

'AL using Milestone tragedy to regroup'

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and national welfare. The reforms we proposed must be implemented immediately to ensure a credible election. Before that, visible justice and structural reforms must be ensured."

Referring to the training jet crash at Milestone School, which has reportedly claimed 34 lives – most of them children – he said, "In this country, if you go out, you risk dying under a bus; if you go to a hospital, you may die from lack of treatment; you could die in a plane crash or ferry disaster – this state has never guaranteed a natural death. We demand the right to die naturally."

He also criticised Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum, calling her "unqualified" and accusing her of turning the system into a "textbook case of mismanagement".

Hosnat said the July uprising would only be meaningful with the introduction of quality education, an impartial electoral system, and a just state.

"If we stay united, we will make history. We will rise above tyranny and establish justice and equal rights for all – a fair and equitable Bangladesh."

Speaking at the rally, NCP Convenor

Nahid Islam reaffirmed the party's commitment to reforms, justice, and a new constitution.

"Many political parties are now supporting reforms, even stepping beyond official positions. We will push for the July Charter and Declaration to be completed by August 5."

He lauded Brahmanbaria's role in anti-fascist movements.

"People from this district have shed blood for justice. While Titas gas fuels homes across Dhaka and Mymensingh, Brahmanbaria remains deprived of its own resources. We reject such discriminatory development. True development must be inclusive and nationwide."

NCP Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain warned the party would return to the streets if the hopes and sacrifices of the July movement are betrayed. "The institutions of this country must be reformed. For 50 years, they've been politicised through partisan control."

The party's Chief Organiser (northern region) Sarjis Alam, Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwari, Senior Joint Member Secretary Tasnim Jara, Senior

Joint Convener Samantha Sharmin, among others, were also present.

Ahead of the rally, attended by both central and local leaders, the NCP met with families of those killed or injured in the July uprising at the local Circuit House.

Following the rally at Brahmanbaria, the NCP delegation left for Habiganj district.

They reached the Habiganj Circuit House around 3:30pm and met family members of the July uprising martyrs from the district.

Around 5:30pm, NCP leaders began a march from the circuit house to Saifur Rahman Town Hall, where they held another rally.

Addressing the crowd, Nahid said, "The fight we started against Mujibism and fascism is not over. We have not yet achieved the new Bangladesh we envisioned. Therefore, our struggle will continue."

"We want human rights to be established in Bangladesh. There will be no extrajudicial killings. And we must all stand united against extortion."

He also strongly protested border killings.

communities, the USCIRF pointed to a lack of accountability, attributing it partly to a "collapse of the law enforcement system".

Hindu, indigenous, Ahmadiya, and Sufi Muslim communities continue to report discrimination, the report said.

It said fears of religiously motivated violence persist with national elections due early next year, but the authorities have yet to outline a comprehensive strategy beyond increased police deployment.

The report observed that Bangladesh's political leadership has long oscillated between the Awami League and the BNP, both of which have drawn on religious identity for electoral gain. Though the Awami League is considered more secular and inclusive, attacks on religious minorities occurred under Sheikh Hasina's rule. The interim government has banned the party's activities.

The BNP, described as more conservative, has ties to Islamic parties like Jamaat-e-Islami, which was banned under Sheikh Hasina.

"Some religious minorities and Muslim women emphasized that they continue to face societal level

discrimination from more hardline Islamic groups, and they emphasized that attacks along religious lines, while sporadic, continue," the report said.

The commission reiterated that all religious minorities should be able to practise their faith without fear or retribution.

BB withdraws dress code

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immediately," the statement added.

The central bank explained that due to age differences among its staff, there is a diversity in dress choices among both male and female employees.

The advisory was intended to discourage overly elaborate clothing and reduce perceived disparities, aiming to promote mutual understanding among colleagues, according to the statement.

It also clarified that the advisory did not impose any obligation on female employees to wear burqas or hijabs. "Hopefully, this circular will not reduce anyone's freedom of dress code in the office."

India expelling Muslims unlawfully

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1,500 Muslim men, women, and children to Bangladesh between May 7 and June 15, including about 100 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. The expulsions have continued, with each stay limited to 30 days.

"This will be good for both our businesses, tourists and migrants," a foreign ministry official said.

Bangladesh will be organising a business fair in Malaysia. Yunus will also attend events at two Malaysian universities.

The two countries are also likely to establish a joint business council to promote trade and investment.

Bangladesh has been seeking to be a sectoral dialogue partner of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the issue will be raised with Ibrahim as Malaysia is the current chair of ASEAN.

"Obviously, the Rohingya crisis will be elaborately discussed," the foreign ministry official said.

A major focus of the meeting will be transparent recruitment of Bangladeshi workers, human resources development and skills training," the official told The Daily Star.

Malaysia's labour market remains frozen for Bangladesh since May 31, 2024. There were allegations of syndicated recruitment system through which only 101 Bangladeshi recruiting agencies used to send workers.

Dhaka would seek to open the labour

market and a recruitment system based on competition, officials said.

Malaysia last week introduced a multiple-entry visa facility (MEV), which allows Bangladeshi citizens to enter and exit Malaysia multiple times within a validity period of 3 to 12 months, with each stay limited to 30 days.

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