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## Nagar Bhaban reopens today after 40 days

Key offices to remain locked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After 40 days of closure, Nagar Bhaban – the headquarters of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) – is set to reopen today.

However, key offices, including those of the administrator and engineers, will remain locked, according to leaders of the ongoing Dhakabashi movement.

The building was padlocked on May 15 by supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain, who launched a protest demanding his swearing-in as DSCC mayor.

Mashiur Rahman, coordinator of the Dhakabashi movement, announced yesterday that while general access to the building would resume, rooms that were chained shut on May 15 will remain off-limits.

He urged DSCC staff – especially those in regional and public service departments – to return to work and resume essential civic services.

He also demanded the removal of Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, accusing him

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7



A man moves through a narrow and dangerous gap between two buses amid traffic. Though the buses are stopped at a signal, they could start moving at any moment, posing a serious risk to those crossing. The photo was taken in the Purana Paltan area yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Remain ready for all challenges

Army chief urges new naval officers

STAR REPORT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday called on newly commissioned officers of the Bangladesh Navy to remain prepared for all challenges, guided by military values, discipline, and unwavering patriotism.

"You must always be ready to face any challenge, guided by military values and unwavering patriotism. You are the future leaders of the Navy," he said while addressing the Summer President's Parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy in Chattogram.

The parade, held in line with naval tradition, marked the commissioning of the Midshipman 2022-B and Direct Entry Officer 2025-E batches.

A total of 52 officers – 44 midshipmen and 8 direct entry officers received their commissions, including eight women and four foreign cadets.

General Waker, attending as chief guest, inspected the parade and took the

SEE PAGE 9 COL 2



## JULY UPRISING

### Give priority to circumstantial evidence in trials

AG urges judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday urged judges to set a new precedent in criminal jurisprudence by prioritising circumstantial evidence in trials of July uprising-related murder cases, especially in the absence of autopsy reports.

"During the July revolution, around two thousand people were killed and over twenty thousand injured or disabled. Due to interference from the fascist regime, post-mortems could not be conducted for most victims," said the attorney general.

He was addressing a seminar titled "Judicial Independence and Efficiency" organised by the Supreme Court at Hotel InterContinental in Dhaka.

Asaduzzaman noted that the absence of autopsy reports could complicate the trial of many such cases. "If we follow the strict rule requiring post-mortems, martyrs like Shaheed Abu Sayed or Shaheed Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho may never get justice."

He emphasised that judges should allow credible circumstantial evidence if it can be shown that post-mortems were not possible due to deliberate obstruction

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## JP faces new rift

Senior leaders challenge GM Quader's leadership

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party (JP) appears headed for yet another split as internal tensions intensify over leadership and constitutional authority ahead of its 10th central council.

A section of senior JP leaders, led by Co-Chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud and former Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, is preparing to hold the party council on June 28 at the central office in Kakrail, defying a suspension order issued by party Chairman GM Quader.

The faction aims to unseat Quader and amend Article 20 (Ka) of the party constitution – a controversial provision that gives the chairman sweeping powers to appoint, remove, or replace any party member.

"This article is highly undemocratic. It has turned the party into a one-man show," said Hawlader, who is set to contest for secretary general, while Anisul will run for chairman in the proposed council.

Sources say at least 10-12 senior leaders, including those previously suspended or sidelined by Quader, have joined the movement. Notably, Raushan Ershad loyalists such as Kazi Firoz Rashid, Syed Abu Hossain Babla, and Kazi Mamunur Rashid have aligned with the breakaway faction.

The current unrest mirrors an earlier

episode in 2014, when a faction led by Raushan Ershad and Anisul defied then-chairman HM Ershad's decision to boycott the national election and instead aligned with the then ruling Awami League.

"This is a replay of 2014," said a central JP leader, requesting anonymity. "Back then, they ignored the party chief's direction for personal gain. Now they are again using the council to divide the party."

JP council set for June 28, despite Quader's suspension

Anisul, Hawlader eye top posts; seek charter change

Chunnu calls party leadership 'autocratic'

The crisis escalated after GM Quader announced on June 16 that the June 28 council had been suspended due to a venue cancellation by the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center.

