

MUJIBNAGAR GOVT

No plan to change its name: adviser

BSS, Dhaka

The Mujibnagar government is constitutionally and internationally recognised government, as it has organised the Liberation War and helped establish relations with international communities, said Liberation War Affairs Adviser Farooq e-Azam yesterday.

"There is no plan to rename the Mujibnagar government. History cannot be erased... it must be kept in its own place," he said.

The adviser made the remarks while talking to journalists after placing wreaths at the Mujibnagar Memorial in Meherpur, marking the historic Mujibnagar Day.

Emphasising the importance of preserving the history of the Mujibnagar government, the adviser said, "It is up to the future elected government to decide what steps to take in this regard... We have many achievements, and we do not want to subject them to unnecessary controversy. History must be kept intact."

In response to a query, he said, "Real freedom fighters often feel embarrassed because many individuals have falsely claimed the title. It's a shameful issue. We've already taken several steps to address this. Some cases are awaiting court verdicts -- over 2,700 are still pending -- and we expect their resolution soon."



Vehicles sit parked on three lanes of this road in front of the Motijheel Government Boys' High School in the capital yesterday. The vehicles are waiting for the SSC exams to end, at which point they will pick up the children. However, this careless parking, not only causes traffic congestion, but also leaves little space for the candidates to exit the school and into the street easily.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Suspended cop sues 18 over 2022 'teep' row

Lata Samaddar, Suborna Mustafa among the accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Tejgaon College teacher Lata Samaddar, noted actor Suborna Mustafa and 16 others have been sued for defamation in connection with a 2022 incident involving a police constable who allegedly harassed Samaddar over wearing a teep.

Nazmul Tareque, the constable accused in that incident and later suspended, filed the case yesterday with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sarah Farzana Haque, said court bench assistant Towhid Khan.

The magistrate recorded the complainant's statement and directed the officer-in-charge of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station to submit a report after investigating the case.

Dhaka University Professor Malay Bala, husband of Lata Samaddar, was also accused in the case.

Actors Anisur Rahman Milan and Sajid Khadem, Pran Roy, Saymon Sadik, Manoj Pramanik, Swadhin Khasru, Chayanika

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

227 CANDIDATES OF 43RD BCS

Appointment eludes them despite PSC nod

BAHARAM KHAN and ARAEAT RAHAMAN

Ferdous Islam was overjoyed when he was recommended for the education cadre in the 43rd Bangladesh Civil Service exam.

Coming from a poor family, he had worked relentlessly for years, working as a private tutor to support himself.

After unsuccessful attempts in the 40th and 41st BCS exams, he finally secured success in the 43rd. But his dream soon turned into a nightmare when the government suddenly withheld the appointment notification.

"I'm now over the age limit to reapply," Ferdous told The Daily Star recently. "I was heartbroken for not being appointed despite qualifying... and then came the social stigma and family pressure. At times, it became so unbearable..."

Ferdous is among 227 candidates whose appointments have been on hold for over three months, following the suspension of the recruitment gazette by the public administration ministry.

The government has yet to announce a final decision, prolonging the uncertainty for those affected.

The interim government suspended the appointment notification on December 30 last year -- just two and a half months after it had been issued following recommendations from the Public Service Commission (PSC).

No reasons were cited.

The circular for the 43rd BCS was published on November 30, 2020. After the preliminary, written and viva examinations, the PSC recommended 2,163 candidates for recruitment on December 26, 2023.

The public administration ministry initially issued a recruitment gazette on October 15, 2023, appointing 2,064 candidates after excluding 99.

However, on December 30, the ministry cancelled the gazette and issued a revised one, reducing the number of appointees to 1,896. Of the excluded 267 candidates, 40 were absent from the mandatory medical examination. The remaining 227 were termed "temporarily unsuitable" based on intelligence reports.

While the rest of the successful candidates from the 43rd BCS have joined their posts, the 227 remain in limbo.

According to public administration officials, there is no previous instance of a recruitment notification being suspended after publication, making the move highly controversial.

"If a candidate has a criminal case or is a listed criminal, this can be stated in police reports and publicly disclosed," said Firoz Mia, a former additional secretary to the public administration ministry.

"But excluding someone without a proven offence is unjustifiable. This is a sheer disregard for merit and goes against public expectations," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

The interim government suspended the appointment notification on December 30 last year -- just two and a half months after it had been issued following recommendations from PSC.

Govt may have a 'hidden agenda' Says Rizvi on prioritising reforms over polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday questioned why reforms are being considered instead of elections, expressing concern that the interim government might be working with a "hidden agenda".

"Is this government working with any agenda and planned design? This is now a big question in people's minds. That is why a smokescreen has been created," he said while addressing a doa mahfil.

The event was organised by the M Ilias Ali Goom Protirodh Committee at the BNP's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan, marking the anniversary of the enforced disappearance of BNP leader M Ilias Ali.

Rizvi warned the government that the consequences would not be good if it played tricks with people.

He also expressed regret that no steps have been taken to relieve BNP leaders and activists from the 60 lakh cases filed against them during the Awami League regime.

"I won't say the government is doing nothing -- maybe they are doing something -- but why is the voting right, for which we struggled immensely for 15-16 years, being delayed? Why is reform being positioned as an alternative to elections and voting rights?" the BNP leader questioned.

He said reforms or anything else cannot be an alternative to democracy, elections, and voting rights.



ACC files case against ex-land minister, wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, his wife and former United Commercial Bank chairperson Rukmila Zaman, and 21 others for allegedly securing a loan of Tk 20 crore through fraudulent means using shell companies.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain confirmed the information while speaking to the reporters yesterday.

According to the ACC, the accused conspired and abused their power to embezzle funds by securing a Tk 20 crore loan in the names of three fictitious entities -- Imperial Trading, Classic Trading, and Model Trading.

First-ever civil surgeon confce on May 12-13

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is going to organise the first-ever civil surgeon conference next month, aiming to facilitate direct dialogue between central authorities and top district-level health officials, as well as to strengthen coordination among various government agencies.

The two-day event will be held in Dhaka on May 12 and 13, officials said.

The chief adviser is expected to inaugurate the conference, which will also be attended by other advisers and secretaries, they added.

The Health Services Division yesterday issued a letter to all civil surgeons and divisional directors of the Directorate General of Health Services, directing them to submit relevant information,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



An aerial view of agricultural land being filled up in Khulna for housing projects. This illegal sand filling of wetlands and canals is not only reducing cultivable land but also increasing the risk of waterlogging in the area. The photo was taken in the Beel Pabla area of Dumuria upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Army arrested 7,822 since deployment under interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has arrested 7,822 individuals across the country since its deployment under the interim government, as part of an ongoing effort to assist law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order.

Of them, 2,457 were detained in the last two months alone during joint drives with other agencies, said Col Shafiqul Islam, colonel staff at the Directorate of Military Operations, Army Headquarters, yesterday.

The detainees include members of juvenile gangs, listed criminals, drug dealers, smugglers, kidnappers, fraudsters, extortionists, robbers and muggers, he said.

He said this at a press briefing held at the Officers' Mess in Dhaka Cantonment, focusing on the army's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

MURDER OF COP Arav Khan, wife jailed for life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced eight people, including Robiul Islam alias Arav Khan, to life imprisonment for the murder of Inspector Mamun Imran Khan of the Special Branch in 2018.

The other accused are Mamun's friend Rahmat Ullah, Arav Khan's wife Suraiya Akhter Keya, Swapan Sarkar, Didar Pathan, Mizan Sheikh,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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