

Govt publishes list of 1,401 'July Warriors'

UNB NEWS, Dhaka

The government has published two separate gazettes listing 1,401 people classified as "July Warriors" under the "A" and "B" categories as recognition of their participation in the student-led uprising in July-August last year.

A total 493 people, who were severely injured, were listed under A category, according to a gazette signed by Deputy Secretary (Gazette) Haridas Thakur of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, issued on Thursday by order of the president.

In another gazette, 908 people who also sustained injuries during the uprising were listed under B category.

The documents detail the serial numbers, medical case IDs, names of the injured, their parents' names, permanent addresses, and respective divisions and districts.

Man killed, another hurt in Dhaka fire

STAR REPORT

A man was killed and another was injured in a fire at a building in Dhaka's New Eskaton area early yesterday.

The deceased, Abdul Malek Khan, 40, was an office assistant at BIAM Foundation, according to his relatives.

"We learned about the fire on the fourth floor of the 10-storey BIAM building around 3:30am, and two fire units doused it by 4:15am," said Nazim Uddin, senior station officer of Tejgaon Fire Station.

A preliminary investigation suggests the fire originated from an electrical short circuit, followed by an explosion, he added.

Md Faruk, a driver, is receiving treatment at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with 43 percent burns, said Dr Shaon Bin Rahman, the institute's resident surgeon.

Sub-inspector Moniruzzaman of Hatirjheel Police Station said both individuals were on the floor when the fire broke out, leaving them injured. They were rescued and rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where Malek was pronounced dead at around 6:45am.

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Thousands of book lovers, both young and old, flocked to the Suhrawardy Udyana and Bangla Academy one last time as the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela concluded yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Hope for a new dawn in country's politics'

People express optimism as youth-led National Citizen Party launched

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Manik Miah Avenue was abuzz with anticipation yesterday as the National Citizen Party (NCP) was officially launched.

The air buzzed with energy as people from all walks of life -- particularly students -- gathered to witness what many believe to be the birth of a new era in the political landscape of Bangladesh.

The launch of the party, formed by the youth-led movement Students Against Discrimination (SAD), quickly gained momentum, as enthusiastic supporters poured in from across the country, some travelling long distances to be part of what they deemed a historic moment.

Abdul Hannan, a college student from Halishahar, Chattogram, arrived with 27 others by bus. "I came here because I believe they will build a new Bangladesh, free from discrimination," he said.

Hannan was far from alone. Nine buses carried supporters from Chattogram, while Md Rakib Hossain, a university student from Khulna, journeyed with ten others.

"After the mass uprising, we have an unprecedented opportunity to build a better Bangladesh. I came all the way to support this party because they give us hope for change," he said.

The Daily Star talked with over 30 people at the avenue who gathered there to witness the



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

launch. They expressed optimism for a corruption-free and democratic Bangladesh.

Among the crowd stood 72-year-old Saima, a Liberation War veteran, who arrived at the rally with her daughter. "We are elderly now, but we came here to encourage the young generation," she said.

A former Dhaka University student during the Liberation War of 1971, Saima believes history is repeating itself.

"It was young people who led the Language Movement of 1952, the Liberation War of 1971, and now the movement that ended the fascist Hasina regime. Before we pass away, we want to witness the long-awaited change," she added.

Others also shared her sentiment.

Masud Rana, a businessman from Rajshahi, observed, "For too long, young people stayed away from politics. But through the July uprising, they freed this country from fascism. Now, I welcome students stepping up to take charge of our future and establish a healthy political culture by getting rid of corruption."

He emphasised that youth-led movements should remain independent and not be co-opted by traditional parties that have historically used student organisations for muscle power.

MA Yusuf, convener of the Bangladesh Workers, Employees, and Professionals Unity Coalition, attended the rally from Lakshimpur.

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'Interim govt failed to deliver justice for Taqi'

Allege speakers at seminar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Despite being in power for the last seven months, the interim government has yet to initiate legal proceedings in the case filed over the murder of Tanvir Muhammad Taqi in Narayanganj, said speakers at a rally yesterday.