He said a new date and venue would be announced later and formally informed the Chief Election Commissioner of the postment.

However, senior leaders argue that the party presidium had already decided on

May 20 to hold the council on June 28, either at the centre or the party's Kakrail office, and that Quader's unilateral decision violates party rules.

In protest, Anisul and Hawlader issued a joint statement on June 17, calling the postponement "undemocratic and undesirable." "As per the presidium's decision, we will go ahead with the council and bring change in the party leadership," Anisul said.

Adding fuel to the fire, JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnu has also voiced support for amending Article 20 (Ka). "The chairman always speaks of democracy but holds autocratic powers under this article," Chunnu said. "I told him to amend it, but he didn't agree. He can remove me at any time. That's no way to run a democratic party."

GM Quader, however, maintains that the council must be held with his approval and participation.

"If GM Quader truly believes in his leadership, popularity, and acceptance within the party, there is no justifiable reason for him to avoid the democratic process of holding the party's council," said Golam Moshir, former member of the JP presidium and former Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Regarding the matter, JP presidium member Shameem Haider Patwari said, "According to the party charter, the chairman must approve the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## DNCC ends Shahabuddin park contract

Future of popular spots uncertain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka North City Corporation has decided not to renew its contract with 5R Securex Consortium for overseeing Justice Shahabuddin Park, raising concern among the park's many regular visitors.

DNCC has clarified that the library of Bookworm Bangladesh in the park will continue to operate while no final decision has been made regarding other establishments such as North End Coffee Roasters and Graam Cha.

Visiting the park yesterday, this correspondent saw notices hanging on the Bookworm Bangladesh library and North End Coffee Roasters. The Graam Cha stall was also found closed.

"It was a nice place to spend time. I often purchased books from the library and enjoyed tea or coffee here while waiting for my child's class at a nearby school to end," said Farhad Sultana, a resident of Gulshan 2.

She urged the authorities not to alter the park's character.

Several other Gulshan residents echoed her.

On June 19, DNCC issued an official letter to 5R Securex Consortium informing them of its decision not to renew the management contract for the park. Originally signed for three years with a two-year extension option, the contract ended on June 1, 2025.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

## KILLING CASE ICT sets June 29 for charge framing hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 (ICT-1) yesterday set June 29 for the hearing on charge framing in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of six people in Dhaka's Chankarpul area during the July uprising.

This is the first formal trial process related to the uprising. The tribunal also decided to appoint state defence counsels for four absconding accused, including former Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman and three of his subordinates.

On May 25, the tribunal accepted the charges pressed by prosecutors against eight police officials. Four accused are in custody and were produced before

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

## REPEALING THE ORDINANCE Secretariat staffers observe 2-hr work stoppage today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding the repeal of the "Public Service (amendment) Ordinance-2025", government employees will observe a two-hour work stoppage today.

The announcement came during a protest rally held yesterday in front of the finance ministry at the Secretariat. Addressing the gathering, Md Nurul Islam, co-chairman of the Secretariat Officers and Employees Unity Forum, said employees will observe the strike from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

During the work stoppage, employees will stage a sit-in at the library of Ministry of Public Administration.

Yesterday, around 11:30am, employees gathered in front of Building No-II at the Secretariat, chanting slogans such as "There's no place for discrimination in our Golden Bengal" and "We won't accept fascist black laws".

Employee leaders urged all officers and staff at the Secretariat to join the strike today. They also hinted at possible sit-ins in front of the offices of those involved in drafting the ordinance.

"We've heard that amendments are being considered, but we won't accept any modification – this black law must be scrapped," said Nurul Islam.

On May 25, the government issued the Public Service Ordinance, which allows the dismissal of civil

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



A local youth rides his motorcycle onto Platform-1 of Brahmanbaria Railway Station while the Chattogram-bound Mohanagar Express is stopped there. Despite strict restrictions on vehicles entering Key Point Installation (KPI)-designated railway premises, such rules are frequently ignored. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED