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Ensure justice
President urges lawyers

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday urged lawyers to extend optimum cooperation to ensure justice for the people of the country.

The president made the call when a 12-member delegation of the Bangladesh Bar Council, led by its Chairman Abu Mohammad Amin Uddin, paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

"Lawyers are very conscious citizens of society... Justice can be ensured only through the coordination of the bar and the bench", he observed, urging every member of the Bar Council to ensure transparency and accountability in their respective works.

The President suggested the authorities concerned to ensure that only qualified and talented law-degree-holders can become members of the Bangladesh Bar Council as this would benefit the country's Judiciary.

Referring Bar Council as the "Lawyers' Parliament", the president assured the lawyers of providing all necessary cooperation for its development.



A sweet smell emanates through the air, as the capital's trees are in bloom with the season's offering -- Kadam. Synonymous with the first rain of monsoon, the flower can be spotted in many corners in the city, especially in the hands of the many little boys and girls positioned around traffic stoplights, or the occasional street-side flower shops or even in the hands of those who want to gift it to someone special as a token of love. This photo was taken near Suhrawardy Uddyan.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PADMA RAIL LINK PROJECT
Work halted for
2 days following
arrest of workers
River training likely to
resume today, say officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Padma Bridge Rail Link Project's river training works on the Arial Khan River remained suspended for two days following the filing of a case and the arrest of workers involved in the works on Sunday.

Although the arrested employees were released on bail on Monday, the works carried out by a Chinese company remained suspended, halting the progress of river training works that are scheduled to be completed by September 16, according to officials.

Project Director Afzal Hossain sent a letter to the deputy commissioner and superintendent of Police in Madaripur yesterday, requesting that necessary measures be taken to resume the construction, confirmed two project officials.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is implementing the Tk 39,246.80 crore project to build a broad-gauge rail line from Dhaka to Jashore via the Padma

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Dengue claims
one more life
211 hospitalised in
24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died while 211 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning. The total number of dengue-related deaths has risen to 27 this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of dengue cases this year rose to 3,601.

Some 703 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment, of whom, 128 are from outside Dhaka. A total of 2,871 dengue patients were released from hospitals.

The total number of dengue-related deaths was 281 last year while the total number of cases was 62,382.



Child mortality rate rises
to 31 per 1,000

Finds govt study, experts highlight gap in child healthcare

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A government study shows that the child mortality rate in Bangladesh has increased significantly in 2022 compared to 2021, which experts said highlights the gap in child healthcare services in the country.

In 2021, the mortality rate of children under five years of age was 28 per thousand.

It increased to 31 in 2022, according to the key findings of "Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics (BSVS) 2022", launched by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) at an event in the capital's BBS auditorium yesterday.

We did not analyse the reasons behind child mortality. In 2021, we found that pneumonia was the leading cause, followed by jaundice and different types of fever.

MD ALAMGIR HOSSEN
Project Director

Similarly, deaths of children under one increased to 25 per thousand from 22 per thousand during the same period. The national estimated population has increased to 17.85 crore as of January

1, 2023, according to BSVS, which was prepared based on data collected from 3,06,954 households and 13,02,788 people in 2012 primary sampling units in eight divisions.

Of those, 50.67 percent are female and 49.37 percent are male.

BSVS is a report prepared by regular surveillance under a BBS project "Sample Vital Registration System", to determine the annual population change at national and district levels, based on 138 indicators.

"We did not analyse the reasons behind child mortality. In 2021, we found that pneumonia was the leading

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NIKO GRAFT CASE
HC to hear Khaleda's
plea on July 16

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday fixed July 16 for hearing a petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, challenging a lower court order that framed charges against her and seven others in the Niko corruption case.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam set the date after Khaleda's lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali sought time from the court. On May 17, Khaleda filed the revision petition with the HC through her lawyer Kayser Kamal to scrap the trial court order, saying the charges were framed illegally.

On March 19, Khaleda and seven others were indicted.

The ACC filed the case on December 9, 2007, accusing Khaleda and several others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was prime minister between 2001 and 2006.



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addresses a rally prior to a road march organised by the Dhaka unit BNP (south) in Gopibagh area yesterday. The programme was arranged to protest the corruption in the power sector and price hikes in essential commodities. The road march started from Gopibagh and ended in Dholaipar.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Bapa mired in internal feud
Six executive members resign including president, general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), which plays a crucial role in the environmental movement, has been bogged down in an internal feud leading to the resignation of its six executive members and a member of the national committee, including president Sultana Kamal and general secretary Sharif Jamil.

The president and the general secretary resigned on Sunday night citing personal reasons but Bapa insiders said a feud has long been brewing in the organisation over some disagreement regarding its leadership.

The others who resigned include vice president Md Abdul Matin, executive vice-president Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive member committee Farida Akther, Father Joseph Gomej and Abdul Qader.

Bapa has a national committee consisting of 53 members, while its executive committee has 19 members -- 11 of them joint secretaries and the rest are vice-presidents.

Six vice presidents convened a meeting yesterday to decide the next course of action.

Alamgir Kabir, joint secretary of Bapa, told The Daily Star that the

meeting was convened to determine the acting general secretary and acting president of Bapa.

They are expected to pick up new leadership within one and a half months.

Alamgir said Bapa could not wage any remarkable movement in the last four years. It could not keep up the pace and maintain the path based on which Bapa launched its journey.

Asked, Sultana Kamal told The Daily Star that as she cited personal reasons for resignation, she should not say anything about it in detail.

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Salahuddin
gets travel pass
to return home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed has gotten a travel pass to return to Bangladesh eight years after he was found in India.

He was reported missing in Dhaka in March 2015.

"I received the travel pass from Bangladesh High Commission in Guwahati yesterday (June 12)," Salahuddin, a BNP standing committee member, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"After completing some formalities and physical check-ups in India, I will return to the country," he added.

He is currently in Shillong of India. The pass was issued on June 8.

The development came after an Indian court on October 26, 2018 acquitted him from the charges of a case filed over trespassing into the neighbouring country and directed the authorities concerned to send him to Bangladesh.

The travel pass stipulates that Salahuddin will have to return to Bangladesh within the next three months.



PRAYER
TIMING
JUNE 14



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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