

District

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bar association, president of the district chamber of commerce and industries, principals of government and non-government colleges, chief executive officer of the district council, and heads of almost all government offices at the district level.

The committees may expand their membership beyond 35 if deemed necessary.

Earlier, the government formed a 36-member national executive committee to oversee the observance of the mass uprising. The committee is headed by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The district committees are expected to implement the plans and programmes formulated by the national executive committee to observe the July mass uprising days across the country from July 1 to August 5.

They are also expected to provide recommendations to the executive committee regarding the local context.

The committees are set to carry out any responsibilities assigned by the executive committee.



After loading a family's belongings onto the back of their pick-up truck, these movers set off -- not from inside the vehicle, but by dangerously clinging to the piled-up furniture. Their reckless ride puts their lives at serious risk as the truck makes its way to its destination. The photo was taken in the Bosila area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ex-CEC Nurul Huda

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He said during the 2018 election, the police and administration operated under the Election Commission, which had the authority to form inquiry committees.

Under Nurul Huda's leadership, opposition activists were allegedly assaulted and arrested at home, and candidates' houses vandalised without recourse. Faruqi claimed that by 3:00am on election night, 200 candidates were already declared winners and presiding officers were instructed to conduct "night-time voting".

He called the election a "stage-managed poll" and said interrogation was needed to uncover who gave the directives and what role the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina played.

He also accused Huda of abusing power to secure a nomination for his nephew in Patuakhali 3.

In response, defence lawyer Touhidul Islam argued that the remand prayer was almost identical to the one submitted on June 23, with no mention of progress made during the previous remand.

He also said sedition charges were bailable, and that sedition charges -- added later -- require prior government approval, which was not obtained, making the case legally flawed.

He also said sedition cannot be prosecuted by a private individual, and called the entire case "defective".

The magistrate noted that the defence addressed all points except the allegation of night voting. When another defence lawyer pointed out that no media outlet had provided supporting documents, the court rejected Huda's bail plea and granted the remand.

Huda was arrested on June 22 after being assaulted by a mob at his Utara residence and handed over to police. The following day, the court granted a four-day remand.

BNP Executive Committee member Salah Uddin Khan filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on June 22, naming 24 people, including former CECs Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, KM Nurul Huda, and Kazi Habibul Awal.

4.8 lakh narcotics

major reason for delays, with only one judge per 90,000 people.

"Despite legal provisions, dedicated narcotics courts have not been set up, overburdening general courts. Poor training, political appointments, inadequate evidence collection, and frequent procedural delays reduce conviction rates under 10 percent," he said.

He said the 2018 anti-drug drive caused a large increase in case numbers.

According to him, the majority of the accused are small scale users or low-level dealers from low-income groups.

Wrongful arrests are common due to procedural flaws, and youth, low-income, and marginalised groups are disproportionately affected. The large number of narcotics cases has burdened the judiciary and led to overcrowded prisons, he said.

He said the filing of so many cases causes rights violations, as prolonged detentions and extrajudicial actions take place.

Manir recommended setting up dedicated narcotics tribunals, increasing the number of judges, prosecutors, and investigators, and improving training and use of forensic tools.

Muhammad Majharul Islam, secretary general of Bangladesh Judicial

LAWACHARA NAT'L PARK

Speed limit for trains, vehicles still ignored, wildlife at risk

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The government imposed a 20kmph speed limit for trains and vehicles passing through Lawachara National Park in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar in 2023 to protect

wildlife. Forest Department data shows that in 2022, steps were taken to implement a uniform speed cap on vehicles and trains inside Lawachara.

The following year, the directorate general of Bangladesh Railway instructed relevant departments to enforce the restriction.

However, even after three years, the directive remains largely unimplemented. As a result, rapidly moving trains and vehicles have led to multiple wildlife fatalities, endangering the forest's fragile ecosystem.

To make matters worse, tourists visiting the forest, often with children, are regularly seen walking, sitting, and posing for photos and selfies along the rail tracks, ignoring the ever-present risk of fatal accidents from passing trains.

A tourist reportedly died in an accident on the rail track within the forest recently.

Miftaul Islam, a tourist from Dhaka who was seen taking photographs on the rail track with his wife and three children, said,

"Everyone is taking pictures here. The view is beautiful. So, we took photos too. But yes, it's risky."

Another tourist, Sajjadul Islam, said, "Most of my friends uploaded nice photos to Facebook that were taken here. I came for the same."

Several railway staff on the site said such scenes have now become common.

Kazi Nazmul Haque, ranger at the



Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sreemangal, said, "Although the speed limit for trains and vehicles through the forest was set at 20kmph to protect wildlife, no one follows it."

Lawachara National Park is home to at least 460 species, including 167 types of plants, four amphibians, six reptiles, 246 bird species, and 20 mammals. Many of them are considered rare or endangered.

According to Janak Debbarma, treasurer of the Lawachara Co-Management Committee, more than 2,000-3,000 tourists visited daily during the two Eid holidays this year alone.

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