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Milestone
stays closed to
public, media
all the day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main gate of Milestone College in Dhaka's Uttara has remained closed since yesterday morning, with entry restricted to law enforcement personnel only.

Journalists attempting to enter were barred and forced to wait outside.

During a visit to the school around 11:00am yesterday, this correspondent found a crowd of curious onlookers gathered outside the gate. Among them were students, guardians, and local residents, many of whom were taking photos and videos of the crash site from a distance using their mobile phones.

Meanwhile, staff and employees of the institution were seen entering the premises without obstruction.

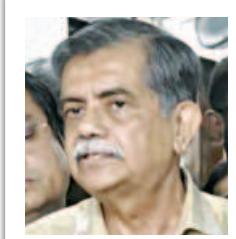
As of 5:00pm yesterday, no one except the staff and

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with representatives of political parties -- including BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami -- at the state guesthouse Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday. The discussion focused on the country's law and order situation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



No intention to resign: CR Abrar

Says delay in postponing HSC exams was reasonable; exams of July 22, 24 to be held on Aug 17, 19

STAR REPORT

Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar yesterday said the delay in deciding to postpone Tuesday's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination was "reasonable".

"The decision cannot be made abruptly, and no one has the authority to make a hasty decision. If the examinations are to be postponed, we must take the necessary measures to roll back the process accordingly," the adviser said, adding that the question papers must also be retrieved if they have already been dispatched to the exam centres.

The adviser was speaking to reporters at the Secretariat, a day after HSC examinees demanded his resignation while protesting in the administrative complex over the delayed decision to postpone Tuesday's exam following the jet crash.

A Bangladesh Air Force F7 aircraft crashed into a building of Milestone College in Dhaka's Uttara, killing at least 32 persons, mostly students.

"The perception that exams can be postponed through a unilateral decision is incorrect. The decision was made following due process," CR Abrar said.

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TIB slams govt over failure to form rights, info commissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed deep concern over the interim government not taking any initiative to set up the Information Commission and the National Human Rights Commission nearly a year into its tenure.

In a statement issued yesterday, TIB described the absence of these two constitutional bodies as "an unacceptable example of negligence toward state responsibility".

The watchdog said the absence of leadership in these key institutions has resulted in an embarrassing record for the government and called for their immediate formation.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, "The formation of the Information Commission and the Human Rights Commission is a vital symbol of the state's commitment to transparency, accountability, and human rights."

"Nearly a year into its tenure, the interim government has not demonstrated any visible or effective initiative to reconstitute either of the commissions. No clear explanation has been provided for the prolonged period during which the commissions remain unconstitutional."

TIB said regardless of shortcomings, keeping both commissions leaderless for such an extended period not

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Tajuddin's leadership lit the path to liberation

Speakers pay tribute to the founding PM during commemorative event marking his birth centenary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tajuddin Ahmad, the founding Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is a towering political figure whose unwavering patriotism, strategic acumen, crisis management skills, and leadership in the country's Liberation War deserve thorough study, said speakers yesterday marking the birth centenary of the great leader.

He led the Liberation War-time government-in-exile and his leadership, marked by integrity and foresight, laid the foundation for the country's victory against the Pakistani army and ensured the birth of sovereign Bangladesh amidst numerous challenges, they said while speaking at a commemorative programme.

The programme was arranged by the Liberation War Museum at their auditorium.

Yet, despite his pivotal role,

Despite the total uncertainty, Tajuddin made a resolute decision that armed struggle was the path we must take -- for our country, for the liberation of our people.

MAHFUZ ANAM
Editor and Publisher, The Daily Star

Tajuddin Ahmad's contributions remain largely unrecognised in mainstream narratives. Bangladesh must strive for a more accurate and inclusive historical account, they added.

Liberation War Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque said the way Tajuddin led the Mujibnagar government during nine months of the Liberation War is the finest hour of the country's history and

Tajuddin played the pivotal role in

creating that finest hour.

Terming Tajuddin as a highly organised leader, he said, "History entrusted him with a great responsibility, and he fulfilled it in an extraordinary way. There's so much we can learn from this, and his life should be studied."

Sarwar Ali, another trustee of the museum, said Tajuddin's role in all three phases of Bangladesh's struggle for independence -- the preparatory phase, the phase of armed war, and the post-victory phase -- was profoundly significant.

"Without fully recognising and documenting Tajuddin's contribution, the history of Bangladesh's independence struggle cannot be complete," he said.

Delivering the keynote speech, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said Tajuddin was a truly great personality -- his

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From left, Liberation War Museum trustee Sarwar Ali, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, and another trustee of the museum Mofidul Hoque at a commemorative programme, marking the birth centenary of Tajuddin Ahmad, held at the museum auditorium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Four more die of dengue, 319 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four dengue patients died and 319 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, three were in areas under Dhaka South City Corporation and one was from Chattogram division.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths and cases rose to 69 and 18,345 respectively, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the total cases, a total of 16,960 dengue patients have so far been released from hospitals.

Currently, 1,316 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, 929 of whom are from outside Dhaka.

