

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.

The blockade was lifted at 6:00pm after Sarjis Alam, chief organiser of the Jatiya Nagorkit 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 Sharif 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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We have gone from door to door seeking justice, but we were treated with disrespect.

Abul Hasan
Father of martyr Sharif Hossain



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 suffering to commuters and pedestrians, was called off around 6:00pm.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Appointment of 6,531 teachers scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the government's decision to issue appointment letters to 6,531 candidates selected for the post of assistant teachers in government primary schools.

The court ruled that their recruitment process was based on the 84 percent quota system, which the Supreme Court had scrapped in July last year.

It directed authorities concerned to appoint candidates in line with the SC verdict, which mandates that 93 percent of civil service jobs be merit-based, with the remaining 7 percent reserved under the quota system, said the petitioners' lawyers.

Barrister Mohammad Belayet Hossain, Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, and Barrister Foyez Uddin Ahmed stood for the petitioners.

The HC bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi issued the directive in response to a writ petition filed by 31 candidates challenging the legality of granting appointment letters to the 6,531 candidates.

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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, 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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- » Key administrative, financial decisions remain stalled
- » Acting CEO handling dual responsibilities
- » CEO post vacant since Dec 24
- » City services, including road repairs, severely affected
- » Mosquito infestation worsens due to lack of drives

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-2024 alone, the national flag carrier operated 48 VVIP flights for Hasina, spending a total Tk 250 crore.

Hasina reportedly spent Tk 200 crore from the state's fund on these foreign trips.

On September 18, 2021, her VVIP Biman flight for New York included a two-day stopover in Finland instead of being a direct flight, resulting in additional expenditure of Tk 7 crore, said Biman sources.

Notably, as of 2023, the government owed approximately Tk 500 crore to Biman.

Moreover, Hasina allegedly obtained fake doctorate degrees from different foreign universities by hiring lobbyists using state funds to bypass academic standards.

Some of those degrees were reportedly obtained through excessive spending or deals contrary to national interests, including those from Tripura University, Catholic University of Brussels, and Visva-Bharati University.

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

Traffic cops to get small arms to combat mugging

Says DMP chief

AGENCIES

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Sajat Ali yesterday announced plans to equip traffic sergeants with small arms to combat rising incidents of mugging in the capital.

"We are emphasising the allegations of rising mugging incidents across Dhaka," he told journalists after inaugurating the "Counter and E-Ticketing System for Buses in Dhaka Metropolitan Area".

The Road Transport Owners' Association organised the event at Azampur in Uttara.

Addressing the city's ongoing traffic issues, the commissioner urged for collective efforts to alleviate gridlocks and enforce order on the roads.

The DMP commissioner also said the new counter and e-ticketing system aims to restore order on the roads by ensuring passengers board and disembark only at designated stops.

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.

