discrimination Students Movement

July Revolution on December 31 at 3:00pm at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Hasnat further said that the proclamation should have been made on August 5 after the fall of the Awami League government.

“Better late than never. The delay has allowed pro-fascist forces to continue conspiring from abroad and questioning the legitimacy of the revolution through the media, intellectual circles and various other platforms.”

These efforts undermine the sacrifice of more than 2,000 martyrs and more than 20,000 injured, he said.

“We hope that the proclamation will make the Nazi-like Awami League irrelevant in Bangladesh.”

The proclamation will outline the dreams, aspirations, intentions, goals and manifesto for the future of Bangladesh, he mentioned.

“It belongs to no specific party or class. Over the course

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Postgraduate trainee doctors block the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday, demanding that their monthly stipend be raised to Tk 50,000. Story on Page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

STUDENTS’ PROCLAMATION MOVE BNP, others raise questions, Jamaat welcomes it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and several other political parties raise questions about the Students Against Discrimination’s decision to proclaim what it calls the July Revolution while Jamaat welcomes it.

Sources in the BNP say their leaders apprehend that this move may delay the next election. They also wonder why the students are doing this five months after the uprising.

The BNP wants an election at the earliest and believes that only an elected government can run the country.

Ganosamhati Andolon and Gono Odhikar Parishad leaders say the Students Against Discrimination is trying to make it seem like it alone led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

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Polls should be govt’s priority, not lowering of voting age

Say leaders of several political parties

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Emphasising the urgency of general elections, political party leaders cautioned against lowering the voting age. They argued that such a move could spark controversy and push back the polls date in the process.

On Friday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus suggested a minimum voting age of 17 and expressed his willingness to accept

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Police struggling to get back on their feet

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In the beginning of the year, the police were accused of being a tool implementing “Sheikh Hasina’s engineered election”, then they became the heavy hand attempting to crush the mass uprising. Days after Hasina’s ouster, the force appeared to have disintegrated. And now, they are trying to gain public trust in combating crime.

Although senior police officials refreshingly admit their shortcomings and promise better days ahead, the challenges facing the force are steep.

Many officers have been transferred for their alleged role in backing the Awami League regime.

A large number of those who replaced them have no experience in working in crime divisions, resulting in the sluggishness of the force’s transition into what the people desire.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret’d) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury acknowledged this on several occasions over the last few months. He said it would take the police some time to become acquainted with the alleys of Dhaka. The police members would need time to build an intelligence network before they could become effective crime fighters.

The police are dealing with multiple problems. Equipment deemed essential, like teargas canisters, stun grenades, transport vehicles, and walkie-talkies, which were damaged or destroyed during the uprising, have not all been replaced.

Over 450 of the country’s 664 police stations were attacked and some of them were set on fire.

Abdul Malek, inspector (investigation) of the Adabor Police Station, said, “Everything was burnt, including patrol cars, furniture, case dockets, and walkie-talkies ...”

“We have so far received two patrol cars, some furniture and weapons, but these are not enough ... We are trying to do the job with what we have,” he said.

According to the Police Headquarters database, 5,750 police firearms and 6,51,609 bullets were looted during the uprising. The weapons and ammunition include small machine guns, light machine guns, pistols, shotguns, gas guns, teargas launchers, and tear gas shells.

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Fire and smoke rise from the tail section of a Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 series aircraft after the plane crashed and burst into flames at Muan International Airport in South Jeolla Province, some 288 kilometres southwest of Seoul, South Korea yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

One or 2 parties trying to fish in troubled waters

Says Rizvi; Jamaat terms his remarks ‘baseless’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has alleged that “one or two political parties” in the country are trying to “fish in troubled waters to make gains”.

He said these parties, including an Islamist party that opposed Bangladesh’s independence in 1971, were conducting anti-BNP propaganda to deflect the people from the parties’ own misdeeds.

The Islamist party, he said, accuses the BNP of extortion despite itself being involved in taking control of a bank and tenders after the fall of Sheikh Hasina’s Awami League government.

Although Rizvi did not name any political party, the Jamaat e-Islami issued a statement condemning Rizvi’s remarks as “misleading, baseless and politically motivated”.

The BNP senior joint secretary general made the remarks while speaking to reporters after paying respect to BNP

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179 dead in South Korea plane crash

Two rescued; cause of crash unclear

REUTERS, Muan County

The deadliest air accident ever in South Korea killed 179 people yesterday, when an airliner belly-landed and skidded off the end of the runway, erupting in a fireball as it slammed into a wall at Muan International Airport.

Jeju Air flight 7C2216, arriving from the Thai capital Bangkok with 175 passengers and six crew on board, was attempting to land shortly after 9:00 am (0000 GMT) at the airport in the south of the country, South Korea’s transport ministry said.

Two crew members survived and were being treated for injuries. South Korea’s acting President Choi Sang-mok declared a national mourning period until January 4.

The deadliest air accident on South Korean soil was also the worst involving a South Korean airline in nearly three decades, according to the transport ministry.

The twin-engine Boeing 737-800 was seen in local media video skidding down the runway with no visible landing gear before crashing into navigation equipment and a wall in an explosion of flames and debris.

The two crew members, a man and a woman, were rescued from

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- Jeju Air flight skidded without gear down before exploding
- Investigators recover both black boxes
- S Korea declares 7-day national mourning

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