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The mother (C) of an injured student weeps inside a hospital after an air force training jet crashed into a building of Milestone College in Dhaka's Uttara killing at least 20 people and injuring over 170.

PHOTO: AFP

FIGHTER JET CRASH AT UTTARA SCHOOL



My daughter went to school around 8:00am. Her classes end at 1:00pm, but she stays until 3:30pm for coaching. I haven't found her since. They are not letting anyone in. Please, help me find my daughter.

Parul
Mother
of Nusrat
Akhter, a
third-grade
student

EC seeks data on polling officials in last 3 nat'l elections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has sent letters to all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners seeking information on officials responsible for conducting the last three national elections.

Following the filing of a case over electoral irregularities with Sher-e-Bangla Police Station on June 22, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) requested the information, prompting the EC to take the initiative.

The EC issued the letter on July 20. It was signed by EC Deputy Secretary Monir Hossain.

According to the deputy secretary, on July 3, the PBI sent a letter requesting detailed information on returning officers, presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, and polling officers who served in the 2014, 2018, and 2024 national parliamentary elections.

The EC's letter to the divisional commissioners and DCs said, in connection with a case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, the PBI (Dhaka metro north) had requested names, parents' names, permanent and current addresses, NID numbers, passport numbers, and mobile numbers of the officials deployed in those elections -- organised by polling centre.

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Side by side in bandages, siblings fight to survive

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL and
MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Siblings Aryan Ashraf Nafi and Tania Ashraf Nazia lie side by side at the intensive care unit (ICU) of the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, their small bodies covered in bandages.

Nafi, a class 2 student, suffered 95 percent burns, while his sister Nazia, in class 6, had burns covering 90 percent of her body. Both are students at Milestone School and College -- and they are now fighting for their lives in hospital beds.

Their mother, Tahmina, stood frozen beside them, unable to process the trauma. Their father, a retired army officer, struggled to stay composed.

Though now reunited in the hospital, the siblings had been separated in the chaos that followed the crash of a training jet onto their school compound.

At first, only Nafi was found.

The family searched frantically for Nazia for nearly an hour.

Eventually, it was their aunt, Akhi, who discovered her -- but the relief was instantly crushed by a doctor's grim update: "Her

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'Please help us find our children'

Families desperately search for missing students

AHMED DEEPTO, MD ABBAS and
TANGILA TASNIM

A sense of grief and desperation engulfed Uttara yesterday after an air force jet crashed into Milestone College, killing at least 19 people and leaving several students missing,

The scene outside was one of chaos, confusion, and quiet prayers. Families wandered between hospitals and the crash site, clutching photographs, their eyes swollen from tears. According to the fire service, many students remain unaccounted for.

as anguished families searched desperately for their loved ones.

Parents rushed between the crash site, hospitals, and morgues in a frantic attempt to locate their children. Near the metro rail depot in Uttara, just 500 metres from the

site of the crash, heartbroken families stood crying, clinging to hope.

Among them was Parul, the mother of Nusrat Akhter, a third-grade student who has not been seen since the incident.

"Our home is in Diabari," Parul told The Daily Star, her voice trembling.

"My daughter went to school around 8:00am. Her classes end at 1:00pm, but she stays until 3:30pm for coaching. I haven't found her since," she said.

As security forces sealed off the area, she pleaded, "Where is my daughter? They are not letting anyone in. Please, help me find my daughter... I just want my daughter back."

The scene outside the college was one of chaos, confusion, and quiet prayers. Families wandered between hospitals and the crash site, clutching photographs, their eyes swollen from tears. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, many students remain unaccounted for.

Lucky Akter, another guardian, told reporters around 3:00pm that both her children study at Milestone School.

"I managed to get my elder child out, but I can't find the younger one," she said, tears streaming down her face.

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15 dead in as many training flight crashes in 2 decades

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A series of training flight crashes, both military and civilian, have claimed the lives of at least 15 pilots and civilians over the past two decades, before the F7 jet crash in Dhaka's Uttara yesterday.

According to newspaper reports, multiple incidents involving Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) training aircraft and flying academy planes have also left dozens injured.

On May 9, 2024, Squadron Leader Asim Jawad died after a YAK130 trainer fighter jet of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crashed into the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram's Patenga.

Arif Ahmed Dipu, an air force wing commander, was killed when his F7 fighter jet crashed in Tangail's Madhupur upazila on November 23, 2018, during a training mission.

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PHOTO: PR OFFICE DU

'July Memorial Museum' launched at DU

6 left student bodies boycott event over Shibir presence

DU CORRESPONDENT

The "July Memorial Museum" (July Smriti Songrohosha) was inaugurated at the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus) building yesterday to honour the martyrs and injured of the July uprising.

The event was presided over by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, while Education Adviser Prof Dr CR Abrar was present as the chief guest.

Addressing the programme, the adviser said,

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'We must boost climate negotiation capacity'

Speakers tell Star-ALRD roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to enhance its capacity to negotiate climate change issues on global platforms like the Conference of Parties (COP), said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They emphasised that achieving climate change mitigation targets as part of national preparedness could boost the country's confidence in demanding its fair share of global climate resources as an affected nation.

The roundtable, titled "NDC Implementation Challenges: Accelerating Mitigation and Adaptation through Sustainable Land Management", was jointly organised by the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Speakers noted that although Bangladesh is not a major polluter, its role in mitigation will be discussed at the upcoming COP30, scheduled for November in Brazil.

To address climate change through mitigation, Bangladesh formulated the

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) -- a policy document aligned with the Paris Agreement -- in 2015. COP30 will focus on implementing the NDC and revising targets for 2030, they added.

Climate change expert Prof Ainun Nishat said Bangladesh contributes only 0.48 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, while countries like China, the US, India, and members of the European Union are the top emitters.

He said although a global fund to address climate change-induced challenges exists, it is not adequate. Bangladesh needs to strengthen its capacity to secure a share of this fund.

With the country set to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, it will need to align with forums such as the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC) to effectively negotiate climate-change-related issues in the future, he added.

Prof Nishat also stressed the importance of youth raising their voices against major polluting nations, as climate change will impact younger generations the most.

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Speakers at a roundtable, titled "NDC Implementation Challenges: Accelerating Mitigation and Adaptation through Sustainable Land Management", held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR