

# Families of July martyrs block Shahbagh for 7hrs

Demand recognition, compensation; commuters suffer amid gridlocks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of family members of July uprising martyrs blocked the Shahbagh intersection for seven hours yesterday, demanding justice, recognition, and compensation.

Holding placards and photographs of the deceased, the protesters accused the interim government of neglecting their plight.

They also demanded that Sheikh Hasina, the ousted prime minister, be extradited from India and brought to trial.

The protesters outlined three key demands – state recognition of the martyrs, fair compensation for their families, and swift legal action against those responsible for the killings.

The blockade, which began at 11:00am, paralysed traffic in surrounding areas, including Mirpur Road, Moghbazar, and Bangla Motor, causing severe congestion.

Commuters were seen walking long distances to reach their destinations, while minor altercations erupted between protesters and frustrated motorists.

**We have gone from door to door seeking justice, but we were treated with disrespect.**

**Abul Hasan**  
Father of martyr  
Shariar Hossain

The blockade was lifted at 6:00pm after Sarjis Alam, chief organiser of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, assured the protesters that he would facilitate a meeting with Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus by Sunday.

Sarjis also pledged to take the families to the July Smriti Foundation today to ensure they receive due recognition and compensation, said Biplob Hossain, father of martyr Mominul Islam Hridoy.

Abul Hasan, father of martyr Shariar Hossain, alleged, "We have gone from door to door seeking justice, but we were treated with disrespect."

Kamal Hawlader, father of martyr Sifat, alleged that they had repeatedly attempted to meet Dr Yunus but were denied access.

Mother of martyred Mehedi Hasan said, "The perpetrators are roaming free. Dr Yunus must fulfil his promises of delivering justice and recognition."

Another mother broke down, shouting, "They say it's a new Bangladesh, but those in power are only doing business with the

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Family members of the martyrs of the July uprising staged a blockade at Shahbagh around 11:00am yesterday. They demanded official recognition of the martyrs, compensation for their families, and swift legal action against those behind the murders. The blockade, which caused immense sufferings to commuters and pedestrians, was called off around 6:00pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## DEMOLITION OF DHANMONDI 32

### Rights group, left parties condemn arson, vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights group Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and some left-leaning parties yesterday condemned the ongoing incidents of vandalism and arson across the country, including the demolition of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at the capital's Dhanmondi 32.

ASK in a statement said the incidents, which began on Wednesday evening and continued till yesterday, are considered direct violations of the rule of law, equal access to justice, and proper legal procedures.

Quoting media reports, it said a call to attack and destroy the Dhanmondi 32 residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was widely circulated on social media throughout the day, and later that evening, a group of people "under the guise of students" gathered from various parts of the country to engage in vandalism, looting, mayhem, and even arson.

"Despite the presence of a military team at the site, no significant action was taken, and the team eventually left the scene. As the unrest spread throughout the night, numerous other buildings, properties, and locations across the country were targeted," it said.

ASK emphasised that under international human rights laws, everyone is entitled to equal protection, the right to property, and access to proper legal procedures.

"It's the government's responsibility to ensure these rights, and the inability to do so can be seen as a sign of its failure."

The rights body called on the government and all relevant parties to

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### Stop! Be calm, justice and reform will come: Mahfuj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

M a h f u j Alam, an adviser to the interim government, h a s asked the protesters to "stop" following the demolition of Dhanmondi 32 residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and attacks on other Awami League-owned establishments across the country.

In a Facebook post around 12:20am, Mahfuj wrote: "Stop!"

"Be calm. Let the government do its work. Justice and reform will come. I know in this heated season, no one will tell you to stop. But even if you curse, I will say, stop."

He wrote that the people now have the opportunity to become politically educated. Now is the time for constructive politics. The time to show better alternatives. "To resist, it is necessary to train, mature, and calm ourselves."

He said this is a long-term struggle. "Prepare, don't act impulsively. Do

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# Administrative void hampers DSCC operations

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has been operating without an administrator for over a month, severely disrupting its day-to-day activities.

Due to the absence of an administrator, many crucial administrative and financial decisions remain stalled, affecting the corporation's overall functionality, sources said.

DSCC Secretary Mohammad Bashirul Haque Bhuiyan has been carrying out the duties of the chief executive officer (CEO) as an additional responsibility for the past few months. In the absence of an administrator, he has also been overseeing routine activities.

