



SUPERNUMERARY PROMOTION

Civil bureaucracy burdened with top-tier posts

Around 550 officials were promoted beyond sanctioned posts in last 8 months

BAHARAM KHAN

The civil administration appears to be weighed down by excessive appointments of top-tier officials beyond sanctioned posts, a contentious practice known as supernumerary promotion.

More than 1,300 officials have been promoted to the ranks of deputy secretary, joint secretary, and additional secretary since the interim government assumed office on August 8 last year, according to data from the public administration ministry.

Among them, around 550 were promoted beyond sanctioned posts, and 764 were picked from former officials of the administration cadre -- a move insiders described as unprecedented in the history of Bangladesh's public administration.

These ex-officials were given retrospective promotions with all financial benefits on the grounds that they had been deprived during the tenure of the Awami League government.

Experts and officials argue that the move undermines administrative discipline, contradicts the spirit of the July-August mass uprising, and raises serious concern about administrative efficiency and fairness.

Abdul Awal Mazumder, a former secretary and researcher, said, "This kind of promotion spree is one of the reasons for the decline in the standards of civil service. This is completely unacceptable."

He suggested that a structured promotion system based on merit and competence should be put in place.

Supernumerary posts are temporary positions created outside the regular

structure to facilitate promotions or workforce adjustments.

The ministry's data shows a sharp mismatch between the number of sanctioned posts and that of the appointees. At present, there are 382 additional secretaries against 121 sanctioned posts across ministries. Of them, 142 were promoted between August 25 and December 31 last year.

The contrast is more apparent at the

382 officials hold the position of additional secretary against 121 sanctioned posts

There are 1,035 joint secretaries against 272 posts

1,404 officials are serving as deputy secretaries against 350 posts

joint secretary level: 1,035 officials hold the position against only 272 approved posts. Of them, 419 got promotions over the last eight months.

Moreover, a staggering 1,404 officials are now serving as deputy secretaries against 350 sanctioned posts.

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Unregistered battery-run rickshaws kept at a field next to Mansurabad Police Lines in Chattogram city after they were seized for plying major roads. Law enforcers have been conducting drives against such vehicles across the port city since the start of this month. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Bangladesh, IMF 'close to reaching a consensus'

Says finance adviser as talks continue; NBR to be split into 2 tax divisions; exchange rate issue remains unresolved

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund has no major disagreement with Bangladesh over reforms to the National Board of Revenue, one of the conditions set by the lender for the fourth and fifth instalments of the \$4.7 billion loan.

However, consensus on the introduction of a market-based exchange rate, another key issue

in the negotiation, remains elusive, according to a Bangladesh delegation visiting Washington, DC.

Discussions with the IMF have largely been positive, with only a few minor issues remaining, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation, said on Thursday night (Bangladesh time), according to Golam Mortoza, the press minister at the Bangladesh embassy in the US.

"We are close to reaching a consensus. The final meeting is scheduled for tomorrow [Friday night, Bangladesh time], and we expect the matter to be resolved," Salehuddin added.

After the meeting, Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur told reporters in Washington that no consensus was reached but talks would continue.

Before the Bangladesh

Govt to set up land-based LNG terminal soon

BSS, Qatar

The interim government has decided to set up a land-based LNG terminal to ensure smooth gas supply to the country's factories.

"Many are saying that they are unable to set up factories due to a lack of gas. So, we want to set up a land-based LNG terminal as quick as possible so that enough gas could be brought (from abroad)," Chief Adviser's Press

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INDIA-PAKISTAN TENSIONS

UN urges maximum restraint

AFP, New Delhi

The United Nations urged India and Pakistan to show "maximum restraint" as the nuclear-armed rivals imposed tit-for-tat diplomatic measures over a deadly shooting in Kashmir.

Relations have plunged to their lowest level in years, with India accusing Pakistan of supporting "cross-border terrorism" after gunmen carried out the worst attack on civilians in contested Muslim-majority Kashmir for a quarter of a century.

"We very much appeal to both the governments... to exercise maximum restraint, and to ensure that the situation and the

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Troops exchange fire along Kashmir border

India intensifies manhunt for militants

AGENCIES

Pakistani and Indian troops exchanged fire overnight across the Line of Control in disputed Kashmir, officials said yesterday, after the nuclear-armed nations unleashed a raft of measures against each other.

Relations have plunged to their lowest level in years, with India accusing Pakistan of supporting "cross-border terrorism" after gunmen killed 26 civilians in Pahalgam, the worst attack on civilians in contested Kashmir for a quarter of a century.

Syed Ashfaq Gilani, a government official in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, told AFP yesterday that troops exchanged fire along the Line of Control (LOC) that separates the two countries.

"There was no firing on the civilian population," he added.

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AFTERMATH OF KASHMIR TERROR ATTACK

All Indian state chief ministers told to ensure expulsion of Pakistanis by April 27

Pak senate passes resolution against 'India's bid to link Islamabad to terror attack'

New Delhi officially notifies Islamabad on suspension of Indus Water Treaty



BEATING THE HEAT... Looking to cool off after toiling away under the hot sun all day, a weary rickshaw puller splashes water on his face from a roadside faucet near Tikatuli intersection yesterday. According to the weather department, there is a good chance of rain on Monday, which may offer some respite from the unrelenting heatwave sweeping the nation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TODAY

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SCAN FOR LIVE LOCATION

*Participation is by invitation only.