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যেকোনো শাখা থেকে রোমটিয়াল প্রথম করলেই
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সাথে আরও আরও নিশ্চিত আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার

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Π



Steps taken to declare Sandwip as seaport: CA

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said initiatives have been taken to declare Sandwip as a seaport and open the Kumira-Guptachara ghat.

Yunus said this at a public gathering arranged on the occasion of the launch of ferry service on Chattogram Sandwip route.

He joined the event virtually from the state guest house Jamuna here.

He said once these initiatives are implemented, the long standing suffering of the Sandwip dwellers will minimise.

Govt should declare AL a 'criminal org' says Nahid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Nahid Islam, convener of the National Citizen Party, yesterday demanded that the Awami League be declared a "criminal organisation" and its registration be cancelled for being responsible for the killings during the July uprising".

"We, the National Citizen Party, are making this demand," he said while addressing an iftar event in Narayanganj virtually.

Nahid said, "We are working with three specific agendas. We are demanding justice for the July uprising, structural reforms of the state, and a Constituent

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PHOTO: STAR

When survival becomes an UPHILL STRUGGLE

Waiting for hours, many return empty-handed as TCB queues get longer

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Samata Begum, 55, stood by the roadside, tears streaming down her weathered face.

After waiting in a queue for over four and a half hours, she had failed to get her much-needed supplies from the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) truck.

It was already 3:30pm, yet the queue remained dauntingly long. Her hopes were fading with each passing minute.

"I am a heart patient. I cannot stand in one place for too long. I had a ticket in my hand, but I lost it in the crowd. Now, I do not know if I will get my share," she said. This correspondent later learned that she had gone home empty-handed that day.

Samata lives in Mohammadpur's Jahuri Moholla area with her husband, a private car driver, and their two sons. Her husband's monthly income of Tk 18,000 barely covers their expenses, with Tk 7,000 going towards rent alone. "We don't have much left after our

monthly expenditures. That is why I joined the long queue -- to save some money."

Six months ago, she underwent a uterus operation, leaving her physically weak. Yet, she had no choice but to endure the exhausting wait. Last month, she had also failed to obtain

It has become impossible to reach the selling point now as the queue keeps getting longer.

Samata Begum
Mohammadpur resident

the subsidised goods.

"It has become impossible to reach the selling point now as the queue keeps getting longer," she said.

Her struggle is shared by thousands. Low-income individuals, desperate for affordable essentials, flock to

TCB's distributor points across the capital. However, many leave empty-handed.

In the same queue was Rafiqul Islam, a security guard at a nearby building. At 1:30pm, he took a two-hour break, hoping to secure his share. By 3:30pm, he was still standing.

"We can sell products to 400 people a day, but at least 800 to 900 gather here," he said.

To manage the crowd, they distribute 400 tokens first.

"But many stand without tokens, hoping to get lucky. That's when things turn chaotic."

TCB trucks, numbering around 410 nationwide, including 50 in the capital, distribute essential items daily. Each person is entitled to 2 litres of oil, 2kg of lentils, 1kg of chickpeas, 1kg of sugar, and half a kilogramme of dates—all at Tk 590, about Tk 400 cheaper than market rates. From yesterday, the allocation of dates was increased by 1kg, confirmed TCB spokesperson Humayun Kabir.

Yet, the struggle remains unchanged.

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We can sell products to 400 people a day, but at least 800 to 900 gather here.

Mohammad Nasir
TCB distributor

"It looks like I will need more time to reach the truck," he said, shifting uncomfortably on his aching feet.

Later that evening, he called this correspondent.

His voice was laced with exhaustion. "I reached the truck at around 7:45pm. My entire shift

was spent waiting in the queue."

The demand for subsidised goods far exceeds supply. Mohammad Nasir, who owns Nasir Grocery Shop in Lalbagh and serves as a TCB distributor, admitted the chaos was inevitable. "We can sell products to 400 people a day, but at least 800 to 900 gather here," he said.

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"But many stand without tokens, hoping to get lucky. That's when things turn chaotic."

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Why are the killers still free?

Families of July uprising martyrs protest at ICT over delayed justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 70 family members of July uprising martyrs staged a three-hour sit-in in front of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) yesterday, demanding justice for their loved ones.

The protesters attempted to enter the tribunal premises but were stopped by police. They then staged their sit-in outside.

Frustrated by the slow legal process, they said eight months had passed without any resolution. Many of the accused remain at large, and some protesters claimed they had received threats from them.

"Seven months have passed, yet we still haven't received justice. The killers are still free," said Rasheda Begum, mother of martyr Sohel Rana.

The protest began around 12:30pm. The protesters chanted various slogans, like "We want justice" and "My son is in the grave -- why are the killers still free?" and "We want exemplary punishment for Sheikh Hasina."

Selina Begum, mother of martyr Aminul Islam, said, "Losing our son is unbearable. The delay in justice is painful as well. Many culprits are not even arrested."

past five months, 300 complaints had been received, 23 cases filed, and 145 arrest warrants issued.

One martyr's mother pointed out that Sheikh Hasina had brought her father's killers

mother retorting, "Are you saying I should wait 50 years too?"

When prosecutors asked the protesters to send representatives to meet the chief prosecutor, they refused and demanded he come to them. After waiting three hours without his appearance, they ended their sit-in at 3:30pm, calling for his resignation.

Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam later told journalists that the families had the right to express their demands.

He said the tribunal will follow the due legal procedures. "Six or seven months is not enough for crimes against humanity trials," he added.

"However, we have nearly completed the investigations into four to five cases. We are taking sufficient time to meet international standards," he also said.

Meanwhile, another protest group, under the banner of "July Mancha", staged a demonstration in front of the Supreme Court, demanding a ban on the Awami League.



At around 2:00pm, prosecutors Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim, Moynul Karim, and BM Sultan Mahmud met with the protesters. Tamim provided an update, stating that over the

to justice, yet her son's killers remained unpunished.

In response, Tamim said it took Hasina 50 years to bring her father's killers to justice. This angered the protesters, with the

Prioritise education reform in budget

Experts tell CAMPE event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government must prioritise education, address disparities across different streams, and allocate resources equitably in the upcoming budget without political considerations, educationists and researchers said at a discussion yesterday.

At a press conference titled "Towards an Equitable Bangladesh: Education Budget -- Our Proposal," organised by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at the CIRDAP auditorium, speakers criticised the government's neglect of education and called for urgent reforms.

Manzoor Ahmed, professor emeritus at Brac University and convener of the Primary and Non-Formal Education Reform Advisory Committee, highlighted the deep inequalities in the education system.

"Our system remains divided into multiple streams -- Bangla, English, and Madrasa -- each with further classifications. While elite schools thrive

under government patronage, most government schools remain in poor condition. Quality education is still accessible only to the privileged," he said.

Despite major political shifts, including the July uprising, education reform remains absent from the political agenda, he said.

"There is no education reform commission, nor any major government initiative to address these disparities. For 55 years, education has been prioritised in words but not in action."

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of CAMPE, said education has "slipped off the priority list" at all levels, including among policymakers. "Education is the most powerful tool for human resource development, yet it has been neglected," she said. "A new vision for Bangladesh has emerged after the uprising, and our first demand must be to ensure education remains a top priority."

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