The CEO position has been vacant since December 24 last year, following the transfer of the immediate past CEO, Md Mizanur Rahman, who went on PRL on December 31. Since then, the DSCC secretary has been performing dual roles.

The administrator's position has remained empty since Md Nazrul Islam was promoted to the rank of secretary on January 6. Nazrul had succeeded DSCC's first administrator, Dr Mohd Sher Ali, on August 20, 2024.

Several officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the absence of key personnel has left many files unattended, causing

stagnation in the city corporation's operations. Urgent activities, including eviction drives, contractor payments, immediate road repairs, and water body clean-ups to prevent mosquito breeding, have all been affected due to the lack of an administrator.

After assuming office, the interim government removed all mayors of 12 city corporations and 1,873 public representatives at three other tiers of local government.

The affected city corporations include Dhaka south, Dhaka north, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Narayanganj, Cumilla, Rangpur, Gazipur, and Mymensingh.

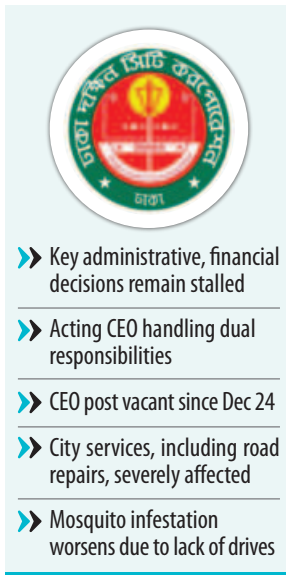
It also removed mayors and administrators of all 330 municipalities, 61 zilla parishad chairmen, 493 out of 495 upazila parishad chairmen, and 988 vice-chairmen and women vice-chairmen of upazila parishads.

The government appointed administrators to carry out the responsibilities of the mayors of the city corporations and municipalities at that time.

Sabakat Sabris Sami, an HSC candidate, said mosquito menace has increased dramatically in recent weeks.

"We haven't seen any anti-mosquito drives in East Shewrapara for weeks. It is becoming extremely difficult to concentrate

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## HELICOPTER GUNFIRE Probe into deaths of children: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in the full text of a verdict has directed the government to take necessary initiatives about the children who died by gunshots fired from helicopter during the July uprising.

"We are of the opinion that the justice would be best served, if we dispose of the rule directing the respondent government to hold proper investigation on the matter specially on the babies/kids who died at the July August, 2024 incident; even they were found innocent but even then, they have died by gun-shot fired from helicopter".

"... we direct the respondent government to take initiatives specially on the babies or kids who died at the July-August, 2024 incident while they were found into their mothers' laps and or

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## Woman held for trafficking people to Russia for war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police has arrested a woman on charges of trafficking people to Russia for forced participation in the war.

The arrestee, Fabia Zerin Tamanna, a partner at Dream Home Travels and Tours Ltd, was arrested on Wednesday night at Dhaka airport while she was attempting to flee to Nepal, said CID Special Superintendent (Media) Jashim Uddin Khan.

He said the trafficking racket lured victims with promises of high-paying jobs in Russia, offering salaries between Tk 200,000 and 250,000 per month in chocolate factories, as cleaners, or as cooks.

Under this pretence, 10 individuals were first

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Once the crowd dies down at Kamalapur Train Station, Yusuf takes a nap right next to his trolley, his only means of earning. Every day, he uses it to transport luggage for passengers at the station. Working around the clock, he earns around Tk 300-400 per day. The photo was taken yesterday evening.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## FOREIGN TRIPS, FAKE DEGREES ACC to probe Hasina over irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has launched an investigation against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina over allegations of wasting hundreds of crores of taka from state funds on foreign trips and obtaining fake doctorate degrees.

ACC director general Md Akhtar Hossain disclosed the development at a press conference held at ACC headquarters yesterday. He said a formal decision was made to proceed with the inquiry after initial evidence was found during the ACC's intelligence investigation.

According to the ACC, Hasina used to charter Biman's aircraft for her foreign trips at the government's expense, accompanied by a large entourage.

She traveled to different countries using Biman's Boeing 777 and 787 aircraft. Between 2019 and mid-

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Today Is The 1st  
Death Anniversary of



**SALMA ASGHAR RIZVI**

(1st January 1950 – 7th February 2024)

The Alliance family and her sons Zaki Rizvi and Razi Rizvi and grandchildren Afraz, Ariana and Alazne request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers for the eternal peace of her soul.