They also alleged that ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina had deliberately stalled the investigation and trial for her own interests.

The Santras Nirmul Taqi Mancha organised the event at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

They said the Awami League-led government was ousted in August last year following a mass uprising, and a non-partisan interim government was formed, giving new hope for justice.

However, that did not happen, they added.

Speaking at the rally, Prof Anu Muhammad said despite the fall of the Awami League government, trials for murders -- including Taqi's -- that were stalled under its rule remain unresolved,



fuelling public frustration.

"We all know who killed Taqi and how the former prime minister protected the murderers. Under her patronage, a mafia system flourished across the country. She shielded Taqi's killers, obstructing justice. This was not an isolated incident -- disappearances and killings became rampant during her tenure," he said.

He further questioned why Taqi's killers had fled the country and were now leading luxurious lives abroad while the interim government remained silent.

He emphasised that one of the interim government's top priorities should have been ensuring justice for high-profile murder cases like Taqi, Tanu, Sagar Rumi, and Munia, as people have long awaited their resolution.

Accusing the previous government of sheltering Taqi's killers, particularly individuals linked to former MP Shamim Osman and his family, Rafur Rabbi said, "The interim government's advisers initially spoke about the case, and Rab made some progress. They arrested six

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Guests at an event titled "Honouring Eminent Personalities 2024" at a city hotel yesterday. Bangla daily Bonik Barta and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies organised the programme.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Curtain falls on boi mela

DIPAN NANDY

As the Ekushey Boi Mela drew to a close, an air of bittersweet nostalgia enveloped Suhrawardy Udyana and Bangla Academy. Thousands of book lovers, young and old, meandered through the colourful stalls, their hearts heavy with the impending farewell to the largest book fair.

Children clutched their parents' hands, eyes wide with wonder as they explored the vibrant displays alongside university students, couples, and the elderly, all united in their love for literature.

The final day saw a unique energy -- a blend of excitement for the new literary treasures discovered and a longing for a tradition that binds generations. "I'm a bit sad now that the book fair has ended. I wish it lasted a little longer," said Jannatul Mawa, a Dhaka University student.

A total of 708 publishers participated, embracing the theme "July Gono Obbhutthan: Natun Bangladesh Binirman," which echoed the spirit of resilience and renewal following the Awami League regime and the July uprising.

"The month went by too quick," said Shamima Sharmin, a student of Dhaka University yesterday evening.

Her friend, Manosh Chowdhury, added, "I bought five books so far. Two novels and three poetry books. It's still not enough."

Poetry once again took centre stage, maintaining its status as a staple of the fair. However, this year saw a noticeable decline in poetry sales, as readers gravitated towards novels, essays, and historical accounts of the Liberation War.

Monirul Huq, owner of Annanya, said, "Readers mostly

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1,021 detained in Dhaka in 4 days
11,931 so far arrested across country in 'Devil Hunt'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid a surge in crimes, law enforcers arrested 1,404 people across the country in the last 24 hours until yesterday afternoon, including 618 as part of "Operation Devil Hunt," according to the Police Headquarters.

With these latest arrests, the total number of people detained since the operation began on February 8 has reached 11,931.

Among those arrested yesterday, 786 were either accused or wanted in previous cases. Law enforcers also recovered a firearm, one cartridge, and eight sharp weapons during the operation.

The interim government launched the operation on February 8 to restore law and order.

An analysis of reports from several districts shows that many of the arrestees in the operation are members of Awami League and its affiliated organisations, facing charges in cases filed after the Hasina-led government fell on August 5.

Despite the operation, crimes such as mugging and robbery continue.

To improve security, the Law and Order Core Committee introduced nine initiatives on February 25, including joint task force operations in crime-prone areas involving the army, police, and BGB.

Police have also intensified their activities in the capital to ensure public safety and maintain law and order.

As part of this effort, integrated checkpoints

